

11-14 YAŞ KATEGORİSİ, MAKALE, 1.LİK İTÜ G.V.O. ORTAOKULU

FUTURE ENVIRONMENT IS CREATED TODAY

İstanbul is one of the outstanding cities in the world with its natural beauties, cultural heritage and geographical location. At the same time, with a population density of 2849 people per square kilometer, the city is highly populated. This situation leads many problems and brings up environmental issues.

Our school ITU GVO Beylerbeyi is right next to the Bosphorus. So we pass by the sea every day to come to our school. Seeing the sea getting polluted day by day, seeing the packaging waste and the pet bottles on it, prompted our Young Reporters for the Environment team to take action. First of all, we contacted with Metropolitan Environmental Protection and Control Department. We learned that the İstanbul Municipality's area of 5343 square kilometres is the sea surface, stream, coastal and beach cleaning work and we learned that by 2013-2016 the total amount of waste they collected on the coast is nearly 65 thousand cubic meters and the total amount of waste they collected on the sea surface is 16 thousand cubic meters. In order to share this information with our friends, Saffet Altindag, the Supervisor of High Environment, gave us an informative seminar in our school.

We raised awareness of the problem by monitoring the 2012-2015 presentation of the European Union Project MARLISCO: 'let's stop the pollution of the sea together' to all classes at our school. With the support of student council and PTA (parent teacher association), we started a pet bottle collection campaign.

We continued our efforts to raise awareness in secondary school students by;

- Focusing on the importance of recycling in October.
- Emphasising that plastic bottles can remain in the environment for 600 years without decaying; only half of the 180.000 tons of plastic bottles are recycled in one year in Turkey and the average consumption of water in plastic bottles per person is 128 litres in November.
- Preparing the "micro plastics in our digestive system homework" under the guidance of our science teachers. We also made interviews on the streets about plastics in December.
- Preparing informative brochures about plastic everyday objects and meanings of symbols on them and we gave these brochures out to our friends in January.
- Learning about clothes like jeans, swimming suit and sleeping bag made of recycled plastic bottles in February.
- On 22 March World Water Day, we have made an interview with Prof. Dr. Ali Fuat Aydın who is the vice-chancellor of Istanbul Technical University about the importance of the water.

We as Young Reporters for the Environment participated in marine surface cleaning studies in İstanbul Municipality's ISTAC1 ship on December 2016. We published our investigation and observation studies in İstanbul Municipality's 2016 news bulletin.



To solve environmental problems we organized a project competition on "renewable energy" that all secondary school students in İstanbul would be able to participate. With this competition we tried to reach not only our school students but also our peers all over İstanbul. In this direction, we designed a booklet to support our announcements. We distributed this booklet both within and outside the school.

On 15th March 2017 we ended the pet bottle collection campaign that we launched on October 2016 and which we have always been active for 6 months. To make it fibre we transported 300 kilos of pet bottles to the recycling plant.



After that we had an interview with our teacher Professor Ali Fuat Aydın about water treatment and shared it with all levels of our school on 11th March World Water Day. Our purpose is to reach wider masses by doing sustainable development projects to sustain environmental pollution which is our global problem. "Leave a clean sea for children" is our message to all mankind.



<https://issuu.com/dhmsistemgelistirme/docs/dergi> (page: 14-15)

<http://www.itugvo.k12.tr/web/Icerik/Default.aspx?Ild=7530&Dld=1&Okulld=4> (competition)

http://www.turcev.org.tr/turcevCMS_V2/files/files/TURCEV%202016%20y%C4%B1l%C4%B1%20y%C4%B1l%C4%B1k%20b%C3%BClteni.pdf (page :45)

<http://www.itugvo.k12.tr/web/medya/bultenler/1617/22.pdf> (page: 14-15)

<http://www.itugvo.k12.tr/2015-2016/Beylerbeyi/resim/CGSAYRAC.jpg> (booklet)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OqItbO5RMpY&t=1172s> (interview)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IAaFShMkcQE> (YRE2017)

Project crew;

Teachers: sevgi döndü, ebru kaya, asli taşçı

Students.:Alara Ergul, Doga Elgun, Yagmur Ece Polat, Lal Ovacık, Nilsu Ozudogru, Zeynep Soylemez

Ages: 11-14

Itu Development Foundation Beylerbeyı Middle School

Istanbul/ turkey

11-14 YAŞ KATEGORİSİ, MAKALE, 2.LİK TED Kıbrıs

CANS OF THE FUTURE

Since the Industrial Era, pollution continues to be one of the greatest problems in the World. People from different countries have setup various organisations to raise awareness about this ongoing issue and each year we are becoming more and more aware of the problem. Many different projects have been planned over the years however, only some of them have been successful. Nevertheless, on one little island called Cyprus one project is becoming very victorious.

The Island of Cyprus homed in a project called “Can Kid” initiated by a civil society group named “Cyprus Green Action Group”. This project group is aware of the current environmental issues and began to raise awareness across Cyprus. They are not only raising awareness, but also recycling cans and with the money they raise, they are donating equipment to the local children hospitals.

At TED College, we had an amazing opportunity to interview the Co-founder and Corporate Communications Manager of the ‘Can Kid’ Project, Mr. Tugberk Kaya. Mr Kaya emphasised that the ‘Can Kid’ Project had started with a zero budget! This had meant that they needed to be very creative and extra brave to make it a success.

The aim of the project is to collect and recycle used beverage cans in order to raise money, which could then be used to buy the much-needed equipment for the children’s units in hospitals. The recycled material in the project is aluminium. The main reason aluminium cans are used is due to its high consumption on the island. Also, it is relatively cheap and quick to recycle the cans as the recycled cans can return to shelves in just 60 days.

Mr Kaya mentioned that through the recycling of the cans, natural resources are being protected and the amount of waste and visual pollution is minimised.

Used beverage cans result in pollution as they can remain in nature without decomposing for many years. It is in fact possible to make 10 big airplanes by recycling beverage cans consumed around the world in only one year. Hence, recycling cans decrease the carbon emissions and at the same time saves energy which can be used to power lots of devices.

Mr. Kaya stated that, cages are made in order to collect the cans. These cages are known as 'Can Houses'. Once a certain amount of cans are collected, volunteers separate the aluminium cans from the other materials. After doing so, they sell it to the company willing to buy the aluminium for the highest price. To be able to transport the cans efficiently, the cans need to be crushed. Due to zero budget, the project needed to be innovative enough to construct their own handmade press machine.

The 'Can Kid' project recently celebrated its second birthday and over the two years the numbers of Can Houses are growing across Cyprus. Recycling is still not a big issue in the country as yet but there are more and more people willing to help. The project first started in Nicosia. After two years it has spread to Famagusta and Guzelyurt in which it has 19 municipalities helping the project.

So, how has the 'Can Kid Project' become so successful in achieving their aims?

The project conducts many presentations at different educational institutes, organise festivals and joins TV programmes on local channels to attract people and raise awareness.

By doing presentations and TV programmes they can attract willing volunteers to help them. They do this in such a way that anyone taking part can have fun. Their main audience and focus point are students. Attracting students is crucial for this project as we all know that children are our future. It is very important to work with students and an excellent way of creating an environmentally-conscious society.

The most effective way of collecting cans is through tea/coffee shops, restaurants and other can consuming businesses. The group hold a very good relationship with these businesses which is the main reason why they are able to put their can houses next to these buildings. This way, the project collected at least 250,000 cans so far.

The environmental festivals they organise include metal parsing and crushing the cans. People joining in have the chance to get directly involved, increasing environmental awareness in the community, engaging recycling in people's lives and turning it into a habit.

Also, due to the fact that the money is donated, people are tempted more to join the action.

However, we think that the actual reason why they are so successful is because of their discipline and drive because they take this project very seriously and is something they truly believe in.

Even though this is an important project we feel that improvements can be made via the support of the government. We believe that projects of this sort that can truly make a difference to the environment deserve funding. They need this economical help for more cages, better press machines, technical information and sustainability. The press may also contribute by saving a daily corner in the newspapers in order to increase awareness across Cyprus as a whole.

We feel that it is vital to mention that the 'Can Kid' project is very innovative and is the first project in Cyprus that includes recycling and donating. The project is extremely sustainable and is at its early stages of developing into something truly outstanding. We think that students, as well as other residents of Cyprus should support, publicise and help develop this project.

Efforts made to recycle cans and help children's hospitals are greatly appreciated. By collecting a few cans and throwing them into "Can Houses" can encourage others to do so too. A small contribution can make such a big difference. Become a 'Can Kid' volunteer and support them with manpower and help them grow!

For the future generations, for the future of Cyprus and even for the future of our big home the Earth, we must all work together to protect our environment.

School:

TED College (Kuzey Kıbrıs)

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Dissemination:

- Article will be published in TED School Magazine (around 40 TED schools in Turkey)
- Put onto Facebook & Instagram.
- Published in a local newspaper.
- Mentioned at TED Radio broadcast