

CITIZEN SCIENCE WORKSHOPS

How can you make a computer that becomes soil again, one that is biodegradable? This question was the driver behind several citizen science workshops that we held for children and young people. We used the Ethical Hardware Kit as a mini hacklab that we took to different schools, culture centres, the Maker Faire and a summer school for children called 'Kinderuniversität' ('Kids university'). In all workshops, the participants were first invited to play a self-made interactive storytelling game called Salon of Open Secrets. In a playful way, this introduced the gamers to issues related to the manufacturing of electronics and e-waste. Next, when they wanted to, the citizen scientists took apart broken printers to find useful parts and brainstormed about sustainable local materials that could be used instead of the common toxic conflict materials. Some said we could use wax, wood or eggshells as non-conductive and insulating materials. Others said plants or juicy things could become conductive materials in a circuit. Inspired by these conversations, the citizen scientists started to sketch out prototypes. They surprised us with jaw-dropping, fantastic ideas for technology that is sustainable and could be used without access to existing technology or a power source.



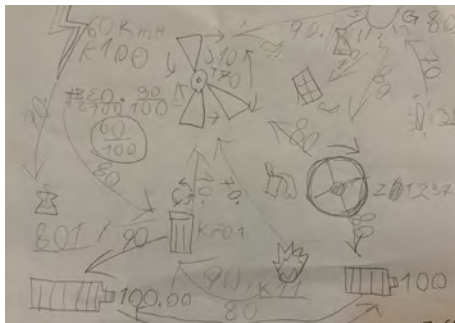
Salon of Open Secrets at BRG Pichelmayergasse. High School in Vienna with Mir* Raggam-Alji, Petra Weixelbraun and Stefanie Wuschitz, 2023
Teacher: Mario Hofmann-Pillai



Salon of Open Secrets at Makerfair Vienna with Patrícia J. Reis, Petra Weixelbraun and Stefanie Wuschitz, 2023



Salon of Open Secrets at Bildungszentrum
Kenyongasse. High School in Vienna with
Patrícia J. Reis and Stefanie Wuschitz,
2023
Teacher: Eva Kartusch



Salon of Open Secrets at TechLab
of Vienna Museum of Science and
Technology with Patrícia J. Reis, Theresa
Schütz and Stefanie Wuschitz, 2023