

Recycling

Hammarby Sjöstad

Stockholm, Sweden

An eco-city project with underground waste transportation of residual waste, paper and food waste

When Hammarby Sjöstad was planned in the nineties, the main ambition was to reduce by 90% the need for heavy waste collection traffic in the residential area and to introduce separate collection of waste. As a result, two underground waste transportation systems were built so that each could handle the waste of between 2000 and 3000 households.

Three waste fractions are collected by the system, food waste and paper as well as the residual waste fraction. These waste is deposited in separate inlets located inside or outside the buildings before being air transported underground towards two collection terminals located outside of the area. From this point the waste is taken by truck in containers to recycling centres and waste to energy centres.

Special measures, including technical solutions and regular information campaigns, have been put in place in order to keep the purity of the paper fraction and the food waste fraction at the high level necessary for the processing of waste to paper and biogas. For the paper fraction the inlet was designed so that only magazines and newspapers could be put into the inlet. For the food waste fraction the inlet was equipped with a special key so that only dedicated paper bags can be used.

As a result of the user friendliness of the systems and the environmental benefits through reducing heavy waste collection traffic in the residential area, the level of recycling and the level of satisfaction among users are very high. While the installation cost of both systems has been of around 2000€ per household connected, the operational costs are lower than for conventional collection and the management of the systems is fully automated and controlled remotely. The system has attracted a large number of national and international visitors to Hammarby as well as an enormous amount of press coverage.



Useful link:

<http://www.envacgroup.com/>

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