

EDUCATING CHILDREN ON WASTE AS A RESOURCE

SCHIERMONIKOOG



ISLAND & IDEA TITLE

SCHIERMONIKOOG

EDUCATING CHILDREN ON WASTE AS A RESOURCE
- INDEPENDENT ARTISANS AND ENTREPRENEURS WHO SPECIALIZE IN UPCYCLING WASTE MATERIALS CAN COLLABORATE WITH SCHOOLS TO DELIVER PRACTICAL WORKSHOPS



TARGET GROUP

SCHOOL STUDENTS & TEACHERS
INDEPENDENT ARTISANS & LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS
PARENTS SEEKING ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND SUSTAINABLE SKILLS DEVELOPMENT FOR CHILDREN



PROBLEM AND OPPORTUNITY

THERE IS LIMITED HANDS-ON ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION FOCUSING ON PRACTICAL CIRCULAR ECONOMY SKILLS FOR CHILDREN
WORKSHOPS LED BY LOCAL ARTISANS, CHILDREN LEARN HOW WASTE CAN BECOME VALUABLE RESOURCES



SOLUTION

ORGANIZE "WASTE-TO-RESOURCE LEARNING LABS" WHERE INDEPENDENT ARTISANS AND UPCYCLING ENTREPRENEURS COLLABORATE WITH SCHOOLS TO DELIVER INTERACTIVE WORKSHOPS



WHAT ALREADY EXISTS?

GREEN ENGAGEMENT IN SCHOOLS
SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY PROJECTS IN THE WADDEN SEA AREA
EXISTING WORKSHOPS AND CREATIVE ACTIVITIES



WHAT IS NEEDED?

APPROX. €8,000 STARTUP BUDGET
PARTNERSHIPS WITH SCHOOLS, LOCAL ARTISANS, AND ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS
SUPPORT FOR PERMISSIONS AND PROMOTION
DEVELOPMENT OF WORKSHOP
DIGITAL PLATFORM



WHO IMPLEMENTS IT?

FREIA AND ØSTFOLD UNIVERSITY COLLEGE STUDENTS
LOCAL ARTISANS AND UPCYCLING ENTREPRENEURS
SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS
MUNICIPALITIE OF SCHIERMONIKOOG
ENVIRONMENTAL NGOS AND PARENT ASSOCIATIONS



WHEN IS IT FEASIBLE?

PLANNING AND PARTNERSHIPS: AUTUMN 2025
PILOT IMPLEMENTATION: SUMMER 2026
EVALUATION AND SCALING: 2027



EXPECTED IMPACTS

INCOME OPPORTUNITIES FOR ARTISANS, PROMOTING GREEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP
EARLY SUSTAINABILITY ENGAGEMENT
CIRCULAR MINDSET, REDUCED LOCAL WASTE STREAMS, AWARENESS OF RESOURCE VALUE, PRACTICAL SKILLS DEVELOPMENT, CREATIVE PROBLEM-SOLVING, INSPIRATION



RISK FACTORS AND MITIGATION

STRATEGIES

LOW SCHOOL PARTICIPATION → EARLY INVOLVEMENT OF SCHOOL LEADERS AND TEACHERS IN DESIGN PHASE
LIMITED ARTISAN CAPACITY → BUILD A LOCAL ARTISAN NETWORK WITH ROTATIONAL SCHEDULES
FUNDING CHALLENGES → APPLY FOR MUNICIPAL, REGIONAL, AND EU EDUCATIONAL GRANTS
SAFETY CONCERNS IN WORKSHOPS → CLEAR SAFETY PROTOCOLS, CERTIFIED INSTRUCTORS



POSSIBLE FUNDING OR BUSINESS

MODEL

EU ERASMUS+ OR INTERREG EDUCATIONAL GRANTS
LOCAL BUSINESS SPONSORSHIPS (RETAILERS, WASTE MANAGEMENT COMPANIES)
MUNICIPAL YOUTH AND ENVIRONMENT BUDGETS
PARENT ASSOCIATION CONTRIBUTIONS
SALE OF STUDENT-CREATED UPCYCLED PRODUCTS (SCHOOL FAIRS, ONLINE PLATFORM)



SUGGESTED NEXT

STEPS

PRESENT CONCEPT TO MUNICIPAL EDUCATION AND SUSTAINABILITY DEPARTMENTS
HOST A STAKEHOLDER CO-CREATION MEETING (SCHOOLS, ARTISANS, STUDENTS, PARENTS)
DEVELOP INITIAL WORKSHOP MODULES WITH PILOT SCHOOLS
BUILD A BASIC DIGITAL PLATFORM TO COORDINATE BOOKINGS AND SHOWCASE OUTCOMES
LAUNCH PILOT PHASE IN EARLY 2026

Island: Schiermonikoog (Netherlands)

Title: **Educating Children on Waste as a Resource** - Independent artisans and entrepreneurs who specialize in upcycling waste materials can collaborate with schools to deliver practical workshops where students learn how discarded items can be transformed into new, functional products, such as reusable shopping bags or household items.

1. Target group

Primary and secondary school students, teachers, independent artisans, local entrepreneurs, and parents seeking environmental education and sustainable skills development for children.

2. Problem and opportunity

There is limited hands-on environmental education focusing on practical circular economy skills for children. Schools often lack resources and expertise to integrate applied upcycling knowledge. By introducing workshops led by local artisans, children learn how waste can become valuable resources, fostering early sustainability mindsets and inspiring future green innovators.

3. Your solution

Organize "Waste-to-Resource Learning Labs" where independent artisans and upcycling entrepreneurs collaborate with schools to deliver interactive workshops. Children transform discarded materials (e.g., textiles, plastics, packaging) into useful products like reusable shopping bags, home decor, or small furniture items. The program combines creativity, sustainability education, and vocational inspiration.

4. What already exists?

- Green engagement in schools: Through initiatives such as "Plastic Soup Surfer," Dutch schools have started to separate plastic waste. A national campaign has enabled primary schools to register for free plastic collection since January 2023. This creates a favorable environment for piloting practical upcycling tools and workshops.
- School and community projects in the Wadden Sea area: There are regional initiatives (e.g., Wadden Sea World Heritage workshops) that raise younger generations' awareness of the Wadden Sea's shared cultural and natural heritage – which can be integrated with waste-to-resource learning.
- Existing workshops and creative activities: The island already offers various classes and workshops (art classes, music activities, etc.). These represent a potential platform to introduce upcycling workshops into schools.

5. What is needed?

Approx. €8,000 startup budget (materials, tools, coordination)
Partnerships with schools, local artisans, and environmental organizations
Support from municipalities for permissions and promotion
Development of workshop curricula and training modules
Digital platform for booking and showcasing student creations

6. Who implements it?

FREIIA and Østfold University College students (project coordination, monitoring, digital platform)
Local artisans and upcycling entrepreneurs (workshop delivery)
Schools and teachers (integration into curriculum)
Municipalitie of Schiermonikoog (facilitation, promotion)
Environmental NGOs and parent associations (support, outreach)

7. When is it feasible?

Planning & Partnering: August – November 2025
Pilot Workshops: January – April 2026
Evaluation & Expansion: May – June 2026
Full Implementation: September 2026 onward

8. Expected Impacts

Economic: Income opportunities for artisans, promoting green entrepreneurship
Social: Early sustainability engagement, parent-student collaboration, youth empowerment
Environmental: Circular mindset, reduced local waste streams, awareness of resource value
Educational: Practical skills development, creative problem-solving, career inspiration

9. Risk Factors and Mitigation Strategies

Low school participation → Early involvement of school leaders and teachers in design phase
Limited artisan capacity → Build a local artisan network with rotational schedules
Funding challenges → Apply for municipal, regional, and EU educational grants
Safety concerns in workshops → Clear safety protocols, certified instructors

10. Possible Funding or Business Model

EU Erasmus+ or Interreg educational grants
Local business sponsorships (retailers, waste management companies)
Municipal youth and environment budgets
Parent association contributions
Sale of student-created upcycled products (school fairs, online platform)

11. Suggested Next Steps

- Present concept to municipal education and sustainability departments
- Host a stakeholder co-creation meeting (schools, artisans, students, parents)
- Develop initial workshop modules with pilot schools
- Build a basic digital platform to coordinate bookings and showcase outcomes
- Launch pilot phase in early 2026

Municipality's Facilitating Role (RUDDER Framework)

- Leadership:** Appoint a dedicated municipal education and sustainability coordinator to ensure continuity, integration with Schiermonnikoog's climate adaptation and waste reduction goals.
- Connector:** Facilitate partnerships between schools, local artisans, businesses, and environmental organizations.
- Facilitator / Creator:** Support co-creation workshops where teachers, artisans, and students design creative upcycling projects aligned with curriculum goals.
- Provider:** Offer in-kind support (workshop spaces, logistical support, small seed funding) and assist with necessary permits.
- Ambassador:** Promote the initiative through municipal communication channels, tourism offices, and sustainability campaigns.
- Leverage / Capitalize:** Use the project to strengthen Schiermonnikoog's profile as a sustainable learning destination and model island for circular education.
- Network Orbiting:** Connect with other Wadden Sea and European islands to share best practices in circular education.
- Procurement Trendsetter:** Integrate circular education services into public procurement, encouraging long-term municipal partnerships with local upcycling artisans.

Stakeholder	Role in project	Interest / Motivation
Students (FREIIA, partner universities, local schools)	Concept development, co-creation, coordination, delivery	Leadership, entrepreneurship, sustainability skills
Municipality of Schiermonnikoog	Strategic owner, facilitator, funding, promotion	Sustainable development, circular economy, youth
Schools and teachers	Hosts, program partners, curriculum integration	Innovative learning, stronger student engagement, practical
Local artisans and upcycling entrepreneurs	Workshop instructors, mentors, co-creators	Income generation, business exposure, environmental
Parents and parent associations	Supporters, outreach partners	Child development, creative learning, community building
Environmental NGOs and organizations	Advisors, content contributors	Environmental awareness, circular economy promotion
Local businesses and waste management companies	Sponsors, material providers, mentors	Corporate social responsibility, waste reduction, community