

The background image shows a river cleanup operation. A small white boat with a person on board is positioned near a large pile of floating trash, which is contained by blue floating barriers. The river is murky brown. In the background, there are buildings, including a prominent blue one, and a concrete bridge structure. A billboard for 'BDC Bank' is visible in the distance.

# EVERWAVE ANNUAL REPORT 2025

For clean rivers and less waste – creating impact together

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# 1. FOR CLEAN RIVERS AND LESS WASTE

Our mission is clear: we stop plastic waste before it reaches the oceans. By using innovative technologies and collaborating with local communities, we create sustainable solutions for one of the most pressing environmental challenges of our time. Water pollution affects us all – from the smallest rivers to the largest oceans.

Every piece of plastic we collect stays out of our oceans. This is what we work for every day – from Germany and at our projects on the ground. Every kilogram, every boat landing, and every sorted plastic bottle is a success. Step by step, and together with our partners, we are working toward our vision: clean rivers and oceans.

**“ Even after five years, it’s still special to see how an idea, nurtured with dedication, turns into reality. Every location is unique, yet all are connected through our mission. Environmental pollution is a global problem, and each of our sites can learn from one another, whether in Cambodia or Albania. Every kilogram collected is a shared success.**

(Dr. Tilman Flöhr, CTO and Co-Founder)

## OUR VISION

Clean rivers and oceans for future generations

## STRONG PARTNERSHIPS

Creating impact together with local and global partners

## CONTINUOUS GROWTH

New locations and expanded capacities worldwide



## 2. CREATING FUTURE: MILESTONES 2025

The everwave year 2025 was marked by three major milestones: In March, we launched a new cleanup site in Albania; in May, we surpassed the two-million-kilogram mark; and in autumn, we successfully closed our growth financing round. Three outstanding highlights that will carry everwave into the future!

These achievements are the result of years of hard work, strategic planning, and the tireless commitment of our entire team. Each milestone represents not just a number or a date, but improved habitats, protected ecosystems, and a cleaner future for generations to come.



The combination of these three milestones clearly demonstrates that everwave is on a sustainable growth trajectory. With new locations, we are expanding our geographic reach; by reaching the two-million-kilogram mark, we showcase our measurable impact; and with the successful funding round, we secure the resources for further growth. These achievements inspire us to look to the future with even greater ambition.



## 2.1 NEW CLEANUP LOCATION IN ALBANIA

Beaches littered with plastic waste. The sand is barely visible, buried beneath an endless mass of plastic bottles, bags, and containers. The crunch of plastic underfoot defines the soundscape. This beach is located here in Europe, at the Ishmi Delta in Albania, where the Ishmi River flows into the Mediterranean. For years, Albania has struggled with severe environmental pollution, particularly along riverbanks, in rivers, and on beaches – and the Ishmi is the most polluted river in the country. About one-third of Albania's population lives along this relatively short river, which is only around 75 km long.



### THE SITUATION IN ALBANIA

The environmental situation in Albania is alarming. The Ishmi River, which flows through densely populated areas, has over the years become one of the most polluted waterways in Europe. Its proximity to the capital, Tirana, exacerbates the problem.

The Ishmi Delta, where the river empties into the Mediterranean, reveals the full extent of the pollution. Here, waste from the entire river accumulates, forming massive deposits that impact both the marine ecosystem and the local population.



# OUR SOLUTION: TWO LONG-TERM CLEANUP SITES

Together with our local partner, Lulzim Baumann and Recycling Albania, we decided to take action. In 2025, we launched two new long-term cleanup sites in Albania. One is located at the Ishmi Delta near the capital, Tirana, and the other in the north of Albania, specifically in Kukës. Here, the waste-collecting boat operates on Lake Fierza along the Drin River. The site was strategically chosen, as Lake Fierza and the Drin are important sources of drinking water and energy for the country.



The strategic selection of these sites is based on a careful analysis of the pollution situation and the potential for impact. Both locations represent critical points in Albania’s water system, where interventions can achieve the greatest effect. The proximity of the Ishmi Delta to Tirana allows us to reach a large population directly and raise awareness about the waste problem.

## Ishmi Delta Site (Tirana)

- Proximity to the capital, with over 800,000 inhabitants
- Mouth into the Mediterranean and a critical intervention point
- The most polluted river in Albania

## Kukës Site (Lake Fierza)

- Important source of drinking water for the region
- Hydropower generation
- Prevention of downstream transport of waste

“It's amazing to see how a connection between two like-minded organizations can grow into a vibrant project. I’m proud that we can now implement a long-term initiative together with Lulzim and Recycling Albania. After all, the waste problem is not only in Asia. It exists here in Europe as well.”

(Dr. Tilman Flöhr, CTO and Co-Founder)



# EVERWAVE ZERO-WASTE CENTER IN KUKËS

The Major Problem in Albania: Waste management infrastructure is either non-existent or not functioning properly in many areas. There is no nationwide system for handling waste, which means that the majority is either burned illegally or ends up in unauthorized landfills, on roadsides, riverbanks, or directly in rivers. As a result, there are few places where waste can be collected and sorted before potential processing. For example, in 2019, Albania had only four official landfills for safe waste disposal.

These structural problems are deeply rooted and require long-term, sustainable solutions. True change can only be achieved by building functioning systems and collaborating with local partners.

To create lasting impact, we work not only with our waste-collecting boat but also through our own Zero-Waste Center directly at the Kukës site. At the facility, waste can be sorted, baled, and efficiently transported for further processing. This Zero-Waste Center holds special significance for us: not only did we install the first-ever baler in Kukës, but the facility was also given a beautiful new design through a collaboration with mural artist Martin Hirner.



## INNOVATION MEETS ART

The Zero-Waste Center in Kukës is more than just a functional facility - it is a symbol of change and hope. The installation of the first baler in the region marks a technological milestone and enables more efficient waste processing.

The artistic design by Martin Hirner transforms the facility into a visual statement. The colorful mural draws attention to environmental protection and inspires the local community. Art and environmental action merge into a powerful message.

|   |  |                                       |
|---|--|---------------------------------------|
| 01  | 02   | 03                                    |
| <b>COLLECTION</b>   | <b>TRANSPORT</b>                                       | <b>SORTING</b>                        |
| Collection via the boat on Lake Fierza and the Drin River | Transport of waste to the Zero-Waste Center            | Professional sorting by material type |
| 04  | 05   |                                       |
| <b>COMPACTION</b>   | <b>RECYCLING</b>                                       |                                       |
| Compaction in the baler into transportable bales          | Forwarding to recycling partners for material recovery |                                       |



## 2.2 TWO MILLION KILOGRAMS OF WASTE COLLECTED

“

**For us, every kilogram matters because it ultimately doesn't end up in the oceans. At the same time, it's important to celebrate successes, and reaching two million kilograms is such a milestone. Now, our focus is on scaling what we've learned. The next step: ten million kilograms.**

(Clemens Feigl, CEO and Co-Founder)

”

At the beginning of everwave, there was a vision: clean rivers, waterways, and oceans for a better future. Since the majority of waste is carried into the oceans by rivers, it quickly became clear that this is where action had to start. And in 2020, it finally began: the first kilogram of waste was collected in the Hron River in Slovakia. This was followed by the deployment of our first waste-collecting boat, and as the fleet grew, so did our impact. Stationary projects then followed in Cambodia (Mekong), Thailand (Chao Phraya), and Albania (Drin). Supported by local teams on the ground and purpose-built Zero-Waste Centers, lasting impact is ensured.





## 2.3 CLOSING OF THE INVESTOR ROUND

Waste in waterways doesn't wait for us, and the pressure to grow is ever-present. That's why pursuing a growth funding round was, in our view, the logical next step. Fortunately, we were able to complete it in August and bring strong partners on board!

Together with the Viessmann Generations Group, KSK-Wagniskapital GmbH, the European Social Innovation and Impact Fund (ESIIF), as well as existing investors such as Julia Krogmann and Gloria Sahler from Sista Act, everwave is taking the next big step to further expand its global impact. With Viessmann as a strong strategic partner, the development of sustainable strategies for river cleanup can be accelerated.

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### **VISSMANN GENERATIONS GROUP**

Strategic partner for sustainable  
technology development and scaling

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### **KSK-WAGNISKAPITAL**

Financial expertise and local presence  
for sustainable growth

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### **ESIIF**

European fund focused on social  
innovation and societal impact

# SHAPING THE FUTURE TOGETHER

The investments and partnerships enable us to expand into new regions and strengthen the vision of clean waterways worldwide. Together with our new partners and existing investors, such as capacura and NRW.Bank, as well as the entire everwave team, we can continue shaping the habitats of the future.

The successful funding round is more than just an injection of capital - it is a vote of confidence in our mission, our methods, and our team. The diversity of our investors, from established companies like Viessmann to specialized impact funds and dedicated angel investors, demonstrates the broad support for our vision.

This funding round marks the beginning of a new growth phase. With secured resources and strong partners, we can pursue our ambitious goals for the coming years and multiply our positive impact on the environment.

**“Over the past two years, we have placed a strong focus on our product, the Plastic Credits, and further developed the entire organization. The funding round is a confirmation that this path was the right one. We are excited to now grow faster and, in doing so, create even greater impact.**

(Clemens Feigl, CEO and Co-Founder)

**”**

## WHAT THE FUNDING ENABLES

- Expansion into at least three new regions worldwide
- Development of new technologies for more efficient waste collection
- Expansion of the Zero-Waste Center infrastructure
- Strengthening local teams and training programs
- Scaling the Plastic Credits system
- Strengthening awareness-raising and educational efforts

## STRATEGIC ADVANTAGES

With Viessmann as a strategic partner, we gain access to technological expertise and a global network. Their knowledge in sustainable technologies and system solutions perfectly complements our operational capabilities.

The combination of impact-oriented investors and experienced business partners creates an ideal environment for accelerated yet sustainable growth. This enables us to expand more rapidly without compromising the quality of our work.



### 3. 2025: A YEAR OF IMPACT

The year 2025 was marked by measurable impact and sustainable growth. The numbers speak for themselves: nearly 450,000 kilograms of waste collected, a team that grew to 42 members, and numerous impactful social media campaigns that significantly increased our reach on the issue of plastic pollution. The opening of two new locations in Albania strengthened our presence in Europe and allowed us to address critical pollution hotspots.

We are particularly proud of the positive developments in waste valorization, whether through co-processing or recycling. This demonstrates our commitment to a true circular economy and sustainable solutions that go beyond mere collection. Our Zero-Waste Centers play a central role in this effort.

**447.000 KILOGRAMS**

amount of waste collected in 2025

**2.4 MIO. KILOGRAMS**

total waste collected since 2020

**42 TEAM MEMBERS**

committed people for clean waterways



## 4. THE PEOPLE BEHIND EVERWAVE

Behind the numbers and milestones are people – committed individuals who contribute every day to turning our vision into reality. Our on-the-ground projects succeed only because our team navigates the boats, transports waste to the Zero-Waste Centers, and sorts it for further processing. Every single person is essential to our success.

We would like to introduce a few of them: Lulzim Baumann leads our Albania site, while Chhoeurng Chann and Toem Phornn navigate the boats in Cambodia.



#NotInOurRivers

### LULZIM BAUMANN

Site manager Albania, environmental engineer, and pioneer in circular economy



### CHHOEURNG CHANN

Boat captain Cambodia, working daily on the Mekong



### TOEM PHORNN

Boat captain Cambodia, expert in river waste collection



## 4.1 LULZIM BAUMANN: FOR CLEAN RIVERS

“Don't wait. Start small. Ask questions, learn, get involved. You don't need a title - just commitment and consistency. Your voice matters.”

(Lulzim Baumann)



Lulzim Baumann grew up along the Ishëm River in Albania and witnessed as a child how the once-pristine river turned into a dumping ground. Driven by this dramatic change, Lulzim began advocating for clean waters and rivers from an early age. Motivated by a strong desire to make a difference, he pursued a degree in Environmental Engineering and later completed a Master's in Environmental Planning and Waste Management.

Today, he is recognized as one of Albania's leading waste management experts. The waste problem in Albania is complex and stems from multiple factors: from a lack of infrastructure and virtually no waste separation to limited public awareness, especially in rural areas.



### PIONEERING WORK IN ALBANIA

**everwave:** "What have been your biggest challenges so far?"

**Lulzim:** "Bureaucratic hurdles, lack of funding, and missing political will - but also mental barriers among the population. I had to build everything from scratch. That's why I founded Albania's first Circular Economy Park, to provide a practical example. With RecycAl and the Circular Economy Park, we demonstrate concrete solutions: waste is collected, processed, and reused. We provide training, raise awareness, and push for political change."

**everwave:** "Amid all these challenges, what gives you the strength to keep going?"

**Lulzim:** "My love for nature and my belief in change. Every child who learns to separate waste gives me hope. Every partnership, like the one with everwave, shows that we are not alone."

Lulzim demonstrates that change can begin with a single step. What started as a small cleanup effort has grown into projects such as the Circular Economy Park and a joint cleanup site with everwave.



# 4.2 DAILY WORK ON THE BOAT

In Cambodia, our team cleans rivers and waterways every day. We talk about the challenges they face in their daily work with the two boat operators, Chhoeurng Chann and Toem Phornn.

1

**everwave:** "What daily tasks and routines are there on the boat?"

**Toem:** "My daily work schedule starts at 8:00 a.m. and continues until 11:00 a.m., then resumes from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Working on a boat can be challenging, but collecting trash is manageable. However, we spend a considerable amount of time each day gathering waste and traveling along the river from one location to another."

2

**everwave:** "What challenges do you face while working on the boat?"

**Chhoeurng:** "The biggest challenges of working on the boat on the Mekong are the strong smell of the garbage and the difficult conditions during heavy rain and wind, which make collecting the waste on the river more challenging."

3

**everwave:** "How many kilograms of plastic do you remove every day?"

**Toem:** "Our team collects between 600 and 800 kilograms of plastic from the Mekong every day. On some days, depending on the situation, it can even exceed 1,000 kilograms."

4

**everwave:** "What is your personal wish for the future?"

**Chhoeurng:** "I hope that rivers and seas will be free of plastic and waste in the future. I also wish that everwave continues the project in our country and expands it to more provinces beyond Phnom Penh."



## 4.3 HANDS-ON IN ALBANIA

**"Even helping out on-site showed us once again how important our work is and that every single Plastic Credit truly matters."**

At everwave, we work from all sorts of places across Germany and usually only see each other online in our day-to-day work. That's why our annual team week is always a fixed date in the calendar and already a highlight in itself. But this year was even more special! Just a few months after our long-term cleanup site in Kukës was opened, it was time for us to pack our sturdy shoes and head to Albania!



**CLEANUP AT THE  
ISHMI DELTA**



**ECO-PARK VISIT IN  
TIRANA**



**CHECKING OUT OUR  
BOAT**



**WORKING AT THE  
ZERO-WASTE  
CENTER**

In addition to strategic meetings and setting goals for the coming years, the focus was of course on the operations and facilities on site. The agenda included a cleanup at the Ishmi Delta, a visit to the Eco-Park near Tirana, inspecting our boat, and sorting and compacting waste at our waste press in Kukës. So for one week, we swapped our laptops for gloves - and off we went!

“

**You can only truly understand the situation in the countries where we work when you are standing right in the middle of the waste by a river. Our team event was very eye-opening in this regard and has motivated me even more to fight for clean waterways worldwide.**





”



# 5. SPECIAL PARTNERSHIPS

Our work would not be possible without strong partners. In 2025, we were able to deepen existing partnerships and establish new, valuable collaborations. These partnerships allow us to increase our impact and develop innovative solutions.

Through various approaches, we were also able to demonstrate once again how creatively a collaboration with everwave can be designed - not only to make our rivers and seas cleaner together, but also to inspire as many people as possible to care about water protection.

| 1   | 2   | 3  | 4   |
|---|---|--|---|
| <br><b>HANNOVER RÜCK</b><br>Supports the everwave foundation gGmbH in further expanding our project in Phnom Penh, Cambodia | <br><b>DELOITTE</b><br>Supports our project in Albania, where the partnership has allowed us, among other things, to set up a Zero-Waste Center | <br><b>OLDEN-BURGISCHE LANDESBANK</b><br>Worked with us on an amazing campaign against river pollution and collected 50,000 kilograms of waste | <br><b>BLACKROLL</b><br>Konnte durch eine Weihnachtskampagne mit |

“  
Thanks to all partners and supporters who backed us in 2025 by purchasing Plastic Credits. You show that business success, sustainability, and environmental protection can go hand in hand.  
(Kristina Brantl, Head of Sales and Marketing)

”

# 6. PLANET WILD: CREATING IMPACT TOGETHER

Planet Wild is a non-profit organization that uses donations to implement impactful conservation projects worldwide, provides transparent reporting on their execution, and documents their work through a YouTube channel. Last year, Planet Wild also supported the expansion of our mission in Albania.

Thanks to a €100,000 grant from Planet Wild and the commitment of other partners, a former factory was converted into a Zero-Waste Center on site, and our waste collection boat was transported to Albania. In this way, everwave and Planet Wild are working together to ensure that plastic is not only collected but permanently removed from the cycle before it reaches the sea.

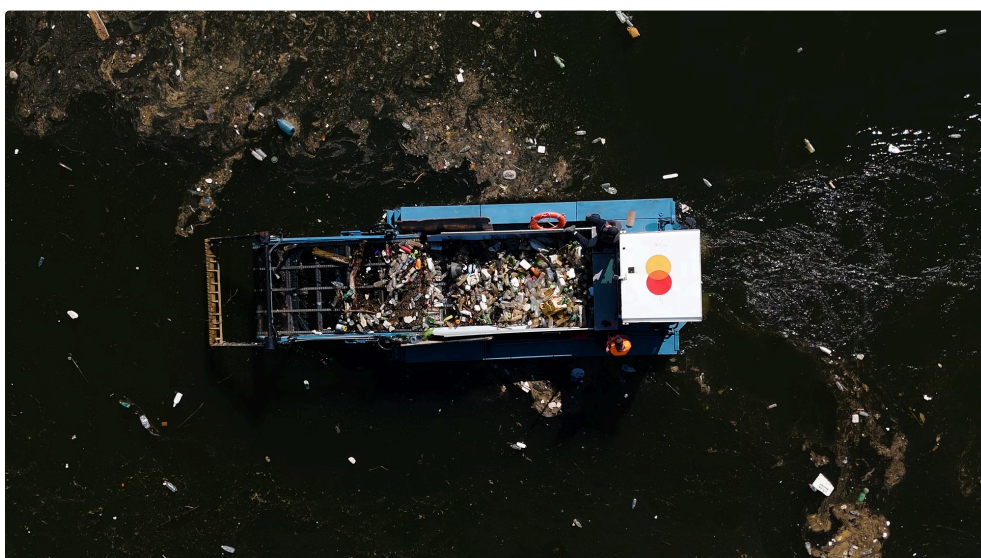


## REACH AND IMPACT

Beyond the impact on site, Planet Wild's video reached over 2.4 million people - showing how real impact and raising awareness go hand in hand.

The partnership with Planet Wild demonstrates the power of collaboration: by combining our operational expertise with Planet Wild's massive reach, we can not only collect waste but also raise awareness about the issue among millions of people.

[Watch the Planet Wild mission](#)



## 2.4 MIO.

PEOPLE REACHED

## €100.000

IN SUPPORT

everwave



# 7. CONCLUSION

The year 2025 was marked by growth, new partnerships, and measurable impact. With over two million kilograms of waste collected, new sites in Albania, and a successful funding round, we reached important milestones.

But the journey is far from over - and we are more determined than ever to keep going. For cleaner rivers and less waste. Together for a better future.



More information about everwave: [www.everwave.de/en](http://www.everwave.de/en)