

Re-use

Alelyckan Re-Use Park

<http://goo.gl/S2v9U7>

Gothenburg, Sweden



Swedish recycling park diverts 360 tonnes of materials from recycling to re-use

In the last 15 years, there has been a large focus on waste-to-energy and increased material recycling in Sweden. As a result, since 2002 it is not allowed to landfill material that can be used for combustion and, since 2005 it is also forbidden to put organic waste on landfills. The municipalities are responsible for the collection of household waste. Except for those fractions that fall under the producer responsibility where a large part of the paper, metal, glass and plastics are included.

The Alelyckan Re-use Park was created in 2007 by the Recycling Committee (Kretsloppsnämnden) of the city of Gothenburg.

When arriving at the park, all visitors pass by three specialised collection points (building material, second hand goods and goods to be repaired). At this point, visitors can choose to give away goods that are in good condition and could be sold for re-use in the thrift shops located at the entrance. Broken items can also be donated as some simple repairs can be made in the shops before selling the objects. Then the visitors continue to the more traditional recycling park where the rest of their waste is sorted into different fractions for materials recycling or energy recovery.



One of the challenges for the future of the Alelyckan Re-use Park will be to raise awareness among neighbours. So far, only about 18% of the city's inhabitants frequent the Park. Moreover, users of the park are still not used to donating functioning goods and tend not to provide easy access to those goods when packing their cars.

In 2010 an evaluation of the Alelyckan Re-use Park was made by the Swedish Environmental Institute (IVL). The results show that the total inflow to the park was 6 430 tonnes and the re-used amount was 360 tonnes, meaning that more than 5% of material that otherwise would have been thrown away was re-used. The Park also provides some social benefits as the income from the second hand shop goes to help people needing support because of drug abuse, illness or other problems. The park also is used as a training centre for unemployed people to get back into the labour market.

Useful links:

Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kg7O_Xv59A8

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