

Floating pop-up recycling in Stockholm

Collection of recycling materials using waterways in Stockholm. Floating recycling is one of three testbeds carried out in Stockholm as part of ASAP. During a weeklong test, waterways will be used to collect and transport waste and reusable items in the city of Stockholm.



Today, a land based mini-recycling centre is placed in different locations in the city for two days at a time to give people without a car an easier way to recycle. The collected waste and reusable items are then transported by truck to a full-sized recycling centre for further sorting and treatment. The purpose of collecting waste using waterways is to decrease car usage, emissions and congestion in the inner city.

In the beginning of September, the project group at Stockholm Vatten och Avfall visited the docks chosen for the testbed. The project group has selected a barge, which will be adapted in order to provide an attractive experience for visitors. Two designed containers, used for the land-based mini-recycling centre, will be placed on the barge and staff with experience in sorting and recycling will greet visitors. It will also be possible for visitors to bring items home with them that other visitors no longer need, encouraging more reuse.

Built on multiple islands, Stockholm is surrounded by water and the closeness to water makes the city beautiful in many places. In this testbed, the floating pop-up recycling will dock at some of the most attractive places in the city centre. The attractive placement also allows for recycling and reuse to become more visible in an urban environment, an important aspect in communicating preventative actions regarding waste generation. At Skeppsbron in the Old City, the barge will be located close to the castle, a popular place where many city inhabitants and tourists pass by to enjoy the beautiful scenery with the water on one side and cultural Old City on the other. On the island of Kungsholmen the barge will visit two docks; Norr Mälarstrand, a fashionable address close to City Hall and dense housing where many inhabitants go for walks, and the modern housing district in Hornsbergs strand where a lot of people gather to eat at restaurants or enjoy the sun and bathe during hot summer days.

