OSCEDays Circular Textile Workshop

3/23/2017

Organizers – Pambana Uishi, Silvia Leahu-Aluas

4-H Activity Facilitator – Xiomara Diaz-Vargas

# of Attendees – 13

**Step 1 - Introductions (Facilitators & Participants)**

Opening - KI Intern stared welcome and little about Kheprw. Had youth interns introduce themselves share age, school and what they do at KI. Then turned over to Silvia. She then introduced herself and ask individuals in the circle to introduce themselves.

**Step 2 - Open Source Circular Economy: What is it and why should you be interested in it?**

Next, OSCEDays Indy organizer using a PowerPoint presentation shared with the group what OSCE is. Stated there are two topics that dominate the interests of OSCE communities. One is food and the other is textiles. She gave definition of open source and circular economy.

Talked about how the community advocates and practices sharing solutions, working collaboratively, and apply the cycle of a natural ecosystem to making products. Need to change to resources that are renewable and clean. Trying to eliminate waste. Whatever we do think about the consequences.

**Step 3 - Current textile industry: what we do now and why we need to change (show video and discuss)**

Video shown on the toxic effects of the textile industry on workers in Bangladesh.

**Step 4 - Circular businesses: What are they, how are they useful to you, to our local community and the world?**

Second video shown of how jeans are being used in circular textile industry.

KI manager asked to share how their organization participates in the circular economy through it social enterprises. He talked about the thrift store started, which recycled household materials and clothes. It also provided entrepreneurial training to youth as well as income. Another social enterprise was there miss-tint paint store. This enterprise collected paint from paint stores that would normally be disposed of and sold it to the community at a lower affordable price. They also have an aquaponics operation. This is a closed loop system that uses fish to feed plants and the plants clean the water that the fish live in. Produce such as arugula has been grown and sold to a local restaurant. Also through this relationship the pick up the restaurants food waste and compost if for their urban garden. In addition, the organization has sells rain barrels, which keeps water out of the sewer cutting down on harmful overflow into rivers and streams. The rain barrels can be customized with art or not and are sold in different colors. Workshops are also held on how to build a rain barrel making this an open source product.

Next, participants asked to share how they practice circular economy -- what are some of the things they do to reuse, repurpose, recycle -- and what their thought were about the video on the textile industry in Bangladesh.

Examples provided by group of circular economy practices – passing clothes on, reusing plastic bags as trash liners, donating to Goodwill, rescuing food from grocery stores and restaurants, using less water, composting, etc.

**Step 4 - Hand-on activities: Activity that demonstrates making or reusing clothing items encouraging sustainability and economic possibilities**

4-H Educator then engaged group in an action challenge to get them up and moving. The group broke up into two teams of four. They were tasked to stack up nine cups using a rubber band with 4 strings with each member holding one of the strings. Afterwards she asked the team what they learned from the activity.

She then used a PowerPoint presentation to share about the 4-H Duds to Dazzle textile curriculum. She talked about the purpose, what youth learn, the activities and the team schedule. She also shared about the repurposing competition. Then, she asked the participants to share something they do that is repurposing an item.

Ideas - repurpose items at home to make games. Use socks, cut up and make bands for hair. Use boxes to make toys, repurposing winter scarves for sleeping cap at night.

The event concluded with the group returning to their teams and being challenged to repurpose t-shirts or shirts for something useful. Two groups made bags to carry things in and one made an adjustable belt with a pocket for a cell phone.