



Rome metro offers trash-for-tickets to tackle plastic pollution

October 02, 2019

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You don't have enough money for a metro ticket in Rome? No worries, just collect a few plastic bottles and you'll be able to ride for free.

1. At San Giovanni metro station in Rome, passengers are queuing up at recycling machines instead of ticket machines, ready to deposit plastic bottles in exchange for train tickets.

2. The new eco-friendly initiative rewards travelers in the Italian capital with 5 cents of credit for every plastic bottle fed into the compactor.

3. That means you'll have to recycle 30 bottles to afford one standard ticket costing 1 euro 50.

ROME RESIDENT, CLAUDIO PERELLI, SAYING:

"I think that if you involve people in recycling...if you use money to involve people in recycling, even those who have no civic sense will recycle."

4. Rome has suffered with rubbish problems for decades.

5. Trash cans are often seen overflowing.

6. And residents and tourists are affected by the foul stench of uncollected garbage -- often seen piled up in front of ancient monuments.

PRESIDENT OF ENVIRONMENT GROUP LEGAMBIENTE, STEFANO CIAFANI, SAYING:

"The situation is quite disastrous. Finally, Rome, thanks to Europe, closed its Malagrotta landfill site in 2012 which contained 80% of the waste produced in this city but, in recent years, Rome has failed to create an efficient system for differentiated waste collection, as Milan has done, and it has not built the recycling plants that are fundamental for a city where three million people live.

7. If the waste treatment plant is closed and no recycling plants are created on the territory, the waste will continue to be exported outside the region as it is today."

8. Trash-for-tickets recycling machines will be placed in three metro stations for a 12-month testing phase.