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The Burden of Waste: A Project by Vasil Zlatev (Batch 17)

You buy coffee “to-go” → put some sugar in it → throw away the sugar bag → stir it a bit → throw away the stirring stick → drink your coffee → throw away the disposable cup. And then, the sugar bag, the stirring stick, and the disposable cup are all gone – they have ceased to exist. To you that is. What actually happens is that they linger around for quite a while with the potential to cause considerable health and environmental problems, especially if they are taken to the landfill.

The main goal of this project was to demonstrate that simply throwing something away does not mean that it is gone. I tried to show what it feels like to actually keep everything that one would otherwise dispose off and carry it everywhere I went. Another objective was to show how much we consume. Not in terms of stuff that we take in (food, drinks) and put on (clothes, shoes, etc), but in terms of things that we get rid of. A third goal of my initiative was to communicate these thoughts to the people who I met with while conducting my experiment, to the people who are going to see the product of the experiment, and to my friends and family.

I carried the waste that I generated in the course of 5 days everywhere I went. I had daily videos talking about and describing my experience. As a result, I put these videos together in a video diary of the 5 days and this “diary” is what I would like to share with you!

To watch Part 1: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7PD8WfrcOi0>

To watch Part 2: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0nq1ZqGg5Bk>

Enjoy!

