

Waste junior

“Waste” is what is discarded because it is unusable, useless or dirty, and waste is a serious problem for the environment... at least this was the opinion some decades ago. A problem which can become a precious and abundant resource, because from waste we can obtain energy and raw materials.

With waste management, for example, we can recover paper, glass, plastic and aluminium, that are re-utilized to produce new items. Organic waste can be transformed into fertilizers, into gas or into heat and electric energy.

Yesterday

For thousands of years, humans recycled everything and burnt only whatever they could not re-utilize. Up to the advent of industrial society, where the problem of waste was always only a problem of public hygiene in the urban centres. In the past, whatever became superfluous for someone, would find new opportunities of utilization somewhere else: it would find a new value.

Today

Starting from the second half of the last century, the production of “disposable” goods enormously increased the quantity of waste that we very often do not know where to put. Today, the large mass of waste is mainly disposed of in dumps or is incinerated. Starting from the Seventies the concept of recycling started to spread, and in the Eighties people began to understand the importance of separating waste in order to make the recycling process more simple and effective.