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USING THE WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Project: La Fortuna (Costa Rica) –
Rhein-Pfalz-Kreis (Germany)
Construction of a recycling centre

In the course of the project, a modern recycling centre was planned, built and commissioned. Thanks to the installed sorting facility, larger quantities of recyclable are now being collected and marketed in La Fortuna, and less residual waste is being produced. Furthermore, the project was also intended to contribute to the environmental education of citizens.

The municipal project partner in Costa Rica has already been involved in environmental education for many years. This project was directly linked to that. The recycling centre was also designed as an educational site, and alongside social and work spaces, seminar rooms were also planned

on the site. Since the recycling centre has been in operation, regular guided tours have been taking place, including tours for school and kindergarten groups. These aim to educate the youngsters about waste separation and its importance for protecting the climate and the environment. Moreover, the municipal partners' engagement for environmental education went hand-in-hand with public awareness-raising campaigns, including fundraising activities and outreach work on social media. As a result, the recycling centre project has also been a contributory factor in the multiyear increase in the share of the population in La Fortuna that separates waste.

Success factors

- Waste management facilities are well suited for communicating the topics of waste separation and sustainable natural resource management in a particularly vivid way.
- It was possible to build on a high level of partner motivation and competence at the project location, as engagement for environmental education was already in place.
- Many activities at the project location were taken on self-reliantly by the partner municipality and its cooperation partners.
- Long-term educational effects are possible, especially if young people are reached.

Practical advice

1. Together with your project partner, find out whether there is already any engagement for environmental education in the project region.
2. If not, research local cooperation partners at the project location, such as civil society actors operating in the field of environmental education.
3. Design project visits or on-site guided tours, e.g. for school-children or kindergarten children.
4. The activities can only start once the plant is in operation, i.e. at the end of the project. To be on the safe side, plan support for your project partner beyond the end of the project in case of delays.
5. Design the public awareness-raising activities in a way that adds value to the project. Since behavioural change on the part of citizens is not easy or quick to achieve, the success of your project as a whole should not depend on it.

ENGAGEMENT GLOBAL gGmbH Service für Entwicklungsinitiativen

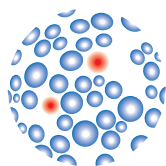
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