

The *financial support initiative waste avoidance 2009* backs innovative waste avoiding measures with 290.000 Euro.

A sponsored investment that will make a profit as from 2010 and that will save more than 100.000 kilograms of waste, as well as payroll costs and energy expenses – well that is a very positive summary for the corrugated cardboard company TEWA's project "Faltkartons statt Altpapier". As the title suggest, the project aims at producing American (regular slotted) boxes instead of wasting paper and was sponsored by the *financial support initiative waste avoidance*, which in total provides 290.000 Euros for projects concerned with waste avoidance.



Franz Ronge, CEO of TEWA, with the sponsored "box maker"

Product expansion instead of waste

When producing corrugated board from paper rolls, paper waste arises in different qualities and grammages, which can hardly be recycled. This fact was troubling Franz Ronge, CEO of TEWA in Feldkirchen, Carninthia for quite some time. "It's not only because of the waste, it's because we'd been throwing away money." The support initiative 2007 brought about a change of thinking. Ronge: "If there is no possibility to save material during the production process, then let's make something out of the waste." The company acquired a "box maker", a machine processing the paper waste to insulating material, fillers and small cardboard boxes. The paper waste could be reduced from 460.000 kilograms to 365.000 kilograms and also regarding power consumption, the project helped saving 17.600 kWh. The investment will be amortized by 2010. Furthermore, there are synergy effects in production thanks to the "box maker", so Ronge.

Up to 30% of financial support

According to Werner Knausz, CEO of ARA, a service company providing a wide array of services to all companies that are affected by the Austrian Packaging Ordinance, "there are possibilities to avoid waste or at least reduce it in nearly every company, regardless of the company's size." These projects do not only benefit the environment, they are also economically reasonable. Creative ideas are in demand and are supported by the *financial support initiative*, the ARA, the city of Vienna, the state of Lower Austria and the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber.

In total, 290.000 Euro are at disposal. The sponsored projects are supported with a one-time subvention of up to 30% of the waste relevant costs, however at least with 2.000 Euro and maximally 30.000 Euro.

For educational institutions and NGOs, the subvention can be increased to 90%. For the first time, this year also large firms can submit their projects. However, 60% of the total sum at disposal stay reserved for small and medium-size enterprises, communal authorities and associations.

Source:
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