

Mini waste bin for **small litter items** – Innovation for a sustainable city

Urban Development Administration

Uppsala Municipality

November 2025



Small litter – a major challenge

Most street litter is small – cigarette butts, candy wrappers, chewing gum – but it still pollutes.

Small litter greatly impacts how we all feel in and perceive the public space, while remaining difficult and expensive to clean up.

We decided to develop our own mini waste bin to remedy this.



From idea to reality

2021

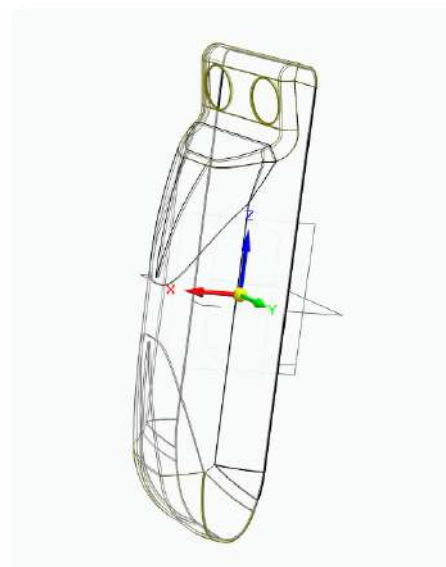
In the autumn of 2021, we began our journey of creating a mini waste bin that would be eco- as well as user-friendly for both citizens and sanitation staff.

2022

2023

2024

2025



Two prototype sizes produced in 2022

2021

2022

2023

2024

2025



Design improvement

The design was improved through tests and workshops with focus on easy emptying and shared problem-solving.

2021

2022

2023

2024

2025



Resulted in a final product in 2025

2021

2022

2023

2024

2025



Meet PICKU

Visible, yet non-intrusive
– colourful and playful design,
“intuitive”

Design, material and finishes
chosen for good drainage and
inlet protection – easy to clean

Smart pole mounting – “Pacman
solution” for smooth hanging
and emptying

Flame-retardant silicone,
corrosion-resistant steel, durable
ABS plastic.

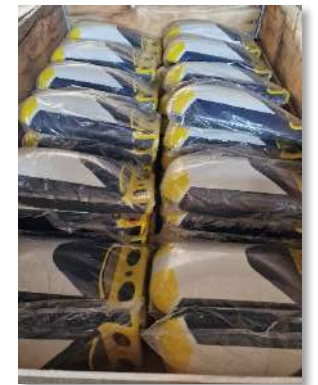


Sustainability profile

No plastic bag – built-in
silicone liner inside the
removable front section

Designed for small litter
– reduces misuse

Smart shipping stacked
in halves.





Cute and really visible.

Removes small litter and looks nice.

We need more and bigger.

It looks like Pikachu and almost has the same name. I have taken pictures.

How cute small trash bins the municipality has now.

Suggested locations:
At bus stops, In school yards, Outside restaurants & bars, Around the whole city.



This is PICKU

PICKU collects small litter items like gum, snus, candy wrappers and cigarette butts without using plastic bags, making it more eco-friendly. Tested for three months at selected spots, PICKU helps us understand litter habits and improve urban cleanliness. In November, PICKU will represent Sweden at the **European Trophies Award 2025**.

Together, we keep Uppsala clean!

Läs mer på:



Pilot

Mid-September
– 10 units were installed
in central Uppsala.

QR code for more
information and the
opportunity to give
feedback.

Mata mig med godisapper, glassinrar,
fingrar, smus, klotris, tuggummin,
muggar... Mums!
Jag har ingen plastpåse-mage, jag töms
och används på ett snällare sätt för miljön.

Tillsammans håller vi Uppsala rent.



What now?

We are now monitoring the mini bins.

They are being used, and their exterior is free from stickers and graffiti.

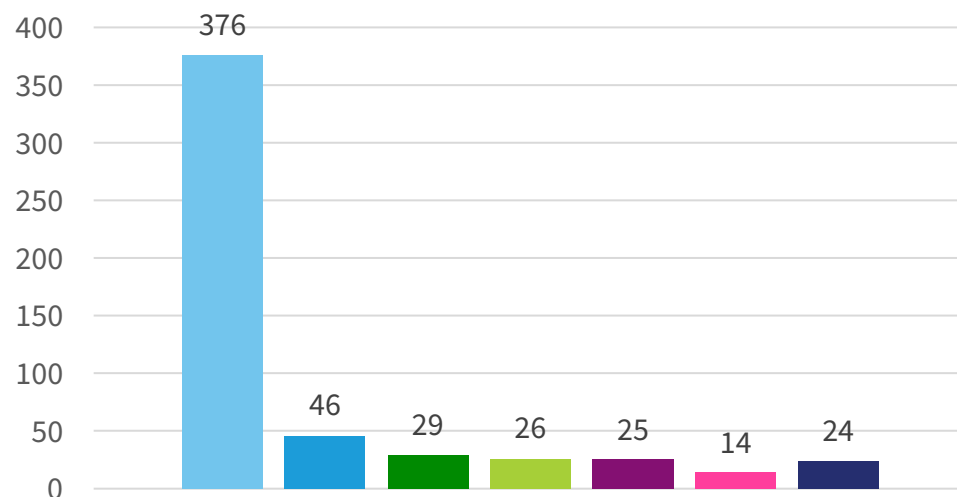
Depending on where PICKU is mounted the deposited litter inside differs slightly.

Litter statistics are being monitored.



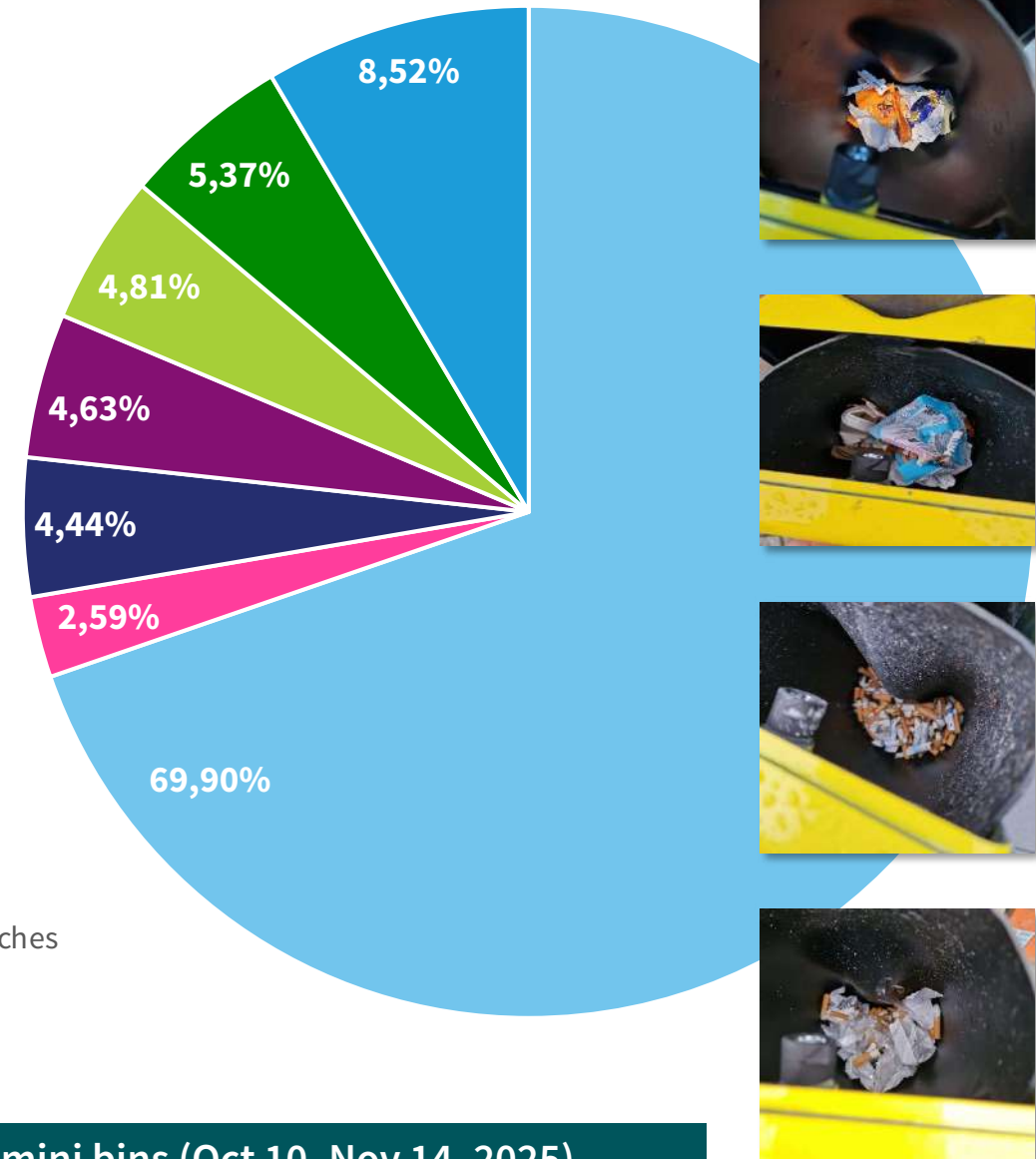
Statistics

- Collected items roughly reflects the proportions of litter categories that generally end up on the ground.
- Most common items are cigarette butts, receipts, candy wrappers, gum, snus and nicotine pouches.
- No sabotage/damage observed on the mini bins.



Waste categories

- Cigarette butts
- Receipts
- Candy wrappers
- Chewing gum
- Snus/nicotine pouches
- Aluminum foil
- Other





Moving forward

Exploring collaboration with e-scooter companies for mobile waste bins

E-scooter companies handle maintenance and emptying as part of their normal operations

This initiative boosts sustainability and social goodwill

We hope to make the larger version of the mini bin come to life.



EUROPEAN AWARDS

📍 **Parc Phoenix
Nice**

📅 **On the 27th and 28th
of November 2025**

**MÉTROPOLE
NICE CÔTE D'AZUR**

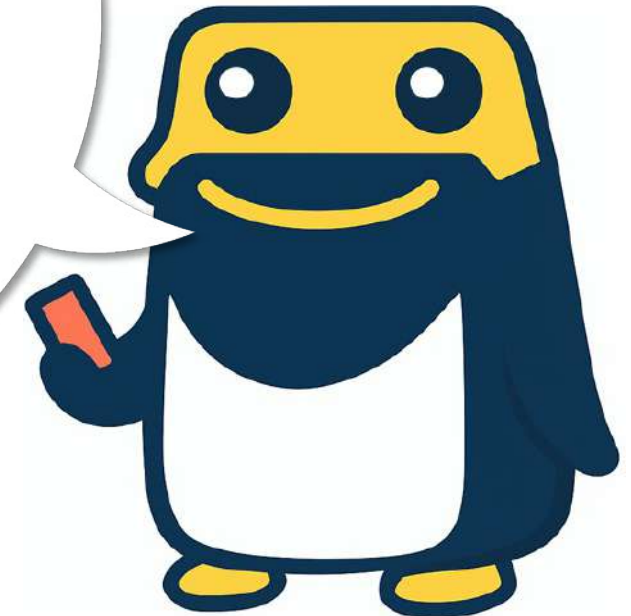
AVpu
Association des Villes
pour la Propreté Urbaine

Summary

Promotes collaboration and innovation with a user-focused, sustainable approach.

Engages residents and builds goodwill within the community.

Advances Uppsala's environmental goals by *reducing litter and plastic* while *simplifying waste management* and *boosting quality of life*.



Thanks for listening!
Merci beaucoup!

