



The Second Life of a Book. Investing in Nature Locally.

A Library Book Exchange in Gliwice



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“The Second Life of a Book. Investing in Nature Locally. A Library Book Exchange in Gliwice



When: 7 June 2026, 10:00 – 18:00

Where: Biblioforum, CH Forum, Lipowa 1, 44-100 Gliwice

Host: Aneta Poczęta, eco-manager of the City of Gliwice

The initiative is an official EU Green Week Partner Event.

Can investing in nature begin with simple everyday decisions? The initiative “Second Life of Books. Investing in Nature Locally” in Gliwice shows that the answer is yes. Actions like this, accessible to every resident, are an important part of building a nature-positive economy.

When we think about climate protection, we often imagine large-scale investments such as wind farms, photovoltaic installations or modern heating systems. These are essential elements of the energy transition. However, a significant share of emissions actually occurs much earlier – during the production stage, long before products reach our homes. In many cases, 70–90% of a product’s total carbon footprint is generated during manufacturing.

Every new item requires raw materials, energy for production, transportation and packaging. For this reason, one of the most effective ways to reduce emissions is to extend the life of items that already exist.

This idea lies at the heart of the library exchange initiative in Gliwice. During the event, residents will be able to pass on books they have already read, albums, maps, board games, puzzles and music records. Items that have completed their story for one person may become the beginning of a new story for someone else.

Such initiatives reflect the European waste hierarchy, where the highest priorities are preventing waste and reusing products. Recycling is important, but it requires energy and industrial processes. Reusing items avoids the need for manufacturing and transporting new products, thereby reducing resource consumption and CO₂ emissions.

The event also has an educational dimension. Participants will learn where the largest carbon footprint of everyday products originates and why reuse is one of the simplest and most effective environmental solutions. At the end of the initiative, a summary will present how many items were given a second life and how much CO₂ emissions were avoided thanks to the collective decisions of residents.

The initiative demonstrates in practice that investing in nature does not always require large financial investments. Often it begins with conscious consumer choices and responsible use of resources.

The event is organised as part of the project “Silesia. Blue Sky Restored”.



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