



Round Table Discussion Summary

Resource Wisdom and Biosphere areas in UBC cities

The UBC Sustainable Cities Commission Meeting

Jyväskylä 16-18.6.2017



Irena Sakaliene's and Dace Liepniece's group

- Cities face same problems but might have different solutions for those. Therefore, **cities should share examples**.
- The City of Klaipeda has increased its **energy efficiency** by renovating buildings, streets and public places and educating people to sort waste. Also 340 underground waste containers will be installed.
- Small steps and actions help to make the bigger steps towards circular economy. UBC website could be used as a forum for sharing good actions and practices.

Examples:

Klaipeda: "Stop Book"
-book exchanging
example at bus stops

Finland: reuse of
doors, windows,
furniture etc.



Otso Tolonen's and Lari Rajantie's groups

- It is important to make it possible for right people to meet in right environments.
- Grassroots level communication.
- The best practices should be shared in relevant platforms such as UBC.
- Prominent environmental issues:
micro plastics, soil management for example at construction sites, input-output balance of regions.
- Conversations about local food and water cooperatives.
- **Recycling of nutrients**, how to create circular economy solution to capture the nutrients in the cities, so that nutrients would not end up in seas and pollute waters. There is room for collaboration in that area.

Riikka Leskinen's group

- Cities need examples of measuring and monitoring the effects and economic results of the actions.
- Why these actions always need to be justified thoroughly with economic values and money? In resource wisdom and circular economy, more indicators and ways are needed for showing social impacts, attractiveness of the cities, quality of life, educational values and happiness.
- In the future sharing economy will go further and ownership will lose importance, that has already happened among youngsters. People want benefits and services from goods and products without owning those, since apartments are small and people do not want to commit themselves to something that loses its value fast.
- We need to be ambitious when sharing examples and creating sharing economy projects because people need to benefit from those.
- Sharing economy has to base on the fact that people need goods at different times since the **rhythm of the society is changing**.

Björn Grönholm

- Emphasized the process of proceeding with the ideas.
- Working with the concept of resource efficiency and circular economy can be challenging. **It is important to make small, clear and simple steps.**
- Exemplifying actions are the best ways to define e.g. circular economy and source efficiency.
- **Big projects are not always needed** since planning and making applications takes a lot of time. Instead, **call to colleagues, create dialog and arrange workshops to further develop the idea, be ambitious.**

Joint action on circular economy

Conversations aroused interest among participants to organize a circular economy project between UBC cities. The following aspects need to be considered by the cities before proceeding with the idea:

- Focus?
- Financing?
- Member cities?
- Suitable organizations for cooperation?

The key element in making a change is to understand how individuals are thinking and behaving, and try to change that. This will connect us all, person's role in the society is not relevant.

- Pirkko Melville