

POP Movement – Newsletter April 2018

We have a new success to announce. The city has finally adjusted the runtime of the taps in our school's restrooms to a runtime of mere seconds. Our remark (cf. Newsletter December 2017), that during one school year 3.2M litres of !unused! clean drinking water go to waste, has made its impact. We will check the push button taps' runtimes regularly in the future, as the setting will slowly change back due to the frequent use.

We decided on taking a closer look at our school's paper consumption as our next goal. We do not understand why fresh fibre paper is used for copies in our school, which not only involves a great amount of CO₂ emissions during production, but also higher values in water and wood consumption. Conversations with the school secretariat show, that there were no contractual obligations to a paper supplier, yet a transition to recycled paper should not have an additional negative effect on the school's financial budget. Through Climate Protection Manager Stephan Baur we came into contact with Yannick Jakubowski. He recently made a significant contribution to the realisation of project days regarding the topic of sustainability, which resulted in the transition to recycled paper at his former school (cf. <https://www.nrz.de/staedte/moers-und-umland/yan-nick-jakubowski-gewinnt-den-kinder-und-jugendumweltpreis-id212806795.html>). He explained to what we had to pay attention, which seals of approval there are and how to get large quantities of copy paper for a favourable price. Our school management is supportive, so after a short amount of time we have been able to try out recycled paper in the administrative wing's printers and copiers for two weeks. At the beginning we often heard reservations about the "brown" paper's appearance. But Yannick told us that the skepticism would subside relatively quick. This is why we are now preparing a presentation for the advantages of recycled paper at the end of our trial run in order to decide it in our favour.

At the same time we are working hard at building our website, which is taking shape over the course of many additional meetings.

A. Forsthövel



Our goal: establish recycled copying paper at our school



Goal achieved: from now on we will save a significant amount of water