HEALTHY NEWS

German City Diverts Goods from Landfills, Fixes Them & then Sells for Reuse

By bestfolkmedicine · 02/03/2022 · 1 min read



It's not common among waste departments to spend more time thinking about saving, rather than throwing things away.

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However, in Hamburg, Germany, the situation appears to be different. There's actually profit that's being made from the second-hand market.

Repurposing Goods from Landfills Is Already a Thing in Germany

Stillbruch or the *IKEA of second-hand goods* collects everyday throwaways from people or from waste collectors. The goods are cleaned, fixed, and resold. This effort is said to support a circular economy.

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The company notes that approximately 400,000 objects are processed yearly in two enormous cavernous warehouses. There's everything: from teddy bears and kitchen counters to refurbished laptops.

Stillbruch was launched back in 2001 as a Sanitation Department option, but it has since grown from having one employee to the current 70 employees.

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They've also transferred from being a non-profit to a profit-making company with estimates showing that their profits are between $330,000 and $550,000 yearly.

According to Roman Hottgenroth, COO at Stillbruch, the things they collect and later repurpose are very useful, rather than being an actual waste.

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They're doing their best to put an end to throwaway culture and waste-making habits. The company works with craftsmen and technicians who make sure everything is well refurbished and also the electronics that are sold with a one-year warranty.

Global Efforts to Decrease Waste Streams

This warehouse company is part of a European network that's trying to minimize the waste streams, with a focus on electronics and home furnishings. The crucial effort is to restore the right to repair among consumers.

Both European and German legislatures praise Stillbruch and emphasize it's a pioneering model that many other municipalities can replicate.

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