



WEEE collection, dismantling and sorting

Name: Emmaus Chambéry

Type of structure: Community

Number of people: 30 residents, 90 volunteers, 30 of whom are very actively involved, and three staff.

Year the group was founded: 1981

Leaders: Agnès Marmion, Patrick Gomez and Marc Troccaz

Environmental issues contact person(s): the whole community.



CONTEXT

The company owns five buildings and a sixth building belongs to *Emmaus Clothing*: two shops (1,500m²), a workshop (1,300m²), a tower with 14 bedrooms (100m² with two floors), a building that houses the dining room, offices, 15 single bedrooms, a temporary stay bedroom sleeping four and a bar (900m²). The community has an ornamental garden in which only flowers and plants are grown (4,000m²). The buildings are gas heated.

- Year in which the buildings were built: 1975, the last building was built in 2009.



→ Means of transport used by the group: three trucks and four cars.

- ❖  Owner: buildings and vehicles.
- ❖ Specific town / region / country context: A well-off region. The local population is already environmentally aware.
- ❖ Group-specific context: Only community in France that does not collect textiles. Clothes that are collected are transferred to *Emmaüs vêtement* (Emmaus Clothing), a social inclusion company that was created when Emmaus Chambéry split.

THE EMMAUS MOVEMENT: A WELL-ESTABLISHED STAKEHOLDER IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL SECTOR DUE TO ITS ACTIVITIES

❖ Types of activities:

- Collection/sorting/selling
- Co-founder of an inclusion company (*Tri Alp'*)
- Co-founder of an inclusion scheme (*Chantiers Valoristes*) specialising in sorting and recycling waste.
- Strong partnership with local associations: social and cultural organisations.

If your group collects / recycles / resells unwanted goods:

- Goods are collected from people's homes and people drop them off at our premises: 40% collections and 60% site drop-offs (rough figures).
- Average distance travelled each month for collections: 2,000km
- Types of materials and items collected: all kinds of materials and items.
- Secondhand stores' opening hours: Wednesdays and Thursdays from 2-6pm and Saturdays from 9am – 12pm and 2-6pm (shuts at 5.30pm in winter).

❖ General public environmental awareness raising work:

- Public events: the community takes part in the Eco-citizenship week with the City of Chambéry, the *Marché des Continents* solidarity 'market' event, and delivers presentations in primary and secondary schools.
- Articles in the media: not specifically on this issue.
- Website: currently being developed.

- ❖ Political lobbying gives rise to an in-depth debate. The community has five committees bringing together different community stakeholders (volunteers, companions etc), including a communications and **lobbying** committee that works on this issue.

ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY PRACTICES CHAMPIONED ON A DAILY BASIS AND THAT CONTRIBUTE TO OUR IDEAL OF COMMUNITY LIVING.



Transport

Car sharing for leisure trips.
Bikes available for each companion to use.
Bus tickets provided for free.



Food

- Occasionally purchase from a local market gardener.
- Seasonal food.
- Product origin requirements for some products (free-range chicken, outdoor eggs).
- The companions have no catering training and using fresh produce for meals is restrictive.



Waste

- Waste sorting (sorting metals, paper, cardboard taken to the waste reception centre, wood, rubble and glass thrown into the council's glass skip, and we give plastic bottle tops to an association that works with people with disabilities. The community has yellow bins (for recyclable waste).



- Plastic is not used.
- Reuse, for example, building a fence using reclaimed wood (bed, ladder etc) and ash trays placed outside the shop (using a washbasin stand with sand and concrete).



Water

Press buttons in the showers to reduce water consumption.

Steps to reduce water consumption

Rainwater is collected for the garden (one drum).

Groundwater collection tank to supply the workshop toilets and the washing machines (built in 2009) 6,000l.

The community no longer uses plastic bottles.

Bar washing-up liquid and office WC products are organic.

The bar no longer sells bottled water / coca-cola following the Ouagadougou GA.



Purchase of consumables

Reuse stationery.

We repair worn objects

We take steps to avoid waste



Energy

Low energy light bulbs.

GROUP ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS RAISING

NETWORKS AND PARTNERSHIPS

- Partnership with Ugines council, enabling the district to publicise Emmaus' activities and inform local residents about collection runs.
- The community is approached by Chambéry and La Motte Servolex councils on quite a regular basis to take part in events such as Eco-citizenship week and the *Marché des Continents*, and International Solidarity Week.
- Partnership with the LIDL platform.

DEVELOPMENT PROSPECTS AND PLANNED ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES

For your environmental activities

Build a bar for one of the shops so that the community can publicise and raise awareness: the bar will be open two Saturdays a month at the start. Examples of products that will be sold: organic / local drinks, Fair Trade, coffee, tea (e.g. Alpes Cola, using ingredients from the Alps, although the drink is manufactured in Brittany).

For your environmental practices

The community is currently considering plans to increase its residential capacity. If this leads to a new building being built, subject to a building permit being issued, environmental aspects will be included in the specifications.

SHARING YOUR EXPERIENCE *(interview in 2010 with Christelle, an intern, and in 2011 with Agnès, the community leader).*

Do you think that Emmaus has an environmental role to play?

“Emmaus could have an environmental role to play. However, getting the Movement to become greener is hampered by the development and omnipresence of economic issues which hold sway over everything else. From a social viewpoint, Emmaus deals with a specific population group, and it is difficult to raise their awareness, as first and foremost they are aiming to re-establish and stabilise themselves. This is why the environment is really an issue of secondary importance.”

Do you think that Emmaus has a role to play in galvanising society about this issue?

“Emmaus can become an important player for environmental issues, but not a major one.”

What common basis would you define for the Movement for environmental issues?

“One of the solutions to be considered if the Movement is to take the environment more into account is opening up more to the outside world, the contemporary world. Change may come from outside, by comparing ourselves with others, and other associations that are developing other projects, while

forging partnerships. Looking at what others do may well set in motion a process of reflection and bring about change.”

Has the companions’ environmental awareness grown?

“It is a long-term job but it is bearing fruit (cleanliness in the community, waste sorting at the bar, raising awareness about water usage)”.