BIO

AFTER CUTTING UP YOUR VEGETABLES TO PREPARE DINNER, EATING A PIECE OF FRUIT DURING YOUR LUNCH BREAK OR DRINKING A CUP OF TEA TO RELAX AF - TER A BUSY DAY, THERE ARE ALWAYS LEFT OVERS THAT END UP IN THE GAR - BAGE: BIOWASTE.

According to 'The biowaste directive; at the core of sustainability…but at the border of the political agenda' [1] there is a distinct and obvious gap in European law when it comes to the biowaste sector: there isn't yet a comprehensive strategy to process all the biodegradable trash. The production of biowaste is still too high to compost it within the existing infrastructure. Therefore, instead of creating renewable energy with it, a big part of the waste ends up in a landfill.

It is not only unfortunate that people waste their time and energy to separate their biowaste, it is also contributing to the greenhouse effect by producing harmful gases. The methane gas that is generated as organic materials decompose is 23 times more potent than CO2[2]

Legislation should change to prevent this from happening in the future but for the moment we can change the way we look at our own biowaste and take responsibility for what we throw away. Our waste might not always come to rest in the big compost heap so let's create our own samll ones in back gardens, balconies or within community gardens and use it for gardening, projects and growing food.

Another way to create compost out of your food and garden waste is by using worms. It is proven to be faster and more nutrient productive than normal composting[3]. There is a place called Worm City where you online can order a Wormery for as little as 50 euro, including 500 grams of worms.

Not all biowaste is destined to end up as compost, some can be upgraded before degrading; used ground coffee can be used as body scrub, apple peel can be used in aromatic tea, orange peel can turn into candle holders and teabags can transform in lampshades. This upgrading asks for a change of perception of waste and seeing it's possibilities like Zero Waste Europe[4] catches: "Waste doesn't exist "per-se", we create it when mixing our discards. If our discards are separated they are not waste but a resource."

1. The biowaste directive; At the core of sustainability... but at the borders of the political agenda
2 Earth Day 2010 http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/PublicEd/EarthDay/What.htm
3 http://www.scribd.com/doc/20630657/What-is-a-Wormery-and-How-Does-One-Work
4 http://www.zerowasteeurope.eu/

Photo by Tau*mh

TEABAG FABRIC

by Judith Meijer

MATERIALS
20-30 Teabags + Tags
Thread
Metal

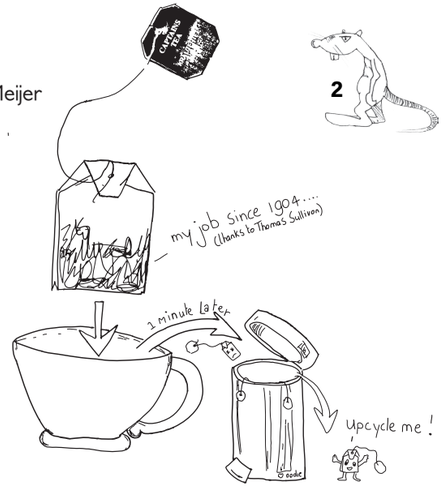
TOOLS
Sewing machine

TIME
2 hours

TIPS!
If you do not have a sewingmachine, you can easily attach the teabags to eachother with normal paper glue. You can also print on the teabags, to make your fabric even more personal.

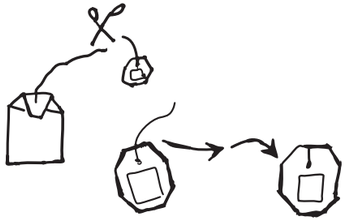
TEABAGS
From teabags you can make a nice fabric. You can use it to make many things. A lampshade, a curtain, books…..

What will be your design?

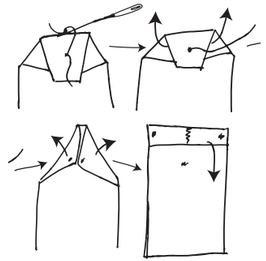


1. Don't throw away your teabag - let it dry or wash is out directly including step 2 and dry it over a washing line. If you wash it you use more energy, and the colour of the teabag will be less interesting.

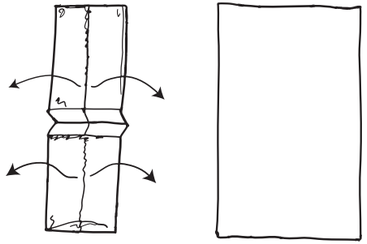
2 Cut the tag.



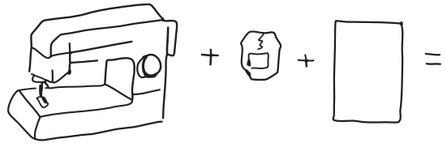
3. Open the teabag by the seam.



4. Flatten the rectangular piece of teabag fabric .



5. Zig-zag the pieces of teabag fabric together in long strips of 7 pieces. When you have two stips sew them together and make the structure stronger by putting a teabagtag on every corner.



6. Redo this until you have the size you need for your design.