



GOAL 12: ENSURE SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION PLANS

'It doesn't matter how high the mountain is, just take it step by step' *[[proverb from Austria]]*

One day spent with Jakob from Austria

Grias eich! I bin da Jakob. I live in Rohrbach and I am 13 years old. It's nice of you to visit me here. Rohrbach is located in Upper Austria in the lovely area of the 'Mühlviertel'. Some people are of the opinion that it is the nicest place on earth. I totally agree with them and that is why it is important that we look after our environment in order to preserve our nature and wildlife. I have to go now to do the weekly family shopping. Why don't you just come along? I will just fetch a cotton bag from the kitchen so that I won't need to get a plastic bag from the supermarket. Ever since I saw a TV documentary on a huge plastic island that was swimming in the ocean I try to use as little plastic as possible. I don't want the plastic bags that I have bought from the supermarket to end up in the tummy of a seagull.

Let's make a move! Of course we will walk to the shops. I think it is crazy that our neighbour always takes his car everywhere, even if it is just down the road. Walking is good for your health and unlike cars you do not produce any dangerous emissions. Yummi, look at those strawberries! They look really delicious! But where do they come from? They do not grow here in the winter. Let's have a look at the label? Ah I see! They come from Morocco! That means they get shipped over here or transported by plane or by lorry and whatever way it is creates damage to the environment. So I would rather buy some apples and pears that have been grown in Austria. My grandmother has told me that I should only ever buy fruits and vegetables that have been grown in the local area. Of course, it is not always possible since things like bananas or coffee do not grow here at all. So when I buy

them I try to buy fair trade products as the people who produce and harvest the products receive a fair payment for their work and they do not use harmful pesticides. My parents love to drink coffee and they enjoy drinking a cup of coffee a lot more knowing that it was produced fairly.

I go past the meat section in the supermarket because we ate Schnitzel only yesterday and eating meat once a week is enough. We used to eat bacon and meat almost every day but then I learned that it takes 4,000 litres of water to produce one small piece of steak. You might ask yourself why? It is because that is the amount of water needed for the cultivation and watering of the fodder crops plus, of course, animals also need drinking water. So now I am picking up the last item of my shopping list, which is yoghurt. I have chosen a yoghurt in a glass container rather than a plastic pot and the date of expiry is tomorrow. That is not a problem at all since it says on the packaging "best before", which means that it is totally safe to eat it a few days later. You should just smell, taste and then enjoy whatever you buy.

I am off home now but before we say goodbye I want to tell you my wish for the future. Everything we buy has to be produced somewhere in the world and that might be from somewhere like a farm or from a factory. I would like people to remind people that we can influence many things through our buying behaviour including what we buy and where we buy it. That means thinking about how something is produced and whether what we buy is produced in an environmentally friendly way and whether there are fair working conditions and whether there is fair payment for the workers. I would want all people to think carefully about what they are buying and how much of it.





Sustainable use of resources responsible consumption and production

The life of every individual leaves lasting traces on this world. Many things that we produce or buy have a negative impact on our environment, for example, the waste created through plastic packaging or aluminium cans, devices that use a lot of electricity and polluted air and water, as for example, the exhaust fumes from cars, airplanes and ships.

The problem is that important resources are being used up too quickly and irresponsibly. We pollute too much water and air, we catch too many fish, we eat too much meat and we chop too much wood. We are exhausting the reserves of our earth and this is happening way too fast! 'Earth Overshoot Day' is the day each year when humanity starts using more natural resources than the planet can produce in a sustainable way every year. This day is set to an early date each year. In 1987 the date for 'Earth Overshoot day' fell in the 19th of December of the same year. In 2012 'Earth Overshoot Day' fell in August and soon it will probably take place in July. We need to remember that if every person on this earth would live like we do in Austria we would still need another three earth like planets to get enough resources.

Goal number 12 sets out to achieve the reduction of resource consumption through recycling processes. You don't always have to get rid of something broken straight away, have a go at trying to repair them. Today we live in a throw-away society where lots of our electronic devices are thrown in the bin as soon as a newer model or design comes on the market. Products should be produced in a way that makes them last longer and so that they can be easily repaired. We also have to combat food waste. Supermarkets, production firms and individuals should ensure that no food is thrown in the bin. In Vienna for example, we throw away enough bread every day to feed the whole population of Graz for one day. By 2030 the goal is to half the world-wide food waste.

Goal 12 also calls on businesses to produce in a sustainable manner. That does not just mean that human rights are respected and that fair payment is made to the workforce, it also means that they have to protect the environment and that rubbish is disposed properly and does not end up in the river.

What can we all do to help achieve this goal?

- Everyone one of us can help to achieve this goal. It starts with your daily grocery shopping. It's best to only buy regional and seasonal products.

Sara (11) from Bregenz, Vorarlberg: 'Two weeks ago a great artist came to our school to do an 'Upcycling'* Workshop with us. An old t-shirt of mine now looks like a designer top!'

Klaus (9) from Eisenstadt, Burgenland: 'Once a year I go through my toys and think about what I do not need any more. Those toys, I don't play I donate to charity, so that other children can play with them as well. I also try and look after all my toys, so that they can be used again.'

- In Austria there are many secondhand shops or shops, where you can get your clothes repaired. You can buy and sell second hand products on internet websites such as www.willhaben.at and on the website www.reperaturfuehrer.at you can find repairment experts. There are also websites like www.teilbar.at, where you can share things. This can save you a lot of money and it also saves our resources.
- In so-called **world shops** you can buy sustainable and fair trade products. Fair trade food items, arts and craft work, clothing, musical instruments, toys and jewellery and a lot of other things are sold there. You can find more information on these shops and where to find them in Austria, here: www.weltladen.at