

P1: My name is Selve Ringma, the age is 47, (.) currently I'm working as a teacher of art in art school, in local art school and my family status is single; (.) I have two kids and I live in Mõisamaa village, Märjamaa county, (.) Estonia. #00:00:36-7#

L: Thank you. Thanks a lot. (...) So the first question would be: What did you use water for today? #00:01:07-1#

P1: What I did use water for: (.) for drinking, for (.) toilet, for cleaning, for tea, for food, for...hmm maybe I don't remember all that. For many occasions, yeah. #00:01:28-6#

L: Hmm. Thank you. And do you know, where your water is from? #00:01:37-9#

P1: (.) Yeah, we have local well here and it's (.) it's coming from our local well it's... I don't know the right word in English. It's not spring water but coming from under the ground. #00:01:59-7#

L: (.) And how would you describe your usage of water? #00:02:10-0#

P1: (.) What do you mean? You mean like in...like ecological? #00:02:17-9#

L: For example, yeah. #00:02:27-3#

P1: Hmm... As I still use water toilet then it's not so wise. But otherwise I'm very (.) careful with water. I don't waste water. I always use small quantities and I'm aware that this (.) Yeah, I don't let tabs run or do anything like that. And yeah, and I try to use as (.) as little as possible. Although in Estonia we don't have water problem, but on planet scale of course it's big issue. #00:03:21-6#

L: Hmm. And what value does water have to you? #00:03:26-7#

P1: Ehh, I, like if I'm considering it, like on an every day level, than it's my most favorite drink. Like I like to drink water more than any other drink at all. So even more than tea or.. I like just the tap water most of all. (.) And emotionally water is for me (.) something really (..) balancing and cleaning. I like to go to swim. During the summer I swim a lot and I have connection with water as an element more than with other elements, I feel. I feel more connected with water, so yeah. It's, (.) I think it's in different levels. #00:04:40-1#

L: Hmm. And if you imagine the future, the year 2050, what do you think the situation of water around the world will look like? #00:04:53-7#

P1: Hmm, I don't have so much knowledge to (.) estimate it myself, but the studies that I have heard of give really bad (.) future for us. Water will.. that there will be regions of lack of water and there will be lot of areas where the water is not clean and these kind of issues. So yeah, (.) I think it's one of the most important ecological issues of today. Also the ocean, that I haven't actually talked yet, but the ocean is (.) having so much influences from our civilization so.. so I don't know. And also that the water level in oceans will be rising and that (.) But for me it's (..) for me it's something that I still need to get more knowledge. I have been reading articles, but it's not.. but I feel that I don't really know, what is going to happen. #00:01:41-0#

L: (.) Thank you. Yeah, and.. So now I think we have more specific questions for you. Maybe you could start to describe the way you are living here in this eco-village? #00:01:56-2#

P1: Related to water, or..? #00:01:59-1#

L: Yeah, but also in general. #00:02:02-5#

P1: In general, like me personally #00:02:05-1#

L: Or as.. you in a community (..) #00:02:11-0#

P1: Hmm. (.) I live quite a (..) simple live here. I heat my ovens; I work out outside, I do a lot of things here; I raise my kids here, the older one is going to local school; then we have these (.) these kind of events for ourselves and for the guests and I participate in these events; then I also go to work outside in this local art school and; and then once a week I go to Tallinn to Ukulele orchestra rehearsals and yeah, it's (.) I think not to complicated life here. #00:03:26-4#

L: Hmm, And why did you decide to live in an eco-village?
#00:03:34-0#

P1: The reasons, there have been many and I think they also have been changing during the time I have been living here. First I didn't know much about eco-villages and I just came, because I was invited by one of the (..) people here and then I started to understand more, why I'm here. (.) I feel that I'm here to learn cooperation. (.) I could easily live in city and just have my nuclear family and job and it could be also a very nice life, it doesn't matter. But I.. at some point in my life, already some years ago, I understood that (.) that there is something about individualism that I don't like. And I'm..I felt that I'm myself very individualistic, I'm very much self-centered and I wanted to more relate to people, more cooperate and more come out of this individualistic shell that I just made good life for myself and maybe like for my family, very small sense. To widen my family and that's what I feel here. I'm very much supported by the people who

live here and I hope that I support with my work them as well and (.) this sense of belonging to, to the tribe that we have here, this is very unique I think. I have been living in different places and I have been feeling also connected with other families and friends and (.) but here I feel it's like more close. But I didn't know it before I came, so, so it's.. it has developed, yeah. #00:01:12-7#

L: Yeah, and (..) Mõisamaa is also called a community of a low like climate footprint. How do you try to lower your footprint? #00:01:28-2#

P1: (laughs) I personally had lower footprint before I think, because I was living even like more simple life and had smaller living space and had less expenses and was eating more food that was grown by myself before coming here. So I haven't really lowered my footprint. But.. but I think I'm quite extreme example in this community, because other people have come from cities and, and had really different levels of income and I also had before coming here a really low income. So it's..it also was making my choices more limited. And for example I was using all the time the compost toilet before coming here, but now when I have this water toilet in my living space and it is so easy to use it, then I still feel that (.) And also children use it mostly. They..I think they are only using water toilet and I'm using like (..) some of the occasions. So yeah, and, and what is also here, (.) one component we're having here is that, as there are not so many local buses that connect this small place to the Märjamaa, this bigger place, we use a lot of cars. So it's not possible really to live here without a car. And I have lived my life without a car until here, so..if there would be better public transport I wouldn't need it, but as there is just two buses a day, you can't do everything according to these two buses. So I use a bit of (.) kind of lot (.) car. This is what I feel. But I always try to get several things done with one ride or combine my ride with somebody else's ride or.. Cause I'm aware of this, that this transport is big part of the footprint and I'm trying to keep it low, but it's not always possible. (.) Also I'm not so sure about our small footprint. Also our houses are built in (.) in times where there wasn't so much attention paid to insulation and in our climate. But it is the most important thing if you want to have the heating low that you don't heat so much than you need to have good insulation for your houses and we don't have. All the houses are actually very badly insulated and... So there is a lot of development as we have been this actually, this, this change that maybe will take, hm I don't know, maybe it will take 20 years that this important for others also. If we learn how to make these houses more efficient, energy efficient, then.. and how to more cooperate with the transport costs and all these kind of things maybe this can be example for others later. But now we are actually no perfect example yet. Of course it might be better than to live in (.) like alone in hm big rooms. But we still have like

big spaces, bigger than we need and we need to heat them and yeah, it's (.) It's kind of problematic, I always feel a bit insecure if somebody asks.. asks about this footprint (laughs) 'cause I don't want to lie to you. (laughs) #00:01:37-9#

L: Yeah you're really honest, which is good I think. (.) As a last question, hmm I don't know if you want to add anything else or maybe like you have ideas how to improve (.) like the global water situation? Or your personal.. #00:02:06-8#

S: Hmm (..) what, (.) we could do here is (.) to use more rain water, because we have plenty of rain water in Estonia, because we have this climate there, where the rains are (.) regular and hm because what I feel is that this rain water is cycling faster and if we used that for most of the occasions and leave the.. this underground water only for drinking, this would be great step. Because this underground water, if we bring it on the ground it gets into this short cycle, but the rain water is already in this cycle, so, so this would be good improvement if we could use rain water for most of the occasions. And (.) and also maybe get the usage of water toilets less, because it's hm nowadays there are very comfortable compost toilets that you can have indoors also. So we have mostly outdoor compost toilets here and during the winter it's maybe not so comfortable to go there. So (.) and this could be improved and (.) yeah, maybe something else that doesn't pop into my head right now. #00:04:00-5#

L: No worries, it's good. #00:04:01-2#

S: Yes somebody else will give these other ideas to you.
#00:04:03-8#

L: Yeah, thank you. It was really nice (inaudible). #00:04:11-1#
#00:04:09-8#

S: You're welcome. #00:04:16-9#