

Signs of a Circular Economy in Ukmergė: A Study by the JLC Team



2024

UAB Farmers Circle:



There's:

- Organic farm
- Event space "Black Barn"
- Restaurant "Red brick"
- Accommodation "Sleepy Horse"
- Outdoor amphitheater
- Farm-to-table store

"Farmers Circle" is a 700-hectare organic farm located in Radiškiai village, Ukmergė district. They raise cattle, broiler chickens, laying hens, grains, and a variety of vegetables.



- ✚ The farm is dedicated to producing organic food, prioritizing sustainability in every aspect of our operations.
- ✚ Farmers Circle is committed to sustainable practices, holding ourselves accountable for our environmental impact.
- ✚ Farmers Circle work in harmony with nature, making it the cornerstone of our farming practices.

Farmers Circle farm grows and processes vegetables on-site, eliminating the need for transportation and storage, and shortening the food supply chain.



One of the farm's core principles is zero waste. For example, vegetables that don't meet market standards are first used to make various spreads and dips, some are given to livestock, and the remainder is composted and later returned to the soil as natural fertilizer.



- ✚ In 2024, the Farmer Circle organized the 'Farm on Fire' festival. Across the 600-hectare site, not a single piece of litter was left behind.
- ✚ This festival's CO2 emissions were 10 times lower than the average emissions of other traditional festivals.



The Michelin Green Star, a prestigious award for sustainable dining, has been bestowed upon the Red Brick restaurant in Radiškiai.

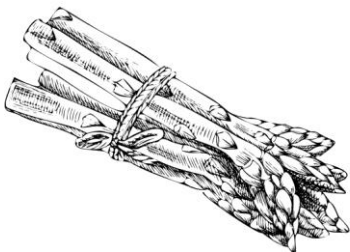
Genutės uogainė (Genute's berry spot)

Organic farm:

- ✚ Berries
- ✚ Fruits
- ✚ Vegetables
- ✚ Greens
- ✚ Products produced: jams, fruit purees for tea, spreads, condiments, dried treats, fermented vegetables.



Asparagus Festival



This farm uses no chemicals or heavy machinery. Their guiding principle is to share what they grow with all participants in the local biodiversity, including birds and insects. They cultivate enough for everyone. Their motto is: "Berries are food for kings," therefore, they must be pure and free of any pesticides. They strive to produce food that serves as both nourishment and medicine for children and adults alike.

Shopping centers in Ukmergė:



Sustainable shopping bags made from recycled plastic waste collected in those stores.

Discounts for multiple

An advertisement for a National Geographic water bottle. It features illustrations of a seal and an elephant. The text includes 'IŠKYLAUTOJAMS' and 'KELIONINIS PUODELIS NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC 400 ml talpa'. A price tag shows a discount from 8.09 to 5.09 (-40%).

Buy in bulk, but less often!

An advertisement for RASA juice. It shows two cans of juice (one orange, one green) and a glass. A red speech bubble says 'AKCIJA! PIRK 2 GAUK STIKLINĘ DOVANŲ'.



The deposit system



Akcija Darom! (Initiative Let's do it!)



„Darom“ is an annual nationwide clean-up initiative that takes place across Lithuania. The campaign started in 2008 with approximately 3,000 volunteers, growing to 70,000 in 2009, and reaching 250,000 volunteers by 2015. Ukmergė also participates in this initiative.

"Darom" is a community-driven initiative powered by volunteers dedicated to improving the environment. Local government, utility companies, and private businesses play a vital role by coordinating efforts, facilitating waste disposal, and supplying participants with necessary equipment like trash bags. Cleanup efforts focus on areas outside city limits, including parks, forests, riverbanks, and other natural spaces rarely maintained by regular municipal services.



Starting in 2021, the format was revised to "SEE IT THROUGH. Collect. Sort. Deliver." Since then, volunteers have been responsible for not just collecting litter but also sorting it and taking it to appropriate waste disposal facilities.

The Lithuanian National Commission for UNESCO sponsors/supports/endorsees the project as an initiative contributing to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.



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Let's do it together!