

WASTEMAN Activities during the People’s Democracy Festival on Bornholm June 16-19, 2022

One of the most important annual events on Bornholm is the People’s Democracy Festival (called “Folkemødet”), which was back in full force in 2022 after being affected by COVID-19 in the previous years. In 2020, it was canceled altogether, and in 2021, with a number of restrictions, a smaller-than-usual hybrid event was held with only a small number of participants.

This year, over 100,000 participants took part in over 2,500 events. Hundreds of organizations, grassroots movements, political players and commercial businesses took part. Events during the festival covered a wide array of topics, from international debates about Ukraine and EU defense policy to topics such as health, climate and the green transition.

This year, the WASTEMAN project made full use of the opportunity to disseminate project results. One of the events that was organized by BOFA was a panel debate on the subject “How do we eliminate the waste bin for residual waste?”. This event was carried out in partnership with a number of Danish universities and the Danish Society of Engineers.

During the event, panelist David Christensen talked about the results of the Living Labs on Bornholm that were carried out during the WASTEMAN project, in which residual waste among participating households was reduced to approximately 20% of generated waste. David also talked about the high value of EU projects, where cross-border interactions and learning can support robust responses to requirements set out by EU legislation in the topics of waste management and circular economy.

Ksawery Kuligowski from IMP-PAN, coordinators of the WASTEMAN project from Poland, was invited by David to the stage to disseminate project results about e.g. recycling possibilities from different material streams extracted from household residual waste.



EVENT DESCRIPTION – June 16, 2022

How do we eliminate the waste bin for residual waste?

Event at the Peoples Democracy Festival on Bornholm co-organized by the Danish Society of Engineers and Danish universities

What do we stand to win as citizens and as a society by going from a use-and-dispose-culture to a use-again-and-again culture? We will investigate these questions and many more during our panel debate and with our guests.

Citizens, technology and resources

Come and hear about BOFA and Aalborg University’s project WASTEMAN, where initiatives in a number of European countries have provided new knowledge and insights into the possibilities of involving citizens more directly in improved waste sorting. Examples will be provided about how technologies and new business models can help eliminate residual waste from our homes, so it becomes easier to sort waste. Last but not least, we will have a closer look at how our sorted waste in the best possible manner can be part of new products, with the aid of The Danish Society of Engineer’s specially developed recycling hierarchy. Come and join! Learn more about your, my and our waste, and take part in the debate on how we can eliminate the residual waste bin together.

Panelists:

- David Christensen, Project Manager, BOFA
- Aske Nydam, Vice Chairman, Danish Society of Engineers
- Nana Winkler, Senior Consultant, Danish Waste Association

Moderated by:

- Esben Norrbom, RAW Relations
- Sine Beuse Fauerby, Danish Society of Engineers



Meeting the Danish Minister for the Environment at the People’s Democracy Festival

At the People’s Democracy Festival, a number of other events were co-organized by BOFA on the official program. Unofficial side events were also held.

In particular, BOFA was extremely pleased to be able to host the Danish Minister for the Environment, Ms. Lea Wermelin, during a breakfast meeting with BOFA staff and valued BOFA partners on June 17, 2022.

Ms. Wermelin comes from Bornholm herself. She has been instrumental in a national “*Climate Plan for a Green Waste Sector and Circular Economy*” in 2020, which has led to the adoption of legislative changes to keep Denmark on track toward reaching ambitious EU recycling targets at national level.

From BOFA’s side, it was an opportunity to present to the minister the people behind the work being done to achieve zero waste on Bornholm by 2032. Knowledge institution representatives from IMP-PAN were introduced to the minister, namely Professor Adam Cenian and Project Manager Ksawery Kuligowski. From BOFA, Project Manager David Christensen and Project Officer João Møller had friendly conversations with the minister and introduced her to business representatives who are part of BOFA’s innovation platform, Zero Waste Bornholm.



