

76% of Basque youths usually separated household waste and 71% try to limit their water consumption

On occasion of the World Environmental Day, which falls on 5th June, the [Basque Youth Observatory](#) is presenting data from a study titled "[Youth and responsible consumption in the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country](#)" published in March, 2013.

The study includes, among other aspects, thirteen types of behaviour related to consumption and caring for the environment and establishes the regularity of these behaviours among young people. The thirteen types of behaviour studied are related to four areas: shopping, recycling, saving energy and mobility.

Common behaviours associated with sustainable consumption among young people aged 15 to 29 in the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country (%)



Source: Basque Youth Observatory

Separating household waste by type of waste (organic waste, plastic, glass, paper, etc.) is the recycling-related activity that most young people perform (76%). Young girls (79%) more than boys (74%) and those aged 25-29 (78%) more than those who are younger (the percentage is 73% in the 15-19 age group, and 76% for the 20-24 group).

Limiting water consumption as well as heating and air conditioning is next in percentage with 71% of young people who say they do so regularly. Once again, it is more common among those who are older; 75% of those aged 25 to 29 are more careful with their water consumption and 73% try to limit the use of heating and air conditioning. In this case, there are no differences between men and women.

69% of people use **recycling points** regularly. On the other hand, the **use of low consumption light bulbs** is common among 67% of young people.

64% of young people say they **usually travel on foot or by bike** and the same percentage say they **use public transport or carpools**. Contrary to what was the case in the previous cases, it is the younger people who use bicycles or walk more often (71% of those aged 15 to 19) and use public transport or carpool systems (78%).

Bringing your own bag or shopping cart is a regular experience for 63% of young people. The difference between men and women is very significant: 72% of girls said that they usually did so, while among men the percentage was only 55%. Given this difference, one might wonder whether the reason is increased sensitivity towards the environment by girls or the fact that boys do not usually go shopping; another example of inequality in the distribution of household chores.

It is in the field of shopping where there is more room for improvement and not only among the boys. Only half of young people (52%) usually buy seasonal fruits and vegetables, 34% state that try to buy products that are not excessively packaged, 32% buy recycled products, 18% avoid buying certain products for environmental reasons and 17% usually purchase organic products.

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