



Loop project - National research
INTERVIEWS: Entry # 40



INTERVIEWS: Entry # 40

BY:

Chiara Cilia
Beatrice Pardo
Valentina Parisi

CITY COUNCILOR



Woman at work, license pixabay, <https://pixabay.com/it/photos/alunno-donna-aviare-849821/v>

My name is Romina Morselli,

I am a city councilor, I work in the town of Gela, I have two children and to guarantee them a better future I try every day to do my best to help the environment.

HOW did you discover the opportunities related to reuse?

I have always been very interested in the issue of environmental protection and the fight against mass consumption but I did not know how to help reduce the waste of objects which is one of the main causes of environmental pollution.

Until one day I discovered the opportunities related to reuse thanks my children because they use a lot internet.

That day my daughter, who is very sensitive to this issue, came to me to show me a newspaper article she had found whose the theme was reuse.



Recycled shopping bag, pixabay license, <https://pixabay.com/it/photos/riciclare-riutilizzare-57136/>

The article talked about the way in which many everyday objects could be transformed into something totally new.



Also in this article, through advertisements, I found a large number of multipurpose items that could replace disposable ones, such as microfiber makeup remover pads instead of disposable cotton pads, the bamboo toothbrush and canvas shopping bags.

I talked about with other mothers in my daughter's class and we also proposed to their teacher some activities that can raise awareness of the concept of reuse in our children.

Later many activities have been promoted in my children's schools and in other schools; activities that have spread throughout the city.

I think it is very important to educate them in respect of the environment because we must give them the opportunity to remedy the damage that we and the men of the past have caused to our planet.



Glass recycled, <https://pixabay.com/it/vectors/riciclare-raccolta-differenziata-44111/>

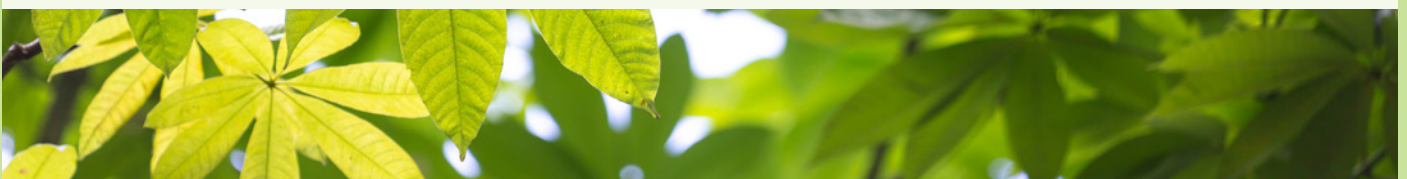
Even in the workplace I discovered the world of reuse but also of recycling, a colleague of mine who was an expert in this field had presented various projects to the municipality and so we started working together.



Waste discarded, pixabay license, <https://pixabay.com/images/id-2729608/>

A series of public events were promoted in the squares in order to raise awareness in the city, also initiatives were presented to give a new life to furniture, clothes, electronic equipment and even food.

The idea was also born of creating workshops for reuse and recycling courses open to children of all age groups, which unfortunately has not yet been realized.





WHAT DO YOU REUSE AND HOW:

can you give us some examples of reuse in your economic activity?

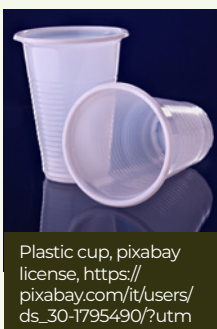
For many people the use of disposable products is now a matter of habit. This is why I believe that switching to reusable goods is positive, even if at first glance it may seem embarrassing.



Bottle lamp, photo by Vinicio Benedetto on unsplash, <https://unsplash.com/photos/4zlyFftAUg>

For example, I reuse glass jars as containers, reuse plastic bags as garbage cans, keep old and damaged clothes and use them to clean furniture or if they are in good condition I give them to a charity or an association that I have created with other moms from my daughter's school. But again thanks to my daughter, I found the "Vinted" app where I can sell clothes that I no longer use and that a person can reuse in this way.

A good app for this theme that can include teenagers and in this way we can involve people of all ages, from the youngest to the oldest. Because reuse can be adopted by everyone, everywhere and for everything. I once tried to turn a bottle of wine into a lamp and it turned out quite well, in fact I make this "reuse lamp" for many of my friends using other beverage bottles. Another nice idea for the reuse concept is: snowman made from plastic cups.



Plastic cup, pixabay license, https://pixabay.com/it/users/ds_30-1795490/?utm

For my daughter's ninth birthday, after the party, I threw a lot of plastic cups in the trash and I got an idea... take them, wash them and reuse them in a plastic snowman. An idea that I have proposed to many mothers to reuse the plastic of their children's birthday party.

For the concept of reuse I take recyclable plastic containers for my children, where I put fruit as a school snack. I wash the containers every day when my children come home from school and reuse them the next morning.

Another thing I did was reuse old CDs, cut them into small pieces and glued them into a frame, to create a decoration for my daughter's bedroom.

and benches, created from pallets, then I painted them white to make them aesthetically more beautiful.

Plastic caps, but also corks and beer bottle caps, combined according to a certain criterion and a good aesthetic taste, can give life to very personal frames and photo frames.



At my house I had a box full of buttons from old jackets, during the quarantine I started making earrings and I even sold some on the internet.

These are examples when it comes to reuse, but also in the area of recycling I try to do my best.

Class bottles abandoned, pixabay license, <https://pixabay.com/it/users/satyaprem-6578610/?utm>

LET'S TALK about the real impact of reuse on your turnover: economically speaking, what are these figures?

The use of disposable products not only makes us produce a lot of waste but also makes us spend a lot this is the reason why at home I use glass bottles instead of plastic ones, thanks to this I have saved about 380 euros in a year on water boxes. I also stopped buying disposable plates, glasses or straws, replacing them with ceramic or metal versions.

For shopping I replaced the bags they give to the supermarket which, even if they are biodegradable, pollute the same and also each bag costs about 20 cents, so I replaced them with grocery tote bags. I also recently bought and started using microfiber makeup remover pads which are very practical because once used, instead of throwing them away as you do with disposable cotton ones, they can be washed and returned as new for reuse, obviously thanks to this discovery I have saved a lot of money as I no longer need to buy a new pack of new sanitary pads every month, as I give us many novelties such as the silicone menstrual cup or the microfibre pads.



Recycled wood planter box, pixabay license, <https://pixabay.com/it/users/vacaparda-406795/?utm>

At work instead of buying coffee from the machines that produce a lot of plastic waste, I take from home the thermos in which I put the hot tea or coffee, thus saving money, and then I wash the coffee capsules that I use and I give them to a lady found on Instagram which creates beautiful jewelry with them.

INTERVIEWS: Entry # 40



Microfiber makeup remover pads, pixabay license, <https://unsplash.com/@ecopanda?utm>

At work we turn over the used paper and print on the other side to save money on buying new paper and disposing of used paper.

I also made money by selling some of my clothes or clothes that my children no longer used as mentioned thanks to the app 'vinted'.

In fact I think it is a fantastic initiative because you can give new life to clothes and objects that you no longer use and that would have been thrown away and, at the same time, you can earn something, moreover every time I sell something for the package I reuse the boxes that they are thrown out of the shops, and also every Christmas my family uses a lot of paper for gifts, last year I decided to keep it and it is coming in handy as I use it to fill the boxes so as not to ruin the items I sell online.

With a lot of work and help from my children I managed to 'bring to life' old furniture for the country house, which I would have thrown away as old, another idea I found on Pinterest is to reuse the pallets to create sofas / benches for the garden, and not only...you can also create tables, bar stations, shelves for cups or wines and with the help of a carpenter you can create real furniture for the house with drawers.



Recycled wood box, pixabay license, <https://pixabay.com/it/users/thatpalletguy-4549096/?utm>

All of this things make me save a lot of money every year!

REUSE

QUESTIONNAIRE

1. What is the so-called “circular economy”?

A	B	C
30%	30%	60%

2. Do you believe that a more sustainable economic system can be equally productive than the current one?

A	B	C
70%	10%	20%

3. Which of these consumer choices have you decided to implement in the last 10 years to protect the environment?

A	B	C
10%	40%	50%

4. How will the so-called “circular economy” affect the job market?

A	B	C
80%	15%	5%

5. In your work, how many strategic choices related to sustainability have been made in the last 10 years?

A	B	C
40%	10%	50%



6. Which of these 4 “Rs” is more important to ensure a better future for humanity?

A	B	C	D
5%	45%	25%	25%

7. Which of these 4 “Rs” is most present in your family’s daily life?

A	B	C	D
40%	10%	30%	20%

8. In your opinion, what link is there between technology and the “circular economy”?

A	B	C
50%	50%	0

9. Do you think we will be able to change the way we consume so as not to affect the environment and its limited resources?

A	B	C
20%	30%	50%

10. Are you familiar with the UN 2030 Agenda or have you ever heard of SDGs?

A	B	C
100%	-	-

QUESTIONNAIRE

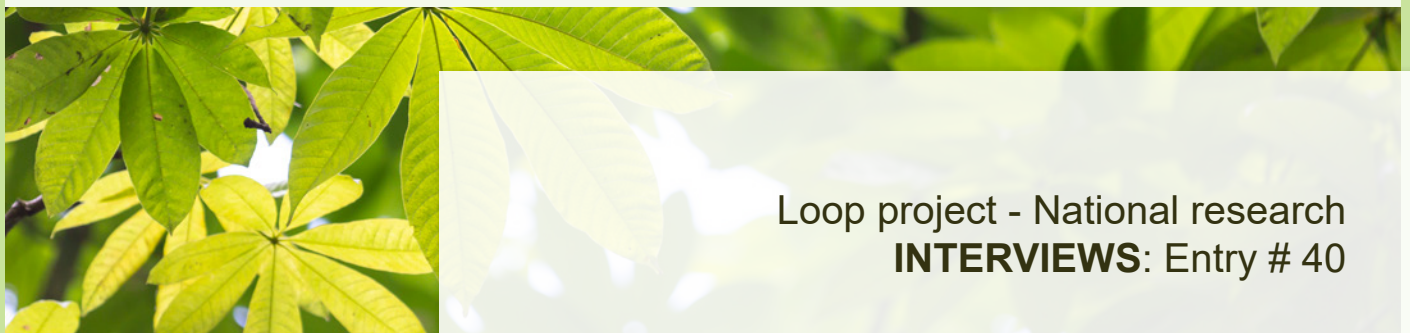
QUESTIONNAIRE

11. Do you think that the economy in the past was more sustainable than it is today?

A	B	C
10%	80%	10%

12. Which of these 3 statements do you consider the most true and important?

A	B	C
45%	55%	0



Loop project - National research
INTERVIEWS: Entry # 40