Innovative waste collection in Bergen

Emilia Hamarsland Bjånes
BIR AS
Bergen region

- Over 365,000 inhabitants
- Ca. 138 km²
- Both urban and rural areas, divided by mountains
- Known for rainy weather
• Waste management company
• Handling household and commercial waste
Development of waste collection infrastructure

Step-by-step development

- Bins made «smart» with RFID-chips
- One of Europe’s largest underground tube systems
- Underground Waste System

Common digital platform and payment model

- Structured data collection
- Business intelligence
The RFID registration system is designed to be integrated in existing lifting systems on waste trucks etc.

The system is used for documenting whether a specific waste container has been emptied or not.
PAYT, incentive model and effects

Fixed fee + variable fee for residual waste (a minimum amount included in the fixed fee)

Pricing the volume of residual waste – and sorted waste “free of charge”

Drop of 8 % residual waste as city of Bergen was implemented
PAYT and nudging needs more research!

- Non-digitalized traditional shared waste infrastructure. Challenge: Can’t measure individually
- Opportunity for research!
  - What is really the effect of PAYT?
  - How does it work compared with a moral appeal - Nudging?
  - And how to develop it further(!)
- Live lab for research – collaboration with The Norwegian school of Economics (NHH) – Results in 2023
Collection in city center
Underground tube system

- Socio-economic gains
- Cleaner and safer city
- Less heavy traffic
Level measurement

Data is collected and analysed:

- Present level
- Average fill level
- Fill time
- Calculated fill date
- All collections, focus on last

Advantages for operations:

- Full control of *when* and *where* containers are full
- Understanding historic patterns and how much waste is generated.
- Control of service according to plan, and warnings about irregularities (theft, vandalism etc)
- Same places = 30% less km
- Same vehicle fleet = handle 43% more pickup points
On demand routes - Experience

Great success
- On ground containers
- Glass igloes – Collection points
- Under ground containers
- Residual waste and glass

What do we gain?
- Full overview and control of all numbers / collections
- Avoid overfilled containers / complaints
- Reduce cost (20-50 %) and CO₂ emission
- Estimate real resource use
- Sensor based warning for unnormal events