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### Second-hand is “in”

*Donate or sell old clothes? Why not? You gain space in the closet, it's sustainable and someone else is happy about the clothes.*

Around 1.3 million tons of clothing are disposed of in Germany each year. That's way too much. It is much more sustainable to pass on T-shirts or jeans to others when you no longer like them. There are many ways to do this: flea markets, swaps, online shops or second-hand stores. The Westend shop in Oldenburg has been around for 30 years. I asked its owner how their concept works and how popular second-hand goods are in Oldenburg.

The clientèle at Westend is diverse, and includes young and old, men and women. Nevertheless, female customers clearly make up the majority. Students also account for a large proportion. They are used to regularly getting rid of some clothes and looking for new ones. When you hand in your clothes that are lying around uselessly at home, the shop owner first looks to see if the clothes are clean and in good condition. She also makes sure that they are still fashionable. However, it doesn't have to be the latest trend. All the things the merchant takes are displayed in the store for a maximum of one month. What is not sold by then goes back to the original owner.

For the clothes that get sold, the original owner receives half of the price. The shop keeps the other half - plus 19 percent VAT. That's how Westend operates. Other shops offer different price models.

Although there are now many online second-hand shops, demand at Westend has not slowed. The shop is always well-visited and the appointment calendar is full of customers who want to hand in their clothes. For many second-hand customers, the shop represents a great opportunity to act sustainably and earn a little money as well.

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"Hauptsache gut verpackt!"



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