

Zero Waste

Miia & Inari

What is Zero Waste?

Zero waste is a mindset that encourages people to decrease waste and also seek a lifestyle that doesn't burden the environment

- creating as little waste as possible
- upcycling and DIY
- not buying useless stuff that you don't actually use/need
- not buying clothes from fast fashion businesses
- recycling and composting



Recycling in Finland

At the moment Finland recycles 43% of the municipal waste. EU had a goal to recycle 50% by the year **2020**, but it wasn't accomplished. Their new goal is to recycle 65% by the year **2035**.

Finland has some recycling centers such as Kontti and UFF, and many basic thrift stores, where you can for example buy clothes or furniture. In our hometown Kontiolahti we have several drop-off sites.

UFF

SECOND HAND



Pictures from Puhas, recycling center



Recycling in our school

- Our school recycles for example bio waste, paper, cardboard, bottles and cans.
- We have a scale in our cafeteria that tells you how much waste you are creating when you dispose of uneaten food. This helps many students reduce the amount of biowaste they create.
- We also have bottle banks where students can dispose of their plastic bottles and soda cans.
- Other things like excess paper and cardboard are simply collected and then recycled.



How can we improve recycling in our school?

Recycling at our school could be improved for example by putting more recycling bins outside. There are recycling bins near the school, but there could also be some outside on the school yard. In our school we recycle most of the waste, but plastic and metal could also be included to that.

We have a couple of wooden bottle banks that students have built, but there could also be more of those around the school. Some people tend to throw the plastic bottles in the trash cans, so we could also make posters that encourage people to recycle them the right way.

School cafeteria staff interview



How much food loss is there?

- In February there was 240 kg of food waste (more specifically 20 g per person)
- That equals 531 euros / month

How can we reduce the amount of food waste?

- By teaching students to recycle and only take the amount of food that they are going to eat
- The amount of food waste is compared between schools

What do you do to the food loss?

- The bio-waste that comes from students is scaled (except fruit peels, such as bananas and oranges)
- A food waste processing unit separates liquid and biowaste
- The Puhas Oy collects the biowaste from the cafeteria and recycles it
- Before Covid-19 pandemic the leftover food was given to charity
- During the pandemic, the staff has been allowed to buy the leftover food for themselves

In what kind of packaging the food comes to the school and how are they recycled?

- Cardboard, glass, metals, biowaste are all recycled
- We are aiming to reduce metal waste
- There is a lot of plastic packaging that cannot be recycled
- Plastic buckets and containers are given forward to people who need them
- By using milk dispensers we can avoid using individual milk cartons

What can you tell about the carbon footprint of the food served?

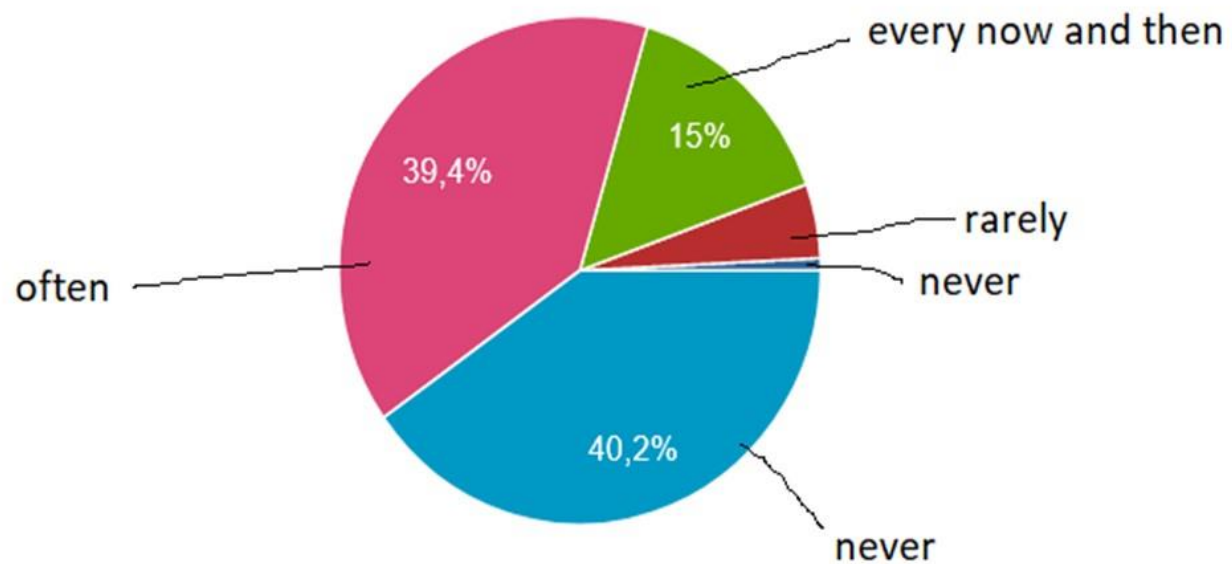
- Fish products (MSC certified fish)
- We are trying to get rid of products containing soy and replace them with broadbean products, but it is still pretty difficult to do so
- We are trying to use mostly domestic products
- Both meat and dairy products come from Finland
- Some of the vegan food comes from abroad

Survey

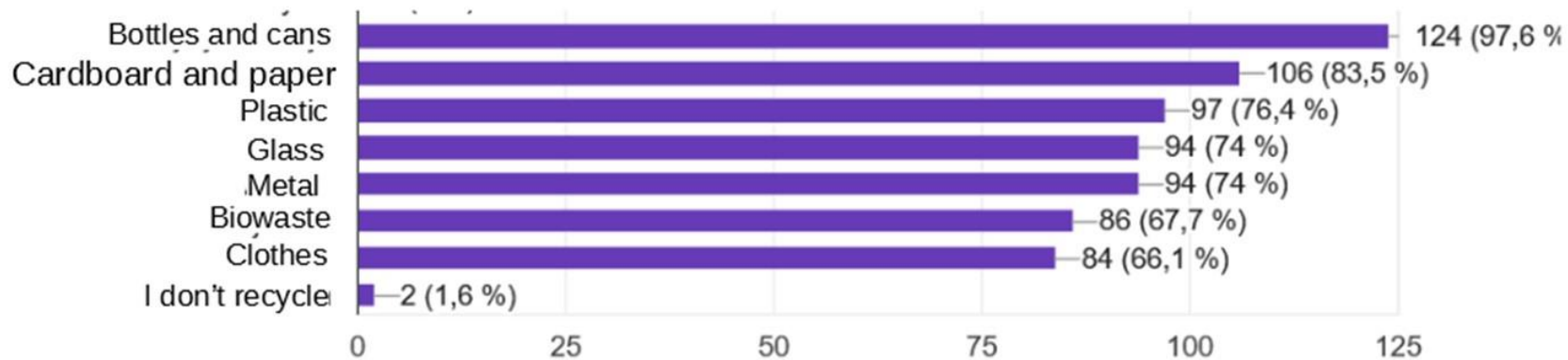
We also did a survey about recycling in people's homes. We sent this survey to all the students in our school and they answered. Here are the results !

How often do you recycle at home ?

127 answers

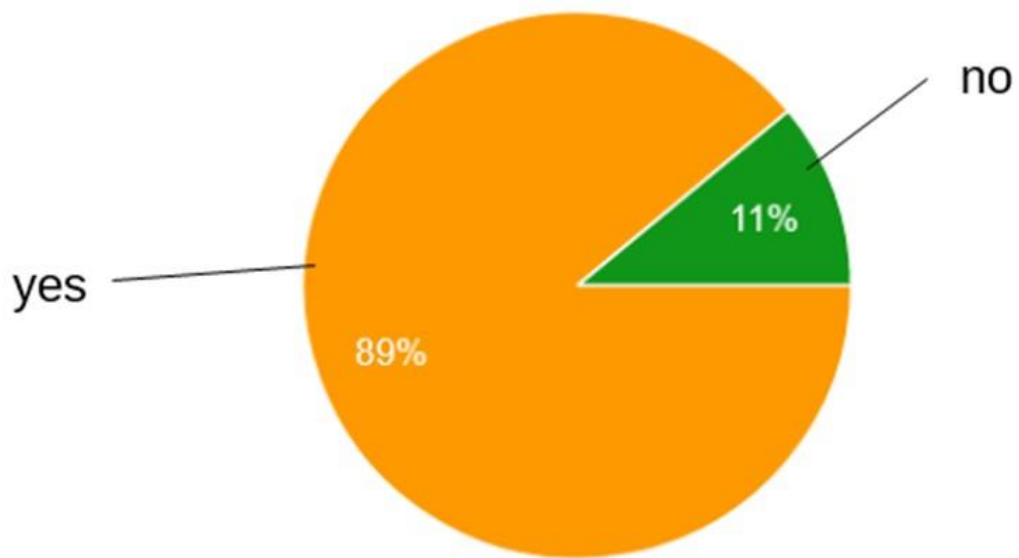


What all do you recycle ?



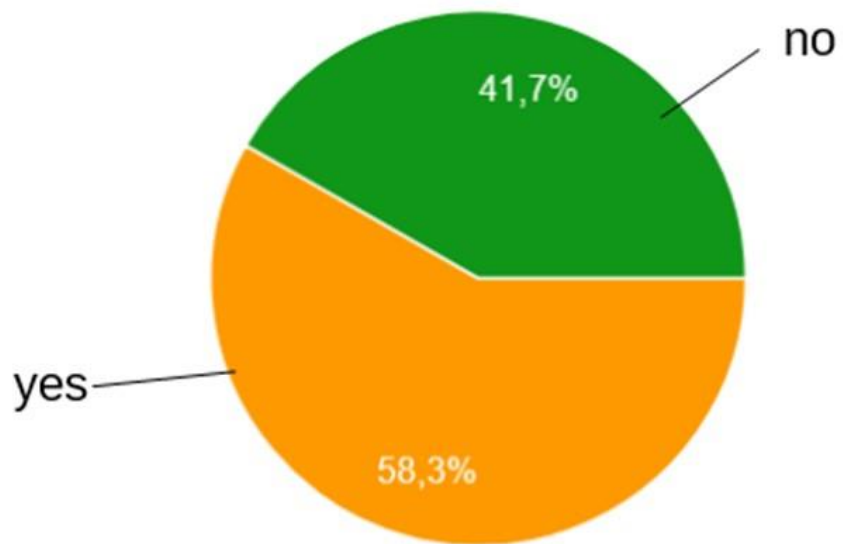
Do you sort your waste at home ?

127 vastausta



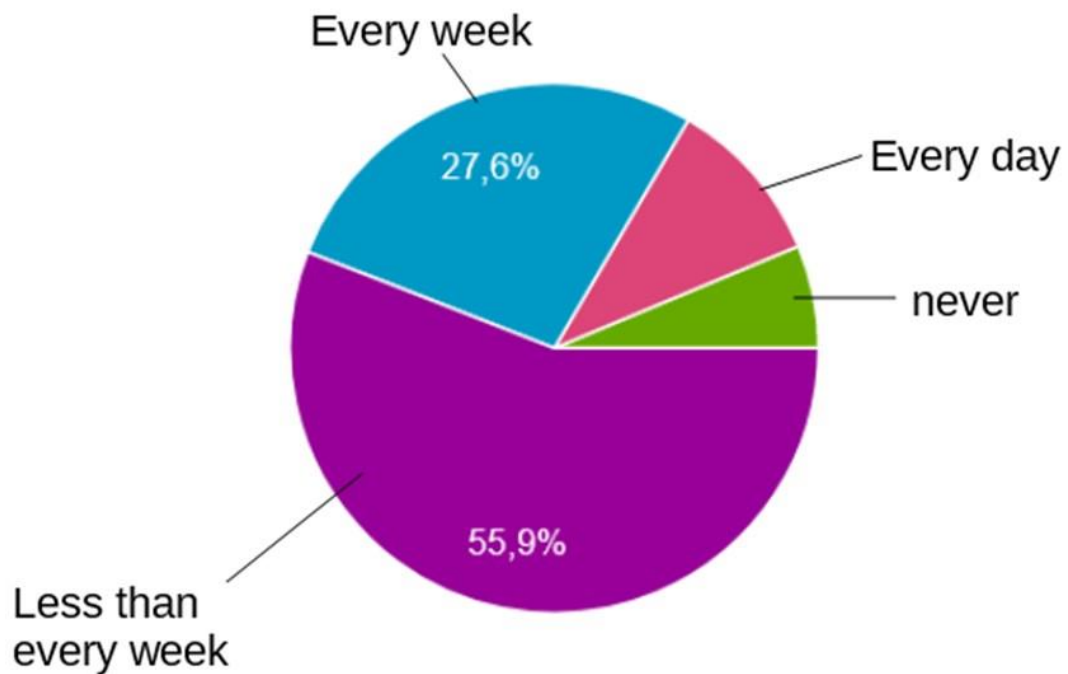
Do you have biocompost at home ?

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How often do you waste food at home ?

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Do you recycle your old clothes ? How ?

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Other answers:

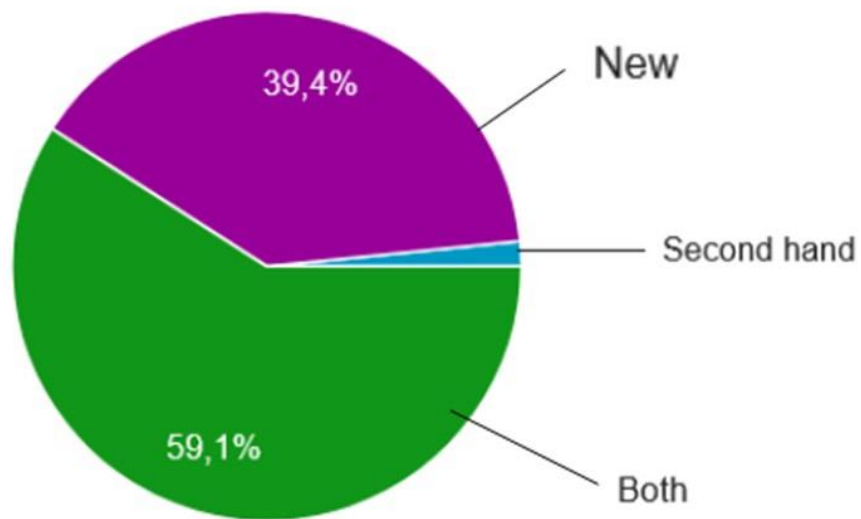
I give them to poor people

I make something new from the old clothes

I give them to my dad so he can use them as oil towels in his garage

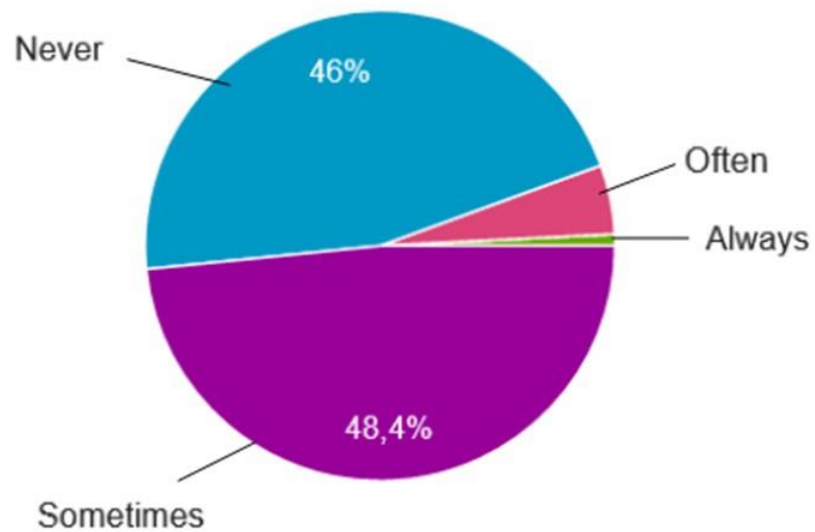
Do you buy your clothes...

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When you buy your clothes, do you think their ecologicality or carbon footprint ?

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What other things fo you get used ?

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