BUTTERFLY 2027

Waste Management – From Waste to Value

Turning today's waste into tomorrow's opportunities

Every day, valuable resources are discarded. Plastics, packaging, food waste, agricultural by-products and industrial residues are often treated as problems to be managed rather than opportunities to be explored. But what if we could rethink the way we perceive waste? What if yesterday's discarded materials could become tomorrow's innovative products, sustainable solutions or successful business opportunities?

Butterfly 2027 invites international students and educators to explore one of today's most important environmental challenges: how to transform waste into value!

The Challenge

How can we rethink waste management by transforming waste and residual materials into valuable resources, products through innovative solutions that support a more sustainable and circular society?

Waste management is no longer simply about collecting, sorting, and disposing of materials. It is increasingly about preventing waste, recovering resources, rethinking production processes, and developing circular solutions that reduce environmental impacts while creating economic and societal value.

During Butterfly 2027, students will be challenged to identify real-world problems related to waste management and develop creative, realistic, and sustainable solutions.

Possible areas of exploration include:

- **Waste prevention and resource efficiency:** Reducing waste generation and improving the use of existing resources.
- **Reuse, recycling and upcycling:** Giving discarded materials, including plastics, cardboard and packaging, a new purpose or value.
- **Agricultural and food industry by-products:** Exploring innovative uses for organic waste, biomass and residual materials.
- **Innovative waste management systems:** Improving collection, sorting, recycling, and resource recovery processes.
- **Circular business models:** Developing economically viable solutions that turn waste into products, services, or new business opportunities.

An Interdisciplinary and International Approach

Waste management challenges cannot be solved by one discipline alone. They require collaboration between environmental specialists, technologists, innovators, and business professionals.

Butterfly 2027 brings together students from different educational backgrounds and countries to combine their knowledge, challenge conventional thinking, and develop solutions that extend beyond traditional disciplinary boundaries.

Students studying nature and environmental management, process technology, food technology, business, economics, innovation and related fields will all have valuable perspectives to contribute.

Working in international and interdisciplinary teams, participants will be encouraged to approach waste management from environmental, technological, practical, and economic perspectives.

From Ideas to Real-World Solutions

The ambition of Butterfly 2027 is not simply to discuss sustainability, but to **turn knowledge into action**.

Students will work collaboratively to develop and present solutions that demonstrate how waste can be prevented, reduced, reused, or transformed into something valuable.

The outcomes may include new product concepts, prototypes, improved processes, innovative waste management strategies, or circular business models.

Through this process, students will strengthen their professional competencies while developing essential skills in international collaboration, interdisciplinary problem-solving, innovation, and sustainability.

Join Butterfly 2027

Butterfly 2027 offers educators and students an opportunity to connect across borders, exchange, and contribute to solutions for a shared global challenge.

By bringing together different disciplines, cultures, and perspectives, we aim to inspire new ways of thinking about resources, waste and the transition towards a circular economy.

Because the future of waste management is not only about managing what we throw away – it is about discovering the value of what we already have.

Butterfly 2027 – From Waste to Value!