1. Place
Marseille, France

Name of the solution
Atelier Aïno

Description of the solution
Atelier Aïno is an architecture and material design firm founded by three friends in Marseille. They have developed an innovative approach to building that prefers rehabilitation to demolition, reducing the amount of waste generated by their projects. But when demolition cannot be avoided, they use the scraps to create a material for the new design—a process that carries both the material and historical foundations of place into the future. Additionally, the studio brings a social component to their work. For each project, they involve the customers and even the community in the build process, focusing on the transmission of techniques unique to Marseille to the next generation.

www.atelier-aino.com
2.

Place
Berlin, Germany

Name of the solution
Original Unverpackt

Description of the solution
Original Unverpackt, which translates to ‘unpackaged’, is the first supermarket in Berlin, and possibly the world, to be founded on the principles of zero waste. Not only do they avoid plastic bags at the checkout counter; they sell their products without any packaging material. Customers bring their own containers to the shop, fill them, and pay by weight – or piece, as appropriate. What began as a plastic-free delivery service for a set number of customers has evolved into a storefront with a steadily-growing customer base and even an online shop.

www.original-unverpackt.de
3.

Place
Amsterdam, Netherlands

Name of the solution
Peerby

Description of the solution
It might be Peerby’s simplicity that has made it so successful. The concept is universally understood: if you find yourself in need of a common household good – such as a drill or a mixer or a boxing glove, ask your neighbor. Today, with technology’s ubiquity, that becomes much easier. Peerby is an App that facilitates the process. No money changes hands; no contracts are signed. Peerby is changing the buy-first mentality and helping to restore neighborly relationships at the same time.

www.peerby.com
4.

Place
Ivanić-Grad, Croatia

Name of the solution
Pumpkin Fest

Description of the solution
In the small town outside Zagreb, the community was looking for a way to support the local economy, so the city started an annual pumpkin festival every autumn. As part of the festivities, citizens who were interested in learning to garden were given a starter pack that included all the necessary pieces to start a home garden - indoors, on the balcony, or in the yard. But the most important component was the seeds: pumpkin seeds, to be exact. The participants could then sell their pumpkins back to the city which would give them to local producers of pumpkin seed oil and pumpkin liqueur, as well as restaurants and bakeries that specialize in pumpkin recipes. The result was the engagement of the entire community in the pumpkin trade, an industry that hopes to replace the fading gas industry in this post-industrial town.
5.

Place
London, England

Name of the solution
Takeaway Tiffins

Description of the solution
The BBC recently highlighted a restauranteur, Moslek Uddin, who has swapped out plastic and other disposable containers for metal tiffins at his predominately takeout business. Tiffins are small food containers made from tin that can keep food hot or cold for about an hour. Customers can return them on their next visit – possibly increasing repeat business – and Moslek reduces the amount of waste from his restaurant.