Beat: Business

City in Germany Reducing Trash By Re-purposing Items

Used Is The New Sexy!

Hamburg, Germany, 28.03.2022, 19:36 Time

USPA NEWS - It's not every day that a municipal waste department spends more time thinking about saving things than dumping them. In Hamburg, Germany, there is money to be made in the second-hand market, and who better to capitalize on that than the people who haul the city's trash.

Stilbruch is a store of used goods, and every day items from private individuals or from trash collectors on their routes, come goods which will all get cleaned up, repaired, and re-sold to support a more circular economy in the country's second-largest city. Some 400,000 objects are processed through two giant cavernous warehouses every year. Everything from well-worn teddy bears to refurbished laptops and kitchen counters.

Launched in 2001 as an initiative from the sanitation department, Stilbruch has gone from having one full-time employee to 70, and from being a largely non-profit orientation to bringing in €300,000 to €500,000 ($330,000 to $550,000) per year in profit. "These things are useful. They really aren't rubbish," Roman Hottgenroth, operations manager at Stilbruch, told The Progress Network. "Used is the new sexy. We are trying to stop throwaway culture and wastefulness. There's so much value in what we treat like trash."

Stilbruch contracts technicians and craftsmen who ensure that all used furniture is given a thorough beautification, and all electronics can be sold with a 1-year warranty. The warehouse is part of a wider EU movement to try and cut back on all waste streams, but especially home furnishings and electronics. Chief among these efforts is restoring the "right to repair" to consumers, 70% of whom it's thought would prefer to repair items than replace them.

They has been heralded by EU and German legislatures and think-tanks as a pioneering model that could be replicated by most municipalities. Even small towns which don't have the populations required to fill up a warehouse like Stilbruch can manage weekly flea-markets. As for the future? Hottgenroth is planning to open yet another warehouse, and even to furnish public buses with mini-libraries.

Thank you for reading my article. These are merely my thoughts and insights based on the facts. I use only verified sources. No fake news here. I write about a variety of subjects, mainly things I want to research and know more about. You can check out my website – Small Village Life at smallvillagelife.com, where I share useful articles and news.

Wendy writes for the United States Press Agency and is a former columnist with the Fulton County Expositor, Wauseon, Ohio.

Source: The Progress Network

Article online:
https://www.uspa24.com/bericht-20318/city-in-germany-reducing-trash-by-re-purposing-items.html

Editorial office and responsibility:
V.i.S.d.P. & Sect. 6 MDStV (German Interstate Media Services Agreement): Wendy Westhoven, based in Hungary

Exemption from liability:
The publisher shall assume no liability for the accuracy or completeness of the published report and is merely providing space for the submission of and access to third-party content. Liability for the content of a report lies solely with the author of such report. Wendy

Westhoven, based in Hungary

Editorial program service of General News Agency:
UPA United Press Agency LTD
483 Green Lanes
UK, London N13NV 4BS
contact (at) unitedpressagency.com
Official Federal Reg. No. 7442619