

## **Experience with Green Festival in Ecocenter SOSNA**

Štefan Szabó, SOSNA association

Name of activity: Spring harmony Festival

Date: May 13, 2017

Number of visitors: about 100

Place: Družstevná pri Hornáde, Košice district

Greening of festivals is a worldwide movement, based on idea that combination of leisure, art, and workshops with ecological topics is an effective way how to change behaviour of \_ especially young – people.

In SOSNA Ecocenter we have 7 years of experience with organising of ecological festivals. Our recent spring fest called „Spring harmony“ has been a bit special, since we has decided to do it as a zero waste festival.

During the festival, no plastics has been used for packing of the goods, nor for providing of food and drinks. Rest of used natural materials (paper, degradable bio plastics, kitchen waste) has been re-used, recycled, composted or burned in our bread oven made of reused clay bricks.

At the beginning of the festival, all participants has been acknowledged by the mission and principles of green festivals. They got information, where to throw away organic waste, paper of other degradable waste as well as they got information, that there is no place for any plastics waste in SOSNA Ecocenter. More than 100 participants respected this condition without any problem.

Short document from festival and its mission has been done by TV Nasa from Košice, so that broad public has been informed.

### **Presentations, workshops**

Part of the festival programme were various presentations as well as practical workshop, focused on topics of waste.

First presentation and workshop was lead by professional compost master Branislav Moňok from Friends of the Earth Slovakia, dedicated to waste free life, as well as to home and garden composting. Audience has got practical and effective tips and advices on waste reduction and re-use in everyday life. After the theoretical part, Branislav Moňok had a workshop, where he demonstrated on composters located in SOSNA Natural Garden, how to make good and healthy compost.

Another presentation was focused on activities of “KOŠAKT” association, focused on Košice Park Forest as a waste free zone. Košice Park Forest is the most popular sport and leisure place for residents of Košice city. Unfortunately, not the Košice self government nor the forest management company have not solved for a long time the situation with increasing amount of waste and waste dumps in forest. Activists from KOŠAKT has cleaned the forest park, established “patrols” to control, if anybody is making waste there, they made a number of baskets for rubbish, information panels and benches. They have a clear vision for this area as a clean, natural and nice place for visitors. Results of KOŠAKT – realised only from small projects and donations are on this way much more effective, than results of self government and forest management company in Košice,

For children, there was a workshops on Art from waste, lead by skilled artist Alisson Busa from USA. Old PET bottles, broken pens and other waste materials has been used to make new funny and creative art toys for children.

As a symbolic part of the programme, there was a presentation of famous Slovak blogger Ján Benčík, most successful fighter against raising extremism and spreading of conspiracy theories in Slovakia. His presentation was focused on “waste in mind” which have to be also minimised, to reach a good, stable and sustainable society.

## **Dishes**

To create no plastic waste during the festival, to provide food and drinks we has used only dishes, made from natural materials.

Bio plastics: We has used biodegradable cups, plates, forks and spoonful to provide refreshment and food for visitors

Used glass: old compote jars has been used as a glasses for drinks.

Except of that, reusable china and glass dishes has been used for food and drinks serving.

## **Compost**

All organic waste produced during the festival has been put to composters, located in SOSNA organic garden. Compost will be used for growing of organic vegetables.

## **Food**

Important part of vegetarian meals and refreshment has been prepared from local sources : organic herbs for tea, spices and vegetables for meals has been grown in SOSNA organic

garden, bread baked in our traditional wood burned clay oven... Rest of food has been represented by home made cakes and home made specialities prepared by our volunteers.

## **Energy**

Waste of energy is not only one of main reasons of global climate changes, but it creates enormous amount of waste during the process of extraction and processing of fossil fuels. Sun and firewood, as a renewable sources, has been used as the main energy source for this festival. As a main equipment, our „solar shower“, „solar cooker“, solar collector heating water for dishwashing, wood gas stove and clay oven has been used.

## **Water**

Waste of water is a serious environmental problem, and any positive examples how to reduce it are welcome. In SOSNA EcoCenter there are first public composting (separating) toilets in Slovakia. Most important feature of this system is that they use no water for flushing. Grey water from washbasins is flowing to bio filter for treatment. Garden watering is realised by rain water, collected in big water tanks.

## **Toys and playground**

Young families belongs to most typical visitors of our festivals, because of that we always have some activities and facilities for small children on our festivals. For children´s games, we has collected used toys, that would otherwise be thrown in the garbage. This toys has been kept and will be used for further

Playground, located in organic garden, has been created almost completely from waste material : old bricks, tyres, damaged concrete pipes, old used timber, clay and gravel. Playground was built under cooperation with volunteers.

Children and parent should see on this examples, that waste and re-used material can get another chance to be used for good purposes.

## **Souvenirs**

During the festival we use to provide place for selling of art, hand crafts and organic products. Various examples of recycled and upcycled products has been offered during this festival : new dresses from ones, recycled notebooks, jewelry from reused materials, etc.