

循环经济 The circular economy

Hello. This is 6 Minute English with me, Neil.

大家好。这里是六分钟英语，我是内尔。

And me, Sam.

还有我，萨姆。

Today, we're talking rubbish.

今天我们要聊垃圾（胡说八道）。

Ooh, that's a bit harsh—I thought it was going to be interesting.

哦，这话可有点尖锐——我还以为我们的节目很有趣呢。

I mean our topic is about rubbish, not that we are rubbish. - I see.

我的意思是我们的话题是垃圾，而不是我们是垃圾。我知道了。

OK. Do go on.

请继续。

Thank you.

谢谢。

So the amount of waste we produce around the world is huge and it's a growing problem.

我们在全世界制造的垃圾数量庞大，而且这个问题越来越严重。

But, there are some things that we can do, like recycling.

但是有些事是我们可以做的，比如回收。

Where I live, I can recycle a lot, and I'm always very careful to separate-to split my rubbish into paper, metal, food, plastic and so on.

在我住的地方，我可以回收很多东西，而且我总是小心地把它们分开——把我的垃圾分类为纸、金属、食品、塑料等等。

But is that enough, even if we all do it?

但是即使我们做到了这些，这样就足够了吗？

We'll look a little more at this topic shortly, but first, as always, a question.

我们稍后会进一步了解这个话题，但是首先，老规矩，是一个问题。

Which country recycles the highest percentage of its waste?

哪个国家的废品回收率最高？

Is it: A. Sweden, B. Germany, or C. New Zealand?

是 A. 瑞典，B. 德国，还是 C. 新西兰？

What do you think, Sam?

你怎么看，萨姆？

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Well, I'm not sure, but I think it could be Germany, so I'm going to go with that-Germany.

我不确定，但是我觉得可能是德国，所以我要选这个——德国。

OK. Well, we'll see if you're right a little later on.

好的。我们稍后揭晓你是否回答正确。

The BBC radio programme, Business Daily, recently tackled this topic.

BBC 电台节目《商业日报》最近讲到了这个话题。

They spoke to Alexandre Lemille, an expert in this area.

他们对话了这个领域的专家亚历山大·勒米尔。

Does he think recycling is the answer?

他认为回收是解决问题的方法吗？

Let's hear what he said.

我们来听听他说了什么。

Recycling is not the answer to waste from an efficient point of view because we are not able to get all the waste separated properly and therefore treated in the background.

从效率的角度来看，回收并不是解决废物的方法，因为我们无法在这个背景下合理地分类所有垃圾，从而处置它们。

The main objective of our model is to hide waste so we don't see as urban citizens, or rural citizens, we don't see the waste, it is out of sight and therefore out of mind.

我们模式的主要目标是把垃圾藏起来，这样我们就看不见了，作为城市公民，或农村公民，我们看不到垃圾，这就是所谓的眼不见，心不烦。

What's his view of recycling?

他如何看待回收？

I was a bit surprised because he said recycling wasn't the answer.

我感到有些吃惊，因为他说回收不是解决问题的方法。

One reason is that it's not always possible to separate waste you can recycle from waste you can't recycle, and that makes treating it very difficult.

一个原因是并不总是能把可回收的废品和不可回收的废品分开，所以这让处置废品变得很难。

Treating means handling it and using different processes, so it can be used again.

处置指的是处理它并且使用不同的工序，这样它就能再次被使用。

And the result is a lot of waste, including waste that could be recycled but which is just hidden.

其结果就是导致很多垃圾，包括那些本可以回收但是只是被藏起来了的垃圾。

And as long as we don't see it, we don't think about it.

而且只要我们没有看到它们，我们就不会在意它们。

And he uses a good phrase to describe this-out of sight, out of mind.

他用了一个很好的短语来描述这一点——眼不见，心不烦。

And that's true, at least for me.

至少对我来说，确实如此。

My rubbish and recycling is collected and I don't really think about what happens to it after that.

我的垃圾和回收品都被收走了，而且我并没有真正思考过那之后它们会如何被处理。

Is as much of it recycled as I think, or is it buried, burned or even sent to other countries?

它是否跟我想的一样的被回收了，还是就是被掩埋、焚烧或者甚至送往其它国家？

It's not in front of my house, so I don't really think about it-out of sight, out of mind.

它不在我房子前面，所以我并没有真的想过它——眼不见，心不烦。

Let's listen again.

我们再听一遍。

Recycling is not the answer to waste from an efficient point of view because we are not able to get all the waste separated properly and therefore treated in the background.

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One possible solution to this problem is to develop what is called a circular economy.

这个问题的一个可能的解决方式是发展所谓的循环经济。

Here's the presenter of Business Daily, Manuela Saragosa, explaining what that means.

下面是《商业日报》的主持人玛鲁娜·萨拉戈萨解释其意义。

The idea then at the core of a circular economic and business model is that a product, like say a washing machine or even a broom, can always be returned to the manufacturer to be reused or repaired before then sold on again.

循环经济和商业模式的核心观点是一个产品，比如洗衣机，甚至是一根扫把，都可以被送返给生产商，将它们重复使用或者修理好然后再次售卖。

The point is the manufacturer retains responsibility for the lifecycle of the product it produces rather than the consumer assuming that responsibility when he or she buys it.

关键在于生产商承担其生产的商品的生命循环的责任，而不是消费者在购买了商品后来承担责任。

So it seems like a simple idea-though maybe very difficult to do.

这似乎是一个很简单的想法——不过可能难以实行。

Yes, the idea is that the company that makes a product, the manufacturer, is responsible for the product, not the person who bought it, the consumer.

是的，这个想法就是生产产品的公司，即生产商，要为产品负责，而不是购买它的消费者负责。

So, if the product breaks or reaches the end of its useful life, its lifecycle, then the manufacturer has to take it back and fix, refurbish or have it recycled.

所以如果商品破损或到了使用期限，即其生命周期的终结，那么生产商得把它取回，然后修理、翻新或回收它。

I guess this would make manufacturers try to make their products last longer!

我想这会促使生产商努力把它们产品做得更耐用！

Certainly would.

肯定会的。

Let's listen again.

我们再来听一遍。

The idea then at the core of a circular economic and business model is that a product, like say a washing machine or even a broom, can always be returned to the manufacturer to be reused or repaired before then sold on again.

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That's just about all we have time for in this programme.

我们的节目就讨论到这里。

Before we recycle the vocabulary. - Oh, very good, Neil!

我们要先回收词汇。- 哦，说得好，内尔！

Before we thank you, Sam-before we recycle the vocabulary, we need to get the answer to today's question.

在我们——谢谢你，萨姆——在我们回收词汇之前，我们需要揭晓今天问题的答案。

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Sam, what did you say?

萨姆，你说的是？

And I said I think it's Germany.

我觉得是德国。

Well, I would like to offer you congratulations because Germany is the correct answer.

嗯，我要祝贺你，因为正确答案是德国。

Now let's go over the vocabulary.

现在我们来回顾词汇。

Of course.

当然。

So, to separate means to divide or split different things, for example, separate your plastic from your paper for recycling.

分离的意思是把不同的东西分开，比如，把你的塑料和纸分离用于回收。

Treating is the word for dealing with, for example, recycled waste.

处置的意思是处理，比如说回收的废品。

The phrase out of sight, out of mind, means ignoring something or a situation you can't see.

短语眼不见，心不烦的意思是无视你看不到的事物或情况。

A manufacturer is the person or company that makes something and the consumer is the person who buys that thing.

生产商指的是制造某物的个人或公司，而消费者指的是购买那个东西的人。

And the length of time you can expect a product to work for is known as its lifecycle.

一个商品的使用时长叫做它的生命周期。

Well, the lifecycle of this programme is 6 minutes, and as we are there, or thereabouts, it's time for us to head off.

本节目的生命周期是六分钟，我们时间已经到了，或者说快到了，所以我们该离开了。

Thanks for your company and hope you can join us again soon.

感谢您的陪伴，希望你能收听我们的下期节目。

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Bye for now.

再见。

Bye!

再见！