

EU-PROGRAMM URBAN INNOVATION ACTIONS

«Frankfurt Green Diaper Circle»

A brief project-sketch for a circular-approach for diapers and hygienic products in the city of Frankfurt.

STARTING POINT

At present parents use for their young child about 4000 to 6000 diapers, in some German cities this counts up to 10 percent of the total collected waste. Within EU-project «Embraced» there has been the beginning to shape a circular-approach for diapers, to regain the materials from it for further use. Regional enterprises like PROCTOR AND GAMBLE and scientific institution FRAUNHOFER IWKS for Resource Strategies and Material Circles have also contributed to this project.

URBAN INNOVATIVE ACTIONS

Enterprise PROCTOR AND GAMBLE, that is located in the region of Frankfurt, at present shapes with partners like TERRACYCLE, located in Mainz within the wider region of Frankfurt, a collection-system in metropolitan regions for diapers and hygienic products to re-use its valuable materials. As research institutions FRAUNHOFER IWKS, also being located in the region, has already been involved within EU-project «Embraced», this gives the opportunity for the city of Frankfurt to reach out for those skills and knowledge for shaping a circular-metropolitan-approach. A possible first step could be the ongoing measurements for an architectural re-design of the district of Griesheim-Mitte in Frankfurt, that is also accompanied by a local dialog-forum with the residents. So the innovative approach for shaping a diaper-collections system could be introduced as a part of the re-design of the district Griesheim-Mitte, and implemented after a successful trial to other city-districts as well. Perhaps also the local healthcare-institutions, for example the divisions for the newborn infants, could contribute to this approach. In a project like this also local institutions like FRANKFURT UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCE or project BIOBALL of PROVADIS UNIVERSITY, being funded from FEDERAL MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE in the next 5 years up to 20 million Euros for shaping bio-based material cycles, could offer further useful expertise, skills and knowledge.

BENEFITS FOR THE CITY OF FRANKFURT

As one can see that there already can be found a number of enterprises and institutions in the region of Frankfurt that work to aspects of a circular economy, an approach like this could become another vital part of the measurements within the strategy of «Frankfurt Green City». Perhaps this would also give the opportunity to bring in the experience of young enterprise FAIRWINDEL, as a recent article in national Frankfurter newspaper FAZ reported about its diapers already cutting plastics up to 80 percent. As questions of the shaping of a bioeconomy and circular economy are mid- and longterm aims of the EU-Commission, also being carried out within founding-programmes like the BBI JU, HORIZON 2020 or activities of the JRC, this could further foster the work within circular approaches in the region of Frankfurt within enterprises and research institutions. As FRAUNHOFER IWKS is at present putting together a so-called «Resource-Cluster-Rhein-Main», this gives the opportunity to also build up on already existing projects and initiatives that can be found in the region of Frankfurt.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

EUROCITIES 2017: «Full Circle. Cities and the circular economy» (Link: [Download](#)), EIT CLIMATE-KIC 2018: «Municipality-led circular economy case studies» (Link: [Download](#)), BIO MARKET INSIGHTS 17.10.2019: «Project focus: How BBI JU is helping businesses to repurpose waste to drive new circular economic models.» (Link: [Article](#)), FATER SMART (Proctor and Gamble, Link: [Website](#)), TERRACYCLE (Link: [Article](#)), FAIRWINDEL (Link: [Website](#)), FRAUNHOFER IWKS, EU-project «Embraced» (Link: [Website](#)), EU-project «Embraced» (Link: [Website](#)), BIOBALL of PROVADIS UNIVERSITY (Link, German: [Website](#))