

# Snagazin



snaga

THE MAGAZINE FOR A BETTER LIFESTYLE



## FASHION STORY: SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING OF GRANDMA'S, SOMETHING FAIR

---

THE SECRETS  
OF THE BEST  
FOOD

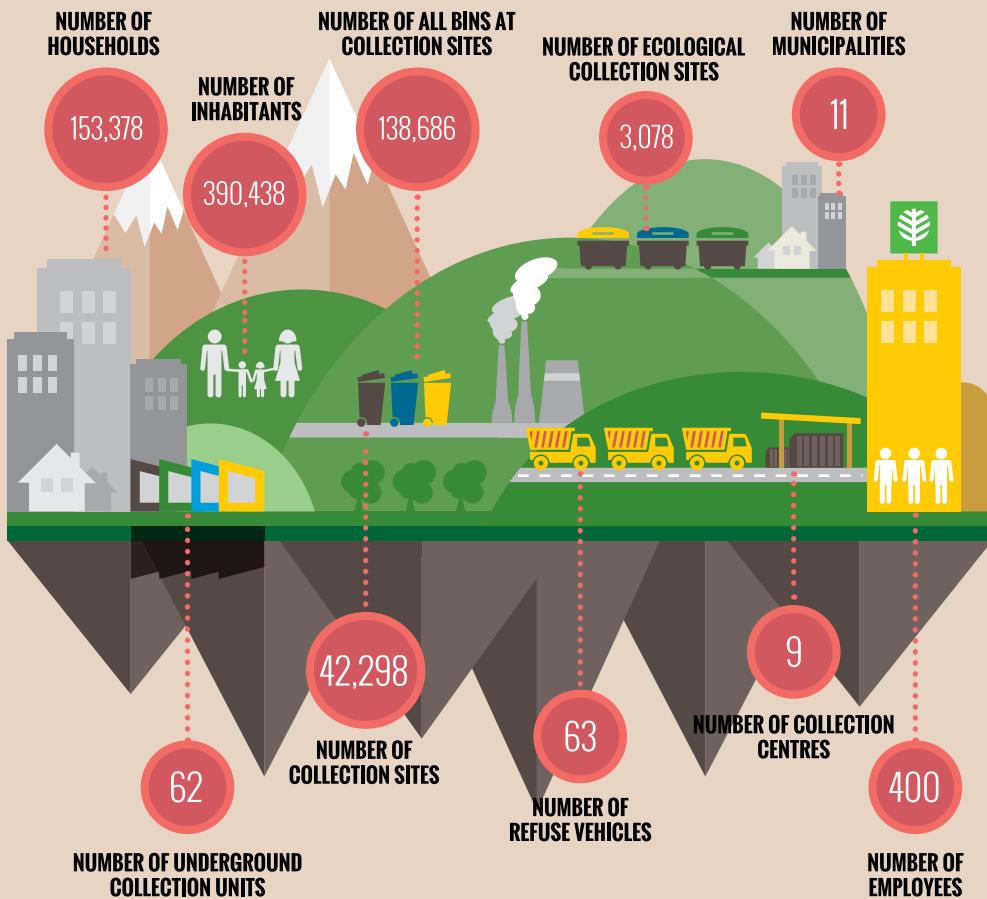
---

WOULD YOU BUY A  
PRODUCT WITH A "MADE  
IN SWEATSHOP" LABEL?

---

# Snaga Ljubljana

Right to your doorstep since 1920.



**snaga**



**Janko Kramžar,**  
director

## TAKING LIFE FOR GRANTED

We are lucky being born in the western world. We live our lives where many things are taken for granted. The water always comes out from our taps, the waste is taken away, the store shelves are full, TV broadcasts more than one hundred programmes ... Compared to some other parts of the planet, our world is safe, healthy and predictable.

Similarly to much of the western world we at Snaga Ljubljana had until recently been doing our business in the safe harbour of the comfort zone. Although we improved the waste management system, upgraded the infrastructure and began building one of the most modern centres for waste management we completely disregarded our society. We kept to what we knew was expected from a waste management company - we managed waste.

It's been three years now since we have ceased to be "just" a waste management company. We are now more aware of our responsibility to change this world to the better, and we hope to lead by example. So we have redesigned our annual publication to make a magazine for better life decisions and one that puts people first, and not waste. On the one hand, this magazine is about us who are constantly being asked to choose, buy and consume and on the other hand, it is about those who have to produce cheap clothes for us, about those who have to extract toxic metals used in our smartphones and those who are forced to work on rice, cocoa and coffee fields.

Even though there are thousands of miles separating us, our lives are intrinsically connected. And even though some might not like it, we have to accept the fact that we too are responsible for the conditions they live and work in. As Ernest Hemingway said: "No man is an island, every man is a piece of the continent". Let's not forget this the next time we buy coffee, chocolate or a new piece of clothing. Our decisions must be responsible.

And we should not forget to be thankful for what we have. Because nothing should be taken for granted.

**Would you buy apples if you knew that they were picked by children working 12 hours a day?**

**Interview with Živa Lopatič**

**RCERO Ljubljana – unique in Slovenia, a model for Europe**

**Slovenia is a great destination for making a profit with cheap food**

**Interview with Aleš Kuhar DSc**

|    |  |
|----|--|
| 6  | Totally fresh  |
| 8  | The secrets of the best food   |
| 13 | Slovenia is a great destination for making a profit with cheap food<br>Interview with Aleš Kuhar DSc |
| 16 | Would you buy a product with a “Made in Sweatshop” label?  |
| 20 | Three trends this season: simplification, openness and quality                                       |
| 21 | Fashion story: something old, something of grandma’s, something fair                                 |
| 25 | We are privileged to live in Slovenia<br>Interview with Mojca Mavec                                  |
| 28 | Nice and responsible   |
| 30 | RCERO Ljubljana – unique in Slovenia, a model for Europe   |
| 32 | Would you buy apples if you knew they were picked by children working 12 hours a day?                |
| 35 | Is all the work even worth it?   |
| 37 | Ljubljana, waste separation champion   |
| 38 | A well-kept city involves team work  |
| 41 | Quick and easy   |
| 43 | Where do you take an old couch?  |
| 46 | You asked Snaga  |
| 48 | Upcycled furniture in RCERO Ljubljana  |



# Totally fresh



## COVER STORY: FAIR FASHION PHOTOGRAPHY

The photographic society Fotorama, Buna cooperative, non-governmental organisations and the public waste company Snaga Ljubljana join forces to raise awareness about unethical practices in the fashion industry. Through a photo exhibition they strive to draw attention to the many clothing manufacturers that are blatantly exploiting workers and natural resources in their pursuit of higher profits, and to present a more sustainable way to approach fashion. All the models in the photographs are wearing fair trade or second-hand clothing and fair and sustainable cosmetics.

## FIRST PACKAGING-FREE GROCERY STORE IN SLOVENIA

Together with its partners, Snaga Ljubljana will open the first alternative shopping centre, which will offer a sustainable consumer experience right in the heart of Slovenia's capital. The centre will encompass a packaging-free grocery, a multipurpose café and a borrowing shop. Under one roof consumers will be able to choose from a wide range of local and fair trade products, enjoy a rich cup of fair trade coffee, borrow things they only need for a short period of time and buy packaging-free items. The location and date of the opening will be revealed in the media.



## RCERO LJUBLJANA – EXAMPLE OF BEST PRACTICE ON THE LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL SCALE

At the end of 2015 the biggest cohesion project in the environmental field in Slovenia came to life - the upgrade of the Regional Waste Management Centre (RCERO) Ljubljana. Behind the colourful buildings located just a stone's throw from the centre of the capital, the most advanced and sustainable technology is used to process waste from one third of Slovenian residents and to provide a number of green jobs. The project currently encompasses 37 municipalities and is a unique example of best practices both on the local and European scale.



## LJUBLJANA, EUROPEAN GREEN CAPITAL 2016

According to the European Commission, Ljubljana has made the greatest improvements in quality of life in the shortest period of time, which is why it has been named European Green Capital 2016. The closure of the city centre to motorised vehicles, the promotion of sustainable mobility, an efficient waste management system, the introduction of underground collection points in the city centre and large public green spaces are just a few changes for the better that Ljubljana has made. The green year was divided into themed months, with focus devoted to the following issues: smart waste management, local self-sufficiency, responsible water management, the quality of the acoustic environment, green areas, energy efficiency, biodiversity and bees, sustainable tourism, sustainable mobility, air quality, wood (nature's precious gift), adapting to climate change, eco-innovations, green jobs and sustainable local management. For more news visit the website [www.greenljubljana.com](http://www.greenljubljana.com).



## SNAGA WITH A RENOVATED PLAYROOM IN MINICITY LJUBLJANA

Minicity Ljubljana is a city in miniature designed for children. Instead of playing on conventional playground equipment, Minicity, the creative city for kids, offers children a chance to spend time in a TV and radio studio, aircraft, in a dental clinic, at a fire station, etc. Among the playground units that showcase diverse occupations you will also find Snaga's reuse house. Here children can play in the unique reused kitchen, put on the uniforms of waste collectors, participate in creative workshops and play with retro toys. For more information visit the website [www.minicity.si/en/](http://www.minicity.si/en/). ■

# The secrets of the best food

**D**o you remember the aroma of your mum's beef soup or stuffed peppers and mashed potato? Many people associate their favourite dish with childhood, and in general we have a relationship with food that is closely tied to our personal life and the family in which we grew up. Food and nutrition are therefore frequently associated with strong emotional experiences. These experiences are affected by taste, aroma, colour, quality, shape and packaging. So what is truly important in our choice of food, and where should we focus more attention?

Owing to its short journey to the consumer, locally produced food is of higher quality. Fruit and vegetables from nearby retain more vitamins, and research confirms that vegetables produced on Slovenian farms are two times less loaded with pesticide residues than imported produce. And the majority of vegetables cultivated in Slovenia are part of an integrated production system. This means that farmers are included in a system of controlled production, which is governed by higher environmental standards than in countries posing competition for Slovenian vegetables. Fruit and vegetables that travel a long way are generally picked early, before they have ripened, and this contributes to a less distinct flavour, while on their journey to the point of sale they lose a considerable amount of their nutritional value. There is, for instance, a sharp drop in vitamin C content, along with reduced values of vitamins A, B and E. Storage and transport from distant locations also frequently require the use of chemicals to suppress ripening, extend shelf life and the appearance of freshness, maintain colour and so forth.

## SAME NAMES, DIFFERENT QUALITY

A lot of food multinationals categorise Slovenia as a market with low purchasing power. This means that they ship products to the Slovenian market that have been produced in low-end factories in former Eastern Bloc countries. The problem is that their price is the same or even higher than better-quality products being sold for instance in Germany, and this has been proven. Chemical and sensory analysis was used to compare 23 products of the same






market brand, with the same name and packaging, and being sold in two different markets – Germany and the Czech Republic. A third of the products tested showed significant differences in composition, taste and firmness. Usually the arguments in favour of differences relate to the different preferences, tastes or expectations of consumers. Research shows that these explanations are false, since the quantity of meat in a product is not related to consumer preferences, since they are identical: the more the better and as cheap as possible. There were also significant differences in price, and the reverse of what one would expect: 14 products were more expensive in the Czech Republic than in Germany.

*In 2015 the Department of Chemistry and Chemical Technology of the Faculty of Natural Sciences at Charles University in Prague carried out research confirming that multinationals offer products of differing quality under the same name in different markets. The study showed, for instance, that Nestea Ice Tea Lemon bought in Czech shops has a full 40 percent less tea content than the ice tea bought in Germany. Iglo fish fingers bought in the Czech Republic contain 7 percent less meat than the fish fingers bought in Germany. ■*

“  
**Research at Charles University in Prague has shown that multinationals offer products of differing quality under the same name in different markets.**  
”





**“ Do you believe that you need to eat at least one hot meal a day? Even if it’s an instant soup, full of three lures – sugar, salt and fats? Don’t do yourself harm. A better choice is something fresh, even if it’s cold. ”**



## CONTENT IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN PACKAGING

Frozen vegetables are the best alternative to fresh ones when locally produced fresh vegetables are not yet available or you cannot buy them for various reasons. Modern quick freezing preserves almost all the nutritional value of fresh vegetables, so it is definitely better to buy a frozen cauliflower than one that has travelled far to reach the supermarket shelf. When you buy frozen vegetables you need to check closely for any signs that the temperature in the freezer may have been too high. If ice crystals have formed on vegetables or pieces have formed into clumps, it is better not to buy them. Even though frozen vegetables may have been properly stored (at least  $-18\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ ), it is not possible to completely halt the process of vitamin breakdown; on average 1 to 5 percent of vitamins are lost per month. The 'best before' date on frozen vegetables can also be up to three years, so we recommend buying freshly frozen vegetables with a long best before date.

With constant time constraints, pre-prepared food (frozen pizzas, sauces, lasagne, instant soups etc.) seem like an excellent choice. The industry knows very well how to lure us and hold on to us: with the perfect proportions of salt, sugar and fats. As numerous consumer tests have shown (in Slovenia the Slovenian Consumers Association provides tests), such food products are crucially overloaded with all three "lures". Pre-prepared food contains a lot of additives to make a meal more attractive: flavours, colours and preservatives. The main purpose of additives is to extend shelf life, but unfortunately the manufacturers increasingly add them to give the food a nicer appearance and more pronounced flavour. Also, by buying this kind of food you contribute to the even greater mass of waste from households, and the packaging, which combines various materials, is sometimes completely impossible to separate adequately. Store shelves offer various dairy and baked slices that can supposedly substitute for breakfast or morning snack. The biggest consumers are children, for whom parents buy such snacks in good faith, imagining them to be a better choice than for instance biscuits or chocolate. But is that true? One very popular baked slice weighs 30 grams, and contains nearly 10 grams of sugar. If we add in the fat content, together with the sugar it makes up almost half the weight of the slice (13.5 grams out of 30 grams). With these kinds of snacks, which are actually desserts, it is good to check their ingredients and nutrition label. ■

**IF WE'RE ON  
THE STREETS,  
IT DOESN'T MEAN  
WE'RE HUNGRY.**



**RAISE YOUR VOICE AGAINST  
FOOD WASTE.**

# Slovenia is a great destination for making a profit with cheap food

**A**leš Kuhar DSc is an agrarian economist who for years has been warning that products entering the Slovenian market are of lower quality than those sold to markets abroad. The use of low-quality ingredients, different recipes and additional additives enables food producers to lower the costs of food. Another matter of great concern is that Slovenian consumers are paying the same or even a higher price for a product of lower quality than German consumers for the same but better-quality product. Being produced for a demanding European market, the product in Germany will be of higher quality. This should worry us.

*You often draw attention to the low quality of products on our shelves. Why is this happening?*

Food multinationals categorise Slovenia as a less demanding European market. This means that they ship products to our market that have been produced in low-end factories where the costs of production are lower. Manufacturers lower the costs by modifying recipes and by using fewer high-quality ingredients. What is worrying is that for the same cheap food that costs consumers in Belarus or Romania fifty cents, Slovenian consumers pay a euro and a half. In this way manufacturers and retailers are making higher profits and causing major damage to Slovenian consumers.



***What should buyers pay special attention to?  
Which products are the most problematic?***

Besides fruit and vegetables, the most problematic products are imported cheeses, meat and meat products and sweet products such as chocolate and biscuits. The difference is in the quantity of the most expensive ingredients - such as cocoa - and the quality of ingredients and additives that are used to cover up the lower quality of the key ingredients. When buying meat products consumers can compare the price of the hotdog or sausage with the price of the raw material that is used in the product - in this case the price of meat. If the price of the processed food is lower than the price of the raw material then this is a clear sign that you have a low-quality product. But of course there are exceptions. At the discount stores you can buy the same locally produced food for a significantly lower price than at a supermarket. However if you want to avoid cheap food, quality has to be the most important criterion when buying food.

***What kind of consumers are Slovenians?***

Slovenians are extremely price-sensitive consumers, especially when buying food. We know how to recognise quality when we buy a car, but when we buy food we don't take into account the same price-performance ratio. We are frequently thrilled with food that has attractive packaging and appears in advertisements, and often we take this as a guarantee that the food is

“  
**Quality has to be  
 the most important  
 criterion when  
 buying food.**”

good. We are not aware, though, that for extremely low prices we get poor quality food. In terms of food choice, Slovenian consumers lack a basic competence - recognising quality.

***We like to believe that Slovenian food is of higher quality than imported food. Is this true?***

If we compare the quality of two equal products - one locally produced and the other imported - I can assure you that the Slovenian product is of higher quality. The main reason is that the majority of food that comes to the Slovenian market is made with one main purpose - to be cheap - while everything else, including quality, is secondary. This is why the quality of those products cannot be compared with the quality of the locally produced food, which is made with the primary intention of being healthy, nutritious and tasty. So the consumer must always try to recognise the primary intention of the food manufacturer. If the main intention was to produce cheap food, then the quality will be poor.

***Are consumers from other European countries more loyal to local products?***

For sure. A significant difference can be seen just across our borders. Italy, for example, is known for its great variety of food and strong orientation towards locally produced food. The same applies to Austrian consumers, who are extremely loyal to local products. Foreign manufactures have very few opportunities in their market. Even though an Austrian consumer might find in the supermarket a Slovenian product that is cheaper and of higher quality than the Austrian one, he would always chose the latter. And if the retailer removed a popular local product from the shelves and replaced it with an imported one, consumers would certainly react strongly and demand the local product back. Unfortunately Slovenian consumers do not have such demands. ■

# That aroma from your coffee – is it money?

Coffee is the world's second most valuable traded commodity, behind only petroleum, generating a profit of 50 billion dollars per year. The profits are in large part taken by corporations, while coffee farmers barely make a living. Because of the unrealistic production quotas they have to fill, they are usually forced to take their children to the coffee plantations. Together with their parents, children have to carry heavy loads and are exposed to extreme heat and the bites of spiders and snakes.

If you want to try a coffee that does not have the aroma of money, visit Café Čokl. Tine Čokl uses only fair trade and organic coffee that he personally roasts for the Slovenian market. Each cup of Arabica coffee from Ethiopia, Uganda, Mexico or Nicaragua is a unique experience.



Visit Café Čokl on Krekov trg 8 in Ljubljana.

# Would you buy a product with a “Made in Sweatshop” label?

In the Western world we believe that fair pay and a safe workplace are our essential rights. It is impossible to imagine that instead of sending our children to school or kindergarten we would have to send them to work in a factory, field or mine. At the same time we take for granted buying our children sneakers from popular sports brands that were made by children on the other side of the world, or finding clothes for 15 euros or even less. The truth is that these clothes can be so cheap precisely because the workers who make them are paid as little as a few cents per hour.

All sweatshops have three things in common - long hours that can reach up to 16 a day, low wages with which workers cannot even cover the cost of food for themselves or their family, and unsafe and unhealthy working conditions. Since between the end of one working day and the beginning of the next there is only a couple of hours, workers usually sleep on the factory floor. Countries where sweatshops are most common are the same you will find on your clothing labels – Bangladesh, India, Vietnam, Cambodia and China. More than 90% of sweatshop workers are women, who usually get laid off as soon as they get pregnant. Child labour is also very common in sweatshops, since children are a cheaper workforce than adults. In Asian sweatshops five-year-old children work from six in the morning until seven in the evening for 18 cents per day.



SNAGAZIN



The wages of the workers are so low that by doubling their wages, the price of the product would increase by only 1.8 per cent. In Bangladesh, the world's second largest apparel exporter, workers earn two euros per day. In more than 5,000 sweatshops across Bangladesh around 3,5 million workers produce clothes for H&M, Zara and Gap.

After the collapse of the Rana Plaza factory building that killed 1,129 people, the monthly

wage of Bangladeshi workers increased to 60 euros. People work up to 16 hours a day, maternity leave for working mothers in factories is out of the question and trade unions are non-existent.

The non-profit organisation Humanitas is drawing attention to the ugly truth that is so different from the happy families portrayed in advertising - the fact that slavery didn't disappear, it just changed its form. Today according to numerous organizations, between 21 and 36 million people are being forced



“These clothes can be so cheap precisely because the workers who make them are paid as little as a few cents per hour.”

into slavery; 55 per cent of those are women, while 26 per cent are children. There are many types of modern-day slavery: child trafficking and slavery, sexual exploitation, forced labour and bonded labour, which is extremely widespread among illegal immigrants who are forced to work to repay their debts for food and shelter, but realistically they will never be able to repay them. Slavery is especially widespread in mining, construction, fishing, agriculture and in the apparel industry. But it also enters our homes, offices and schools through more than

one hundred and twenty products we use every day - from coffee, mobile phones and computers to clothes and shoes.

Most people believe that companies are the main culprits for the exploitation of workers, child labour and environmental degradation. But even though we would like to believe otherwise, the fact is that we consumers, with our never-ending desires, are encouraging companies to expand and diversify their products and manufacturing and to lower their prices.



# YOU DECIDE WHO TO GIVE MONEY TO

At least for major brands you can easily check online about the circumstances in which their products were made. Well-known fashion retailers that produce clothing at lower prices usually cooperate with local factories that are known for exploiting children and forcing people to work in inhumane conditions. If you don't like it, boycott their products. Maybe a personal boycott doesn't seem an effective means of struggle, but when it reaches a critical mass it can force companies to change their business practices, as has happened many times before. Be aware of your power - you decide who to give money to. There are many manufacturers such as American Apparel and Patagonia that cooperate only with manufacturers that provide fair working conditions and do not exploit children. This proves that in the apparel industry, too, it is possible to establish working conditions where workers are not exploited and are being paid fairly, and where children are not being used as a workforce.

**Use your power, speak out (on social networks), demand answers, boycott and make a difference.**

Clothes have become quickly replaced consumables. When you buy items on sale you pay less for a bag full of clothes than for a weekly grocery shop. You say to yourself that you would buy locally made products, products

***While on the one hand we are becoming more aware of our consumer rights and how to act on them, on the other hand we buy everything we find on the shelves, guided only by our self-interest: buying more and paying less. The bitter truth is that we share the responsibility for the state of today's society. For slavery, exploitation and child labour.***

from fair trade shops and clothes from local designers but you don't earn enough or your family budget does not allow you. Maybe that's the truth, but also people who are paid properly buy products that violate basic labour and human rights. Besides, many things that are sold in fair trade shops, like coffee and chocolate, are a luxury anyway. In addition most of us also buy too much - from clothes to toys and food. It seems that we are no longer looking for quality but simply following current fashion trends. Not so long ago new clothes came into the shops once each season - Autumn/Winter, Spring/Summer. Now popular fashion retailers present new arrivals twice a week!

If you don't like the conditions in which those clothes are made but don't have the money to buy fair trade clothes, you can still buy in second hand or vintage shops, swap clothes or buy just a few good-quality pieces per year. On the other hand you can also sell or exchange clothes and shoes you don't need any more and have worn just a few times.

What about prejudice? Are you bothered by the smell of the clothes in second hand shops and the fact that you don't know who wore the clothes before? You think that is unhygienic? Have you ever thought how many people tried on the shirts and trousers in your favourite shop before you did? Do you know that the smell of the clothes in those stores is actually the smell of dangerous chemicals that are used to dye and soften fabrics? Are you having a hard time using things that have been used before by someone else? What about towels and bed linens at hotels and holiday apartments? Cups and cutlery in restaurants? Soft hotel bath robes, cloth car seats in a used car?

Men's, women's and children's fair trade clothing is also available online: [www.peopletree.co.uk](http://www.peopletree.co.uk), [www.braintreeclothing.com](http://www.braintreeclothing.com), [www.gatherandsee.com](http://www.gatherandsee.com), [store.americanapparel.co.uk](http://store.americanapparel.co.uk), [eu.patagonia.com](http://eu.patagonia.com), [littlegreenradicals.co.uk](http://littlegreenradicals.co.uk), [www.avaandluc.com](http://www.avaandluc.com), [www.loveitloveitloveit.co.uk](http://www.loveitloveitloveit.co.uk), [www.lillyandsid.com](http://www.lillyandsid.com), [www.welovefrugi.com](http://www.welovefrugi.com). ■

# Three trends this season: simplification, openness and quality

FIVE SIMPLE EVERYDAY TIPS FOR A FULL AND LESS STRESSFUL LIFE.



## 1 GET RID OF THINGS THAT DON'T WORK

Everything you have at home that does not work or is not used, just takes up space and wastes time (when you move things, when you clean and tidy). Sell it online, replace it, give it as a gift or take it to the Reuse Centre, where faulty items are repaired and offered to new owners.

## 2 STOP BUYING TO STOCK UP

Research shows that people buy things to stock up out of uncertainty (financial or other), and a large accumulation of things gives us a false sense of comfort and security. Often products that are stockpiled (food, make-up, body care cosmetics) are not used at all, since they spoil or their shelf life ends, or when it's their "turn" you might not even like them any longer.

## 3 DON'T BUY SOMETHING JUST BECAUSE "EVERYONE HAS ONE" OR IT'S TRENDY

Exercise judgement. Before any purchase, ask yourself three key questions: do I really need it, do I absolutely have to buy it and have it (maybe I could borrow or rent it) and can I buy it second hand? If it turns out in one month that you really need to have something for yourself, you can still buy it.

## 4 DON'T FEEL GUILTY

Are you holding on to things at home out of a sense of guilt, especially if they are gifts from your nearest and dearest? Things are not people and there is absolutely nothing wrong with not holding on to things for ever. You can re-gift them or sell them, and use any money you make to buy theatre or concert tickets or use it for something you like.

## 5 BUY LESS AND MAXIMISE QUALITY

Having less also means having less of the worry that comes with having possessions. Less cleaning and tidying, less space used up for storage and also lower costs. Higher quality things frequently also last longer and are nicer (the same goes for a leather bag, sunglasses or garden furniture). Quality costs more, but nowadays you can buy just about everything you want and need second hand.

# Something old, something of grandma's, something fair

Four styles, four stories. Something common connects them all. The desire to design a unique and timeless style that does not follow any fashion hyperconsumption, but places people and nature at the forefront.

Clothes and shoes from a second hand store.  
Smetumet bag.

Model: Ivana Florencia Oven  
Photo: Ana Kuščer



Movinun clothing, made in Slovenia of GOTS certified material (including the thread and zip fasteners). Smetumet bag.

Model: Maša Čemovšek  
Logar  
Photo: Nadja Stare



Clothes from Grandma's wardrobe. Retro shoes from the Vintage Gallery.

Model: Veronika Savnik  
Photo: Ana Kuščer



People Tree clothing from the fair trade system. Retro shoes from the Vintage Gallery.

Model: Ida Horvat Lebar  
Photo: Ana Kuščer



# We are privileged to live in Slovenia

**C**urious traveller, passionate gardener and a genuine food-lover - these are just a few words to describe Mojca Mavec, a popular TV host and journalist. She keeps us company in the early hours of the mornings hosting the show *Dobro jutro*, and in the afternoons you can meet her in Ljubljana's Central market carefully looking for local produce. As a food lover, she goes for seasonal and locally produced food. She loves nature and creative and ambitious people together with whom she strives to make the world a better place.

***In your TV travel shows you took Slovenian viewers all over the world. Which journey left the biggest impression on you?***

Vietnam, Sri Lanka, to name just a few. I generally love destinations with a strong spice heritage,

where food still has a genuine flavour and smell. And in this sense Asia is truly amazing. In Europe Scandinavia is my place of choice with its wide forests and amazing landscapes. I am especially keen on Sweden that always inspires me with its many innovations, creativity and incredible efficiency. Their design, music, everything.

***Watching your shows it seems as if you completely embrace the culture and customs of the place you are visiting.***

I am a sensitive person and I love people. I like to talk but even more I love to listen. I like to make comparisons between different cultures - how things are organised in our country and what the solutions are elsewhere. Again, Sweden is an interesting case. The average gross monthly salary is 1200 euros higher there than in Slovenia.



However they are much more conscious and a lot more responsible consumers than we are. Speaking of Sweden they recently created a national swapping initiative on Instagram called #Sharewear that aspires to promote a more sustainable way to approach fashion. It gives people opportunity to swap clothes or simply borrow brand new creations from high-end Swedish designers free of charge.

***You love to travel but it is good to come home as well. What do you miss most when you are away?***

A balanced diet. I love to cook and I have my own garden that offers many delights. When I am in Slovenia I prepare at least one meal a day. I love the feeling of eating my own food, prepared and cooked by myself, because I know the origin of all the ingredients and how it was prepared.

***You like foreign cuisine but you are a big fan of Slovenian food as well, especially fruits, vegetables and herbs. What is your attitude to food and what are you careful about when it comes to food choices?***

No matter where I am travelling I try to eat seasonal and locally produced food. In Slovenia we are lucky to have a wide range of locally produced food throughout the whole year. In the recent years I have noticed that people are becoming more aware of the benefits that eating locally produced food brings. I think this is good. However, we still waste too much food, which really bothers me. It seems as if we still cannot make rational choices. Simply said, we buy too much. We are too often tricked by discounts and special XXL offers into buying way beyond what we need. I personally try to be a conscious consumer. I always make a list before going grocery shopping and I only buy what I need. I am also looking to buy those products that use less packaging. I heard that Snaga Ljubljana will open the first package-free grocery store in Slovenia which is great news. Congrats also for the urban intervention with containers asking the citizens to reduce food waste - great initiative!

***You often see the world through the eyes of a traveller. How do you see Ljubljana through the eyes of a traveller?***

In recent years Ljubljana has evolved to become an ever more beautiful and friendly city. Most importantly it has become an environmentally conscious city. The title European Green Capital is well earned but it is a great responsibility as well. Not just for the city but also for its inhabitants. Each of us should strive to make changes in our lives that would make the world a better place. Buying less, purchasing products and services produced responsibly, treating food with respect and being grateful for the things we have – these are the values we should cherish.

***Besides hosting the morning show and preparing your own travel programme you are working on many other projects as well. How do you manage to keep up with all your daily activities?***

Professionally I try to constantly improve my know-how. I have a rule to learn something new each day and I accept challenges in life. I focus on important subjects that have not yet received enough public attention. We have just concluded a TV series on positive agricultural practices. This is the very first ecological programme on the national television. Right now I am also working on a project about immigrants and their integration.

***They say that a traveller's goal is not the destination but getting a new perspective in life. How has travelling changed you and the way you see the world?***

When you come home from a journey with a different perspective from the one you had before, only then you have truly travelled. Travel constantly broadens my horizons. It introduces me to new customs and new ways of seeing the world and it keeps showing me that in many ways we are privileged to live in a country such as Slovenia. ■

**consumer** noun [ C ] UK /kən'sjuː.mər/ US /kən'suː.mə/  
*whoever blindly follows advertisements instead of using his head.*



Think before you make yet another purchase.  
Borrow things you only need for a short  
period of time.  
And whenever possible choose fair trade,  
recycled and reused products.

[www.snaga.si/en](http://www.snaga.si/en)



# Nice and responsible

## ZAO – ETHICAL COSMETICS IN BAMBOO PACKAGING

ZAO cosmetics are made of environment-friendly and exclusively fair trade ingredients. Almost all ZAO products contain microparticles of pure silver, which have an antiseptic and antibacterial action and maintain the stability of the product. All the products are free of talc (including powders), parabens, mineral oils, paraffin and other harmful ingredients. ZAO cosmetics are not tested on animals (neither the ingredients nor the final products), and the packaging is a truly special feature. They have developed an innovative system offering the option of refills, enabling the reuse of the bamboo packaging. ZAO cosmetics are available at the online store Ekopleme.



## LIBRARY OF THINGS – SAVE TIME, MONEY AND SPACE

The Community Centre at Savsko Naselje houses a Library of THINGS: a special library where instead of books, members can borrow various useful items (tools, sports equipment, toys, household accessories etc.). The Library of Things is set up along the lines of the Berlin Library of Things called Leila, which was the first such lending facility. One of the main aims of the concept is to enable individuals to borrow items that they would otherwise have to buy, while borrowing them at the library saves time, money and space.



## DON'T MISS

We have put together a selection of three extraordinary documentary films, which offer a comprehensive and in-depth insight into the background of modern mass production and consumption that is well worth viewing. The documentary **The True Cost** is a film about the clothes we wear, about the people that make them and the effect the textile industry has on our planet. The film will provide food for thought and prompts you to ask yourself who is really paying the proper price for our clothes. The documentary **Our Daily Bread** reveals the barbaric nature of corporate farming towards employees, animals and nature as a mere raw material for production on the one hand and towards modern consumers on the other hand. People poison themselves with genetically modified food, dubious meat, maize, dairy products etc., particularly in the USA, where the food industry is almost entirely controlled by large corporations. The documentary **Food, Inc.** reveals what people eat and why.



## SMETUMET, THE ART OF WASTE

Smetumet is a brand that brings together in joint products our strength, inspiration, knowledge, philosophy, technology, creativity, wonder, humour and socialising. These useful, attractive and robust bags are made of old tarpaulins, old car seat belts and key bands. Their collection from waste materials also includes wallets, telephone cases and shopping bags for produce that does not require any unnecessary packaging.



## EXCHANGING IS THE HOTTEST FORM OF RECYCLING

The Zelemenjava (Green Exchange) project involves various events where seeds, seedlings, produce, recipes and gardening experience are exchanged. The Zelemenjava community has just one rule: nothing is exchanged for money. Events are adjusted to the gardening calendar: in winter there is a seed exchange, in April a seedling exchange, in May a Slovenia-wide exchange that takes place in several dozen towns and cities, and at the end of August Darja Fišer and her team organise a big Zelemenjava picnic. Check it out on [www.facebook.com/Zelemenjava](http://www.facebook.com/Zelemenjava).

## MOVINUN WILL HELP YOU BE (OR LOOK) BETTER

Movinun is a group of visionaries in Ljubljana who make ethical and sustainable clothing under a fair trade policy. Their T-shirts, sweaters, leggings and sleeveless tops are not just high-quality, useful and attractive, they are made exclusively from material bearing the Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS) certificate. This means that throughout the supply chain (from planting to processing and production) the material is made in an environmentally and socially responsible way. Each link in the chain must satisfy various criteria regarding environmental protection (checks are made regarding care of the soil, how much and what chemicals are used, how waste, energy and water are handled and so on) and criteria regarding concern for people (adequate employment, working conditions, development, human rights, sustainability, compliance with laws and so on). You can check out Movinun at [www.movinun.com](http://www.movinun.com), and also on Trubarjeva Street in Ljubljana. ■

# RCERO Ljubljana – unique in Slovenia, a model for Europe

Since November 2015 Barje has been the site of the biggest environmental cohesion project in the country – the Regional Waste Management Centre (RCERO) Ljubljana, which can receive 150,000 tons of mixed municipal waste and more than 20,000 tons of biowaste a year. By processing this, each year we can recover up to 30,000 tons of raw materials intended for recycling, up to 60,000 tons of fuel and 7,000 tons of compost. The innovative technology processes waste from a third of Slovenia and provides numerous green jobs. This extraordinary project, which currently involves 37 municipalities, is an example of best practices on a national and European scale.

## THREE KEY FACILITIES

The Regional Centre comprises an extended landfill, a leachate treatment plant and waste processing facilities.

## COLOURFUL AND AS EFFICIENT AS POSSIBLE

After processing, less than 5% of the waste - which cannot be used for raw materials or energy - is deposited and does not harm the environment when placed in the landfill.



All processes are directed from the control room.



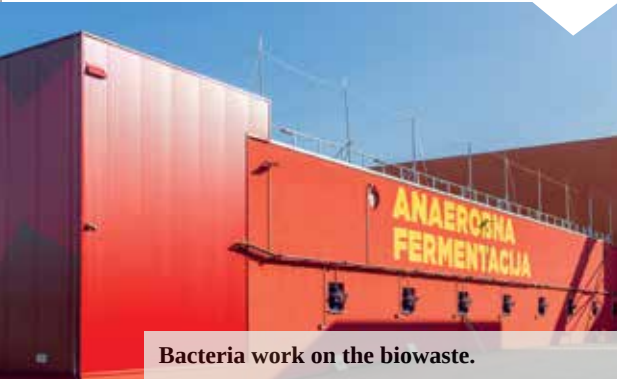
The colours of the structures match the processes.

Even the exterior of the Centre is inspiring. Elsewhere in the world, regional centres are a dreary grey, but RCERO Ljubljana sparkles in blue, green, red and orange hues. The symbolism is clear: the section for biological waste is in warm colours owing to the biological processes being conducted there, and the section for mixed municipal waste is in cold colours.

To break down biowaste they use exactly the same processes as you would find in nature, except that here the process is much quicker and is anaerobic.

Biowaste is first sieved: smaller parts can immediately proceed to the bioreactor (fermenter), while bigger biowaste is first shredded and additionally sieved, and solid particles and metals separated.

The large concrete structure (bioreactor) is where organic matter is broken down biologically without the presence of oxygen – anaerobic fermentation. Something similar takes place in the stomachs of ruminants. In the bioreactor the waste is worked on by special bacteria, which eat the waste and break it down, in the process producing biogas.



**Bacteria work on the biowaste.**



**Part of the equipment is made of waste items and materials.**

Whatever cannot be recycled is converted into fuel that has an energy value similar to brown coal. The fuel is in fact pellets of unprocessed waste. The Regional Centre prevents the generation of waste and promotes recycling and reuse.



**RCERO Ljubljana is self-sufficient.**

The big yellow balloon, which looks like a giant yellow ball, is used to store biogas generated in the biological processing. It serves to generate sufficient electrical and heat energy for the operation of the entire Regional Centre.



**They separate everything from the waste that can still be used.**

The high-technology system of mechanical waste processing makes it possible for as much useful raw materials as possible to be separated from mixed municipal waste. The shredder first roughly shreds waste, which then goes through a sieve that separates it by particle size. From the sieve, different fractions are taken away on conveyor belts. Separators above the belts separate waste according to its characteristics. The separators remove various types of plastic, paper and other useful materials, aluminium and other metals, and a magnet picks out iron. All the separated materials go to factories for recycling. ■

# Would you buy apples if you knew they were picked by children working 12 hours a day?

**W**hen we talk about fair trade in Slovenia we soon run into Živa Lopatič. Živa runs the first fair trade shop in Slovenia, 3 MUHE, and is a well-known fair trade expert. For years she has been trying to raise awareness about the labour exploitation and unfair practices that are hidden in the production of goods we buy everyday.

## *How do we know that we bought a fair trade product?*

Products from fair trade can be recognized by the FAIRTRADE mark that is issued by the Fair Trade Labelling Organization. It is a blue and green roundel with a man in the centre with a raised arm. In our fair trade shop 3 MUHE we sell only products that are made in accordance with the principles of fair trade. For every item on our shelves we know exactly where it comes from, who made it and how. When you buy our fair trade coffee, the consumer is fifth in the commodity chain, while when you buy regular coffee several hundred people are involved in the chain before it reaches the consumer. Each party involved takes their commission, and almost always at the expense of the farmer.

## *How can consumers take action?*

The first thing is transparency. It is important to know the origins of the items we buy, who made them and how. When buying chocolate pay attention to the origins of the cocoa beans and sugar. Be informed about who is involved in the production so that you know what you support when you buy a certain item. Would you buy apples if you knew they were picked by children working 12 hours a day or that the owner of the land is physically abusing his workers? As this happens far away from us we usually just pretend it is not happening.

## *What are the products that are most often made in inhumane conditions?*

Behind the fashion industry there is a lot of child labour and use of slavery. In the sweatshops, workers in inhumane conditions produce the majority of textiles and garments that we find in the European and U.S. markets. These sweatshops are mostly located in Bangladesh, India, Vietnam, Cambodia and China. There is also a lot of child labour and slavery in rice production, located in Asia and Africa, where poor children are exploited and often not even paid for their work. Children and adults are also often victims of forced labour in the rice fields of India, Vietnam, Burma, Mali and Burkina Faso. And the story of unprotected, beaten and totally





“  
**Behind the  
 fashion industry  
 there is a lot  
 of child labour  
 and use of  
 slavery.**”

exploited workers (many of whom are children) takes place every day on coffee plantations in South America and African countries, on orange plantations in Brazil and on Thai fishing boats.

*Lately there has been a large debate about the inhumane conditions in which smartphones are made. Can you tell us more?*

In the Democratic Republic of Congo more than 40,000 children are working in cobalt mines. The youngest are only seven years old. Congo is the source of roughly half of the world's supply of cobalt, which is used in our laptops, smartphones and cars. All 16 of the corporations that produce smartphones use cobalt that has been extracted by children and adults who are paid less than one dollar per day. The children and adults are physical abused, extorted and harassed, while women are often victims of sexual abuse. Mining is absolutely one of the worst forms of child labour. ■



THESE WEREN'T MADE WITH CHILD LABOR



All products in the photo are made in line with the principles of fair trade. This means that farmers were paid fairly for their work, women received the same pay as men and the products were not produced by child or forced labour. You can find fair and quality food, cosmetics, toys and home goods in the fair trade shop **3 MUHE**.

Fair trade shop **3 MUHE**  
Stari trg 30, 1000 Ljubljana  
[www.3muhe.si](http://www.3muhe.si)  
[www.facebook.com/3MUHE](https://www.facebook.com/3MUHE)



# Is all the work even worth it?

**W**hat happens to an empty crisp packet after you put it in a yellow waste bin? Is all the work involved in separate waste collection even worth it? What are we paying for each month in the Snaga bill? We have put together some facts about waste management that will answer this and other questions.

## DOES SEPARATE WASTE COLLECTION EVEN PAY OFF?

In December 2014 and 2015 Snaga demonstrated that separate collection of waste pays off. Owing to the increased proportion of separately collected waste and for that reason a lower proportion of waste going to landfills, at the end of 2014 Snaga credited all its users for the amount of the December waste management bill, and in December 2015 it reduced the average bill by 60%.

## WHAT ARE WE PAYING FOR IN THE SNAGA BILL?

Through the payment form you are not just paying for waste removal, but also for other services: replacement of damaged bins, cleaning of biowaste bins, the operation of collection centres, removal of bulky waste, processing of mixed and biological waste and the collection of hazardous household waste.





## WHAT HAPPENS TO THE WASTE WE SEPARATE?

Snaga delivers separately collected plastic and glass packaging and cardboard to packaging companies. Biological waste is taken to the Regional Waste Management Centre (RCERO) Ljubljana, where it is broken down using processes similar to those you would find in nature, except that there the process is much quicker and is anaerobic. Hazardous waste from the collection centres and mobile collection unit is delivered to authorised companies, while bulky waste is first sorted, with usable materials being recycled and unusable waste being taken to RCERO Ljubljana.

## WHAT HAPPENS TO THE WASTE PUT IN THE BLACK BINS?

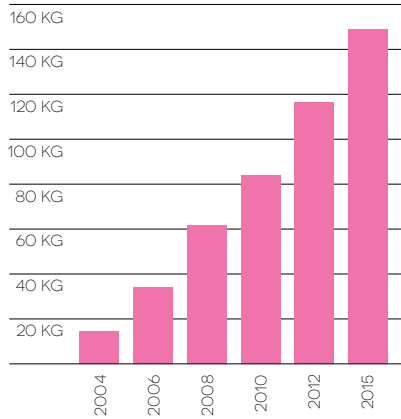
Snaga takes the residual waste to RCERO Ljubljana for mechanical processing. There, as much useful raw materials as possible are separated from mixed municipal waste. This is made possible by a high-technology system of mechanical waste processing. After processing at the Barje landfill, we dispose of just the remaining 4.9 percent of the waste.

## DOES SNAGA MAKE MONEY FROM THE COLLECTED WASTE?

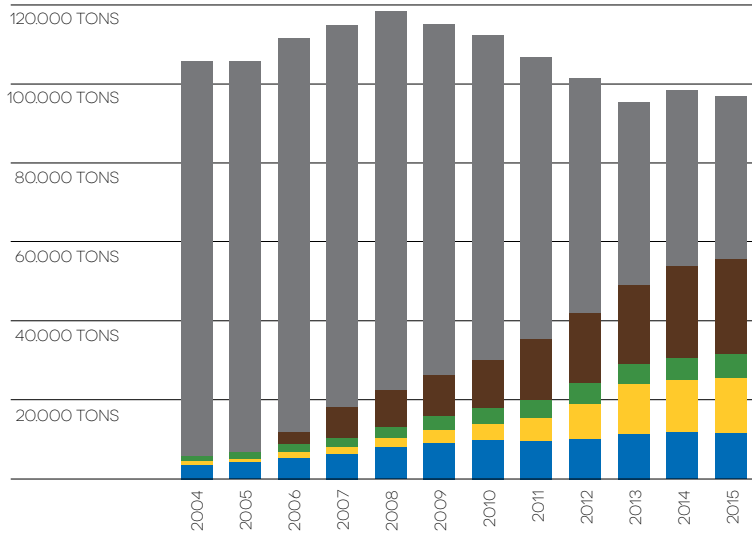
In accordance with legislation, Snaga delivers plastic, glass and cardboard packaging to companies that handle waste packaging. Through packaging fees, which must be paid by producers and importers of packaging, they pay for processing. Snaga only sells at market prices paper, metal and batteries, and uses the revenue from sales to reduce the costs on the bills paid by their users. ■

# Ljubljana, waste separation champion

An analysis commissioned in 2015 from independent research institutes in Copenhagen and Munich by the European Commission showed that in Ljubljana we are achieving the highest proportion of separately collected waste. According to the indicators in the study, Ljubljana was ranked among the best three EU capitals no less than ten times, and in the final ranking it came in first ahead of Tallinn and Helsinki.



EACH YEAR WE COLLECT MORE PAPER, PACKAGING, GLASS AND BIOLOGICAL WASTE PER INHABITANT.



IN 2015 WE SEPARATELY COLLECTED 63% OF ALL WASTE

# A well-kept city involves team work

**W**aste management is team work. This is the work of Snaga, a company that provides for waste collection, processing and delivery to factories for recycling. It is the work of you, the users, who play a vital part in generating less waste, and in consistently separating the waste that is generated. Our joint success would not be possible without outstanding legislation and the efforts and support of mayors, inspectors and other competent services.

## SEPARATING WASTE

**Users:** One key civic duty is consistent separation of waste. This means that you place specific types of waste in the relevant bin, you do not mix biological waste with other waste, and do not put paper, packaging and glass in bins for residual waste.

**Snaga:** Snaga's role is to remove the waste and provide for its further processing. Separately collected plastic, glass, hazardous waste and so forth is delivered to the competent and authorised companies, while biological waste and residual waste is taken to the Regional Waste Management Centre (RCERO) Ljubljana, for mechanical and biological processing.

## WASTE COLLECTION

**Users:** It is important for waste to be disposed of properly – always in the bins and not next to them. This is also laid down by the municipal ordinance, which prohibits the disposal of bags and waste such as cardboard, plastic boxes, bulky waste and so forth next to bins or by underground collection units.

**Snaga:** Snaga's duty is to remove waste that is properly disposed of. Proper placement of waste and a well-kept area surrounding the bins are the concern of local residents. If you notice the improper actions of others, you can report this to the City of Ljubljana Administration Inspectors (Tel: 01 306 16 00, e-mail: glavna.pisarna@ljubljanasi.si, info.inspektorat@ljubljanasi.si).



## FROM COLLECTION TO REMOVAL POINT

**Users:** Bins must stand on private areas we call collection sites. On removal day take the bins in due time to the removal point, at the edge of the public area, and make sure the refuse vehicle has unimpeded access to them. Be sure that your parked car does not impede or prevent access to the bins. Once Snaga operatives have emptied the bins, put them back at the collection site.

**Snaga:** Snaga has the duty of placing bins in public areas, in other words bins at ecological islands/collection units. Users themselves must provide space for bins in private areas. Snaga has neither the duty nor authority to pick up bins from courtyards or other private areas, so make sure on waste removal day to put your bins at the edge of the public area.



## LARGER AMOUNTS OF WASTE AND REPLACEMENT OF BINS

**Users:** If owing to spring cleaning, tree trimming and so forth you have a larger amount of biological waste and residual waste than normal, put it in special Snaga bags and place it alongside the relevant bin. And if you find that your bin is not sufficient for your needs, order a larger one. You should take into account here that the price you pay for Snaga services is affected by the size of the black and brown bins.

**Snaga:** Snaga's duty is to determine the size of bins for its users. In so doing, it observes the following amounts per person per month: 30 litres for residual waste, 60 litres for packaging, 20 litres for paper, 10 litres for glass and 15 litres for biological waste. Furthermore it takes into account the frequency of waste removal from individual users. This year owing to the excellent results in separation, Snaga is planning to reduce the minimum monthly quantity for residual waste set in municipal legislation.



### **MORE WASTE THAN USUAL? BUY SNAGA BAGS.**

**Fifty and hundred-litre special purpose Snaga bags for residual waste and biological waste are available for sale at the online store [www.vsezaodpadke.si/snaga-d.o.o](http://www.vsezaodpadke.si/snaga-d.o.o) and at larger Mercator stores, at Petrol service stations and at the Reuse Centre at Povšetova Street 4 in Ljubljana.**



If Snaga employees notice that additional bags appear next to bins numerous times or that several times in a row a bin is full and the lid will not close, they will see this as a sign that your bin is not sufficient for your needs. In such cases they can replace your bin with a bigger one without your prior consent.

## REPORTING CHANGES

**Users:** Accurate information is important in order for us to perform our services and charge for them. If you have a change of surname, billing address, apartment owner and similar, you must report such changes to Snaga within five days. You can do this using the special form for reporting changes, which is posted on the website [www.snaga.si/en](http://www.snaga.si/en) and at [www.mojiodpadki.si](http://www.mojiodpadki.si) in the section Naročanje in obrazci or Naročila (Ordering and forms). If you do not have internet access, you can call the User Support and Assistance Centre (01 477 96 00) and they will send you a form by post, or you can also come in person to Povšetova Street 6.

**Snaga:** At Snaga all your changes will be registered promptly and will be used for the next billing cycle. ■



### **HAVE YOU NOTICED PAPER THEFT FROM A BIN? CALL SNAGA.**

*Theft of paper causes considerable harm, since breaking into bins often damages the locking mechanism. Moreover by selling paper, Snaga can in part offset its cost of waste handling and can then reduce the amount on your bill. Stealing paper therefore hurts not just Snaga, but you too.*

*If you suspect that paper has been stolen from waste paper bins, call 01 477 96 66 and give the operator information on the location of the theft, and the type and licence plate number of the vehicle with which the paper was stolen.*



# Quick and easy

## USER SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE CENTRE

**Don't have internet access?  
Want to take care of several  
things at once? Do you have  
questions and can't find  
answers?**

The User Support and Assistance Centre is at your service. You can visit the Centre in person any working day between 8 am and 2.30 pm at Povšetova ulica 6 in Ljubljana, call it on 01 477 96 00 or write to us at [snagalj@snaga.si](mailto:snagalj@snaga.si).

**Where?** Povšetova Street 6 in Ljubljana.

## WEBSITE [WWW.MOJIODPADKI.SI](http://WWW.MOJIODPADKI.SI)

**Want to order removal of bulky waste? Check the timetable for emptying bins? Receive online billing?**

You can arrange all this on the website [www.mojiodpadki.si](http://www.mojiodpadki.si). You can use the website to place orders, view and print the timetable for bin emptying, arrange for free text message reminders, check the number of deposits in underground collection units or use the e-search system to check which waste goes in which bin. You can do all of this with just one click.

**Where?** On the website [www.mojiodpadki.si](http://www.mojiodpadki.si).



## MOJI ODPADKI MOBILE APPLICATION

**An indispensable app for anyone who wants to have all the information at their fingertips.**

The Snaga app allows you to check anywhere and at any time the working hours of collection centres, the timetable for removal of all types of waste and also Snaga contact information. You can also use the app to set up free reminders for emptying of bins. Downloading the app is easy and free. It is available for smart phones using iOS (iPhone) and Android operating systems.

**Where?** The app for Android phones is available at the Android Market online store, and for iPhones at the App Store.

## FREE TEXT REMINDERS

**Why would you spend time trying to figure out when you need to put individual bins out for collection when your phone can tell you?**

You can be alerted to upcoming waste removal one day in advance by free SMS text reminders.

**Where?** You can download the reminder at the website [www.mojiodpadki.si](http://www.mojiodpadki.si) using the application Moji odvozi (My removals) or at the User Support and Assistance Centre. ■



*Snaga provides notification of improper waste handling through notices placed on bins or in mail boxes. Since improper disposal has consequences, we ask you to heed such notices, and if you ever have a question or doubt, contact the User Support and Assistance Centre.*

# Where do you take an old couch?

**W**hat should you do with a worn-out couch, old car tyres, large quantities of tree trimmings or some other waste that does not belong in any of the bins? It's very simple. Take the waste to the nearest collection centre.

There are nine collection centres operating in the City of Ljubljana and the suburban municipalities: the Barje Collection Centre, the Centre on Povšetova Street and Collection Centres in Brezovica, Vodice, Medvode, Ig, Škofljica, Velike Lašče and Cerklje na Gorenjskem.

## FREE HANDOVER OF WASTE

At the collection centres, without charge you can dispose of more than 20 types of waste that does not belong in bins for packaging, paper, glass, biowaste or residual waste.

## THERE ARE QUANTITY LIMITS ON CERTAIN KINDS OF WASTE

You can bring construction waste and insulation materials for construction to the collection centre once per calendar year.

Note: construction material is accepted only at the Barje and Cerklje na Gorenjskem (for residents of Cerklje) collection centres. Tyres, cut greenery, bulky waste and furniture wood can be brought in twice a year. The quantity limits must be observed. You can bring a total



of five tyres either at one time or in two trips a year. The first time, for instance, two tyres, and the next three. This means in one year a total of a set of four plus the spare.

## SIMPLE PROCEDURE

You can bring the waste in a vehicle or trailer. When you bring waste for disposal you will be assisted by the collection centre attendants and managers, whom you can also approach regarding excess quantities and other issues.



## ASBESTOS WASTE

You can also bring small quantities of asbestos waste without charge to the Barje Collection Centre once per calendar year, but it must be prepared in line with the instructions laid down in the Decree on Waste Management.

## WASTE ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT AND TYRES IN LIMITED QUANTITIES

In a single calendar year you can bring in tyres without charge, but up to a maximum of five tyres, i.e. a complete set of four plus the spare. You can also bring in waste electronic and electrical equipment. At one time you can bring a maximum of five television sets or computers and a maximum of three air conditioning appliances.

### Quantity limits:

- **construction waste** = 0.5 m<sup>3</sup>,
- **tyres** = 5 tyres = one set + spare,
- **bulky waste** = 3 m<sup>3</sup>,
- **cut greenery** = 1.5 m<sup>3</sup>,
- **salonite panels** = Europallet to a height of 0.5 m,
- **furniture wood** = 2 m<sup>3</sup>.

## COMPANIES MAY ONLY BRING PACKAGING TO COLLECTION CENTRES

The collection centres do not accept waste generated through commercial activities, such as manufacturing, crafts and farming. In line with legislation, companies and sole traders are required to conclude contracts with the relevant authorised collectors and processors of waste. The exception to this is packaging, which the centres will also accept from businesses. ■

# ONE MAN'S TRASH IS ANOTHER MAN'S TREASURE



On Povšetova 4 in Ljubljana you will find a charming little sewing and repair shop. Its interior resembles a tastefully furnished middle-class apartment, except that all the carefully chosen and preserved items are for sale for a small price.

The Reuse Center gives work to disadvantaged people and enables old and forgotten items to get a new life.

Find your nearest  
reuse center at  
**[www.cpu-reuse.com](http://www.cpu-reuse.com)**.



# You asked Snaga

**Q:** HOW DO YOU CALCULATE THE COST WE PAY TO SNAGA?

**A:** This is calculated depending on the size of the bin for residual waste and bin for biological waste (if of course you have one); we take the average monthly frequency of bin emptying.

**Q:** I LIVE ABROAD. I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW HOW MUCH PEOPLE PAY IN LJUBLJANA FOR WASTE MANAGEMENT.

**A:** Snaga's average monthly bill per household amounts to 8 euros and is among the lowest in Slovenia.

**Q:** THE INFORMATION ON THE BILL IS NOT CORRECT. WHAT CAN I DO?

**A:** You need to notify us of any discrepancies on a bill within eight days of receiving it. You can call us at the User Support and Assistance Centre on 01 477 96 00 or e-mail us at [snagalj@snaga.si](mailto:snagalj@snaga.si).

**Q:** HOW CAN I SET UP A STANDING ORDER?

**A:** You can arrange everything to do with direct debits at Javni holding Ljubljana, Vodovodna cesta 90, any working day between 8 am and 2 pm. For all questions you can call the free numbers 080 86 52 and 080 2882 or write to [info@jhl.si](mailto:info@jhl.si).

**Q:** HOW DO YOU CHARGE FOR WASTE REMOVAL FOR THOSE OF US WHO USE UNDERGROUND COLLECTION UNITS?

**A:** We charge for the actual number of deposits made per month, but for a minimum of six deposits of residual waste and four of biowaste. We charge every active card.

**Q:** THE NEIGHBOURS DON'T WANT TO SEPARATE THEIR WASTE. WHAT CAN I DO?

**A:** If a polite reminder has no result, you can approach the building manager or report violations to the City of Ljubljana Inspectors, or to the intermunicipal inspectors in your municipality. You can make a report anonymously by telephone, e-mail or ordinary mail.

**Q:** HOW CAN I VERIFY MY DATA ON USE OF THE UNDERGROUND COLLECTION UNIT?

**A:** You can check this on the website [www.mojiodpadki.si/odpadki/uporaba-zbiralnic](http://www.mojiodpadki.si/odpadki/uporaba-zbiralnic). You need your card number and payer code, which is written on your waste management bill. Enter both numbers without any initial zeros.

**Q:** YOU DIDN'T EMPTY MY PACKAGING BIN TODAY. WHO CAN I APPROACH ABOUT THIS?

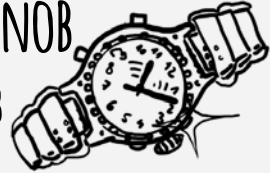
**A:** You must notify us of discrepancies owing to non-removal within three days of the removal day. You can call us at the User Support and Assistance Centre on 01 477 96 00 or e-mail us regarding the discrepancy at [snagalj@snaga.si](mailto:snagalj@snaga.si). Before you make any demand for a refund, please check that you put the correct bin out at the removal point and whether you did it on time – in the evening or before 6 am on removal day. ■



# WISH LIST

A SUPERCAR JUST LIKE A TRUE SNOB

AN EXPENSIVE WATCH WITH A DIAMOND KNOB

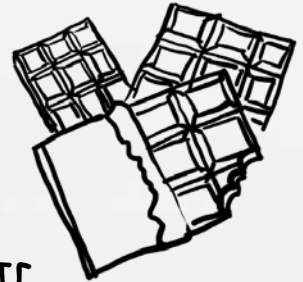


A SPECIAL TRIP AROUND THE GLOBE

ALL NEW SHIRTS TO FILL A WHOLE WARDROBE



TONS OF TASTY CHOCOLATE



POSH CIGARS TO CELEBRATE



COUNTLESS LIKES AND SHARES AND FRIENDS

AND FIRST ROW TICKETS FOR HOTTEST BANDS



Today we are consuming much more than we need and more than is nature's ability to generate. The price of fulfilling our wish lists is reflected in the exploitation of natural resources and violation of essential human rights where people are not being fairly paid nor treated for their work.

If we want to make a positive impact on the environment and society it is necessary to introduce a new dimension to the waste hierarchy that comes even before reducing, reusing and recycling. It is Rethinking. Think before you make yet another purchase. Think how your purchase will impact the environment. And whenever possible choose fair trade, recycled and reused products.

# Upcycled furniture in RCERO Ljubljana

A conference table made from bicycle rims, chandeliers crafted from recycled beer bottles and old table lamps, bicycle handlebars converted into coat hangers, old bathtubs transformed into comfortable garden furniture ...

Some of the equipment in the office building of the Regional Waste Management Centre (RCERO) Ljubljana is made out of waste items and materials that artists and craftsmen have cleverly turned into something new. Using upcycled and reused furniture, Snaga Ljubljana has not only shown its support for sustainable consumption but also

demonstrated innovation in extending the life cycle of products through repair, recycling and reuse.

## WAITING ROOM

The main pieces of furniture in the common room on the first floor are two benches made from backrests and old chair seats. The designers selected usable parts from some damaged chairs among the bulky waste and ingeniously converted them into benches, thereby giving them renewed purpose.





## DIRECTOR'S BOARDROOM TABLE

The impressive table with a central detail made from old bicycle rims of different sizes and the peculiar ceiling installation made from old table lights are yet more fantastic examples of a perfect symbiosis between old and new.



Director's boardroom table

## BOARDROOM

Walls papered in newsprint, old chairs covered in old newspapers and a lectern made from an old metal barrel. These unique features of the main boardroom show that reused items can indeed be attractive and useful.



Boardroom

# The dark side of chocolate

Today it is widely known that the cocoa beans that are used in the chocolate we usually buy are harvested on cocoa farms by children who are kidnapped and sold from West Africa. More than two million children are forced to work on these plantations. The youngest are only five years old.

If you do not want to support child labour, chose items with Fair Trade labels such as **Fair+**, **Rainforrest Alliance**, **Ecocert** and **UTZ Certified**.



“  
They always  
say time  
changes  
things, but  
you actually  
have to  
change them  
yourself.”  
A. Warhol

## Colophon

Published by: Public Waste Management Company Snaga Ljubljana

Content prepared by: Nina Sankovič, Tamara Vidic Perko and Imelda Advertising Agency

Designed by: Imelda Advertising Agency

English translation and editing: Amidas

Photography: Matjaž Štefančič, David Lotrič, Ana Kuščer, Nadja Stare, Veronika Savnik, Marko Lukunič, Doris Kordić, Črt Slavec, Anže Petkovšek, Arne Hodalič, archive of Trash Design, archive of Non-Profit Organization Knjižnjica REČI, archive of Fair Trade Shop 3 MUHE, archive of Cultural-Ecological Association Smetumet, archive of Civil Initiative Zelemenjava, archive of Online Retailer EKO PLEME, [www.pixabay.com](http://www.pixabay.com) and [www.pexels.com](http://www.pexels.com).

Print: STILGRAF Mengeš, d.o.o.

Print run: 1,000

Ljubljana, September 2016

---

For more information, please visit the following websites [www.snaga.si/en](http://www.snaga.si/en), [www.mojiodpadki.si](http://www.mojiodpadki.si), [www.ponovnauporaba.si](http://www.ponovnauporaba.si) or e-mail us at [snagalj@snaga.si](mailto:snagalj@snaga.si).

Call us. You can reach us through the following number 01 477 96 00. Follow us on our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/SnagaLjubljana](http://www.facebook.com/SnagaLjubljana) or Twitter profile [https://twitter.com/Snaga\\_reuse](https://twitter.com/Snaga_reuse).

Write to us at  
Snaga d.o.o.,  
Povšetova ulica 6,  
1000 Ljubljana  
Slovenija

Visit our our User Support and Assistance Centre every working day from 8.00 to 14.30  
Tuesdays from 8.00 to 16.00  
on Povšetova 6 in Ljubljana.

We look forward to your visit.





# THIS IS NO ORDINARY PAPER

By now you must have noticed the peculiar characteristics of the paper used for this magazine. What you may not know, however, is that this paper was made from Japanese knotweed, one of world's worst invasive plant species.

The City of Ljubljana has been implementing a campaign to eradicate all invasive alien species. In 2016 an alliance of five partners was coordinated by the City of Ljubljana, which was successful in using Japanese knotweed as an alternative source of raw material in the papermaking process.

Snagazin is just one of many sustainable and innovative solutions to have emerged from Ljubljana's never-ending desire to continue improving the living environment for its residents and visitors. Instead of focusing on the consumption of natural resources, we support and encourage innovative solutions to be sought for a transition towards circular, resilient cities.



City of  
Ljubljana



PRIJAZNI-SOVRZNIK.SI