

Why you need to think twice before buying groceries

Introduction to UnoLoop system

Every visit to the store, for buying groceries, ends up with many new packages at home. It is very common that everything is packed and labeled and when it is not packed, stores provide free plastic bags and containers, so you can tuck in your favorite open foods - fruits and vegetables, products in culinary counters, different snacks, etc. Can you remember the last time you bought something that was not pre-packed or was not packed in front of your eyes?

In the home that means that many cupboards and drawers are filled with packages including refrigerator, maybe even countertops - plus some places for used containers that you are hoping you can reuse if the need arises. And when using designed containers for products, where those great packages end up, what attracts you to buy exactly those products that you need? It is nothing new because the majority of people are used to packages and some of them don't even think about how and where plastic ends up and how it burdens our environment.

Unlike kitchen utensils, the last thing people want in their homes are piles of packaging, especially when people are looking for more aesthetically pleasing and clean areas and you already have special places for glass and plastic bottles, old paper, cardboard, and so on. If you have a lack of storing places at home - particularly pantry or wider cupboards - you just avoid buying different ingredients, because you don't know if a purchasable new product will either find further use or simply is forgotten - one way to overfill your compact storage places. You might think you don't need many products, but if you like to cook, even maybe a few

times a month, you definitely have some back-up ingredients that are packed away somewhere. You might think there is no possibility to reduce the amount of packaging in your household, but here is an option, where word **reuse** is emphasized.

To reduce packages in the household, it must be teamwork between stores, manufacturers, and customers. Everybody has a role to play and the possibility to contribute to creating a working system. It should be a symbiosis.

Recycling centers have a very limited choice of returnables

We can drop off our glass and plastic bottles and cans when they are marked with a return mark, unfortunately, it only applies to beverage bottles. Garbage sorting is also increasingly being promoted and more and more people are using opportunities to sort their waste. In many apartment associations, waste sorting has become mandatory and failure to sort may result in a financial penalty.

Due to the lack of space, correct sorting can become difficult in a home environment. One solution to this problem could be to rethink the food and packaging system, which would also help to find a solution to overconsumption and better food planning.

First steps of implementation

In Estonia, there is only one store-chain that provides bulk food with the help of food dispensers. The store has its own client segment who are using their own containers for dry food, and needless to say - it works. Extreme users, as we like to refer to them, who already are using their own containers, are good examples to learn from. It is certainly in the hands of people to change the path, but the stores also need to see the

value, how they can contribute to turning stores more package free. When a solution is there, why not use it?



(Store interior with bulk food dispensers currently in use.)

In those stores, customers can find tubes on the wall that are equipped with mechanical levers. To use dry food dispensers, you need a container that you are using or like to use at home or fill a cellophane bag - biodegradable but not eco-friendly. Simple steps to follow to collect a desirable product: place a refillable package under the nozzle, pull the lever, and collect the ingredients. Simple as that, right! Next, you need to weigh your product and label it, also your empty container needs weighing before filling it, to deduct the container's weight from the total weight.

The new approach to antecedents is to offer more convenient and more hygienic dispensers. It means the mechanical lever is removed and integrated into the nozzle. Using the bulk food machine is more simple than before. Customers need to place a fillable container under the nozzle, push it up with the container, nozzle directed into packaging, and collect your product. When you have a sufficient amount of product, just remove the package from the nozzle, and operation is interrupted.

Upgraded bulk food dispensers are handier for customers, leaving one hand free, whenever you need a hand to support the container when it gets too heavy. Creating a better customer experience, improved dispensers are equipped with a digital scale and displays, removing the need for double weighing. Scales working similarly to fuel pumps - instant weight and cost are displayed on the screen. Adding the scale and screen will save your time, you don't have

to weigh your empty and filled containers separately anymore. Before you are going to purchase a product, swipe your client's card in front of the screen, it uses NFC (near field communication) technology, so after purchasing a desirable amount of product, the paying information is already registered with your client's card. When leaving, identify yourself with your client's card and pay for your groceries as usual.

How can I start with reusing?

Whoever wants to join with the UNOLoop system can do it whenever they like. After reading this article, the first step is done. You have gathered some knowledge about the system and hopefully want to be part of it, to alleviate packaging overconsumption. Stores that have joined with the UNOLoop system, have installed units with bulk food dispensers and the recycling facility for UNOLoop containers.

Every unit is stocked with different reusable containers. Choose the container, fill it, and take it home. After using all the ingredients in the jar, take it with you next time you visit the store and refill it. You are reusing! Depending on your lifestyle, choose the package that fits with you. UNOLoop system currently provides 2 different types

of packaging. Jars and foldable containers come in 3 different sizes.

What kind of containers should I use?

The customers can buy glass jars and foldable containers for the food to take home with. There are currently 3 standard

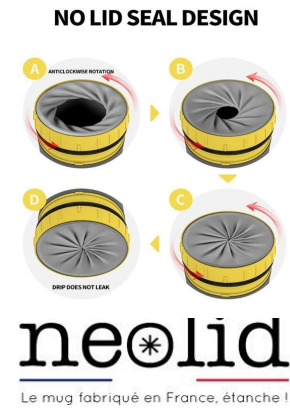


jar sizes to choose from and the jars are interconnected by a multipurpose lid that can close the jar by turning a silicone closure lid which at the same time lifts up the edge for the jar above to fix-it in place.

One of the most important parts of the system is the use of packaging in the home environment, as this is the longest phase of the system. The usage improvements we present for the home to convert environmentally unsustainable packaging to environmentally sustainable by replacing plastic with temperature resistant glass. Users can reuse jars for different purposes not only for storage. Use jars to save food in the refrigerator, heat food up in it in a microwave oven, or use it to take the food outdoors as it is not easily breakable. With reusable jars, users also can reduce the amount of packaging in the household which can lead to a reduction in waste bills, as less packaging is generated on a daily basis. The customer takes the food home and stores it on a fixable top of each other system on shelves or in a pantry which creates a more organized and aesthetic display while giving you more space. Versus many different variations and sizes

of disposable packages that can not be closed after opening.

For that problem, we redesigned the company named Neolid silicone Twizz. In addition to this idea, we added a twist-up edge to the lid to store the jars on top of each other.



In our prototype where the fixer and the jar are connected. The silicone film of the lid is fixed on the rotatable ring, connected to the jar body, tightly sealed with the rotation of the ring, and lifting up our additional edge what you can see on the prototype. This system is hygienic and supplies cleaner food for the customer with a reusable jar system. We reduce disposable plastic packaging and the customer's beautiful storage and transport solution for their food. We recycle excess old jars. People can bring them to the jar return and cleaning station or send them back to the store via jar collector robots.



Reuse to take the pressure off recycling!

Today's climate change is an actual threat to us, where the globe is competing with overpopulation, and the earth's ability to restore itself is gradually becoming more complex. With that in mind, recycling has become an increasingly important issue. Recycling itself although needs energy and in some cases, it isn't reasonable. We are directing people to reuse rather than recycling. With the UNOLoop solution, reuse has been made more convenient.

As soon as the UNOLoop user decides that he or she wants to exit the system or has just accumulated too many containers at home, it is very easy to give them up. There are several ways to do that. One option is to use an already existing company called Cuploop. Cuploop is a company that wants to make circulating reusables as easy as throwing things away. You simply need to take your containers to the nearest Cuploop station and throw your containers in there. Cuploop cleans them and sends them back to us to reuse them.



If you do not want to leave home, there is another option to send the cups back to reuse. For this occasion, it is possible to order a Starship parcel robot home, which will deliver the cups from your front door to cleaning, and the clean cups will find their way back to a package-free shop environment.



Conclusion

If you have previously considered reducing packaging in your home environment, the system described above is a great way to overcome the old lifestyle and habits.

UNOLoop's systemic circulation gives us all the opportunity to reduce our ecological footprint while also being useful to our home environment and promoting better organization. Besides, the use of the system results in a reduction in over-consumption and the prevention of food spoilage. With the help of the system's cooperation partners, it is possible to simplify the return of the jars and containers and develop the purchase of non-packaging food even without going to the store.

"Make the world package free with UnoLoop!" (someone famous)

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