Where the old turns to new!

Challenge Collaborator - Who is behind this challenge?

We’re the Environmental Department of the Student Representation. Besides representing all students in ecological sustainability matters, especially in the university politics sector, we also frequently host events for the TUM community. Our clothes swap party, our sustainable walking tour, and our vegan booth at the GARNIX are some examples. Further, we have organized / supported the Environmental Lecture Series for over 35 years now and intensively cooperate with the Studierendenwerk to make our Mensas and StuCafés more sustainable! We’re very proud of our team of around 40 students from several different countries, courses of study, and TUM campuses.

Introduction

How many university scripts do you have at home? What about those drawing materials that you used during your first semester and, since then, are just accumulating dust? At the same time, I guess you frequently need to buy new things, but worry about the impact on your wallet and on the environment? Well, we know both sides of the story. That’s why we want to establish a place where students can donate old items that they don’t need anymore (university material, books, clothes, kitchen utensils, etc.) and, at the same time, collect “new” items that can be useful for them!

Problem Definition:

Even though the idea of establishing such a place is great and very straightforward, putting it into practice is very intriguing and interesting! And, in the end, we just need people that are motivated to do so. That’s your time to shine!

What is the waste challenge?

Under the subtopic of “consumption”, we challenge you to reduce the consumption rate of the TUM community! By doing that, you can reduce the waste generation of our community; avoid the energy-, resource-, and water-intensive production of unnecessary items; and help students save some money! For this challenge, we would like you to take the first steps in the direction of establishing a “swap place” for the TUM community. Let’s see how far you can come! Here are some points we would like you to focus on:

- How could a “swap place” look like? Let your creativity shine!
- How does the demand on the different campuses look like?
- What items would be the most attractive for students? How can you make the swap place famous among students?
- With whom could you cooperate to make the swap place happen?
Desired Impact of Challenge:

By establishing the swap place – or achieving the first milestones for it –, you would:

- Help TUM students save money.
- Prevent items in good condition from being wasted.
- Help the planet by saving water, energy, and resources that would otherwise go into the production of new items.

It can’t get more impactful than this!

Skills needed/recommended

✓ Good communication skills: you’ll probably need to talk to different stakeholders, such students, the student council, the building management of the TUM, etc.

✓ Creativity: you should think outside the box when developing a concept for the swap place. ✓ Reliability: since you’ll work with other stakeholders, you should act responsibly and reliably.

Relevant considerations for the challenge / theme:

Since the challenge is very open, we would suggest you set a goal before starting: would you like to see the swap place come alive during your project? Or is it more realistic to just assess the demand on the different campuses? Further, if you need any contacts or networking opportunities, we’re here to help!

Relevant links:

Our website: https://umwelt.asta.tum.de/
Our Instagram: @umweltreferat
Our role inside the student representation: https://www.sv.tum.de/sv/team/umwelt/