Circular economy
The Municipality of The Hague

A waste and recycling centre with façades produced from reused plates from the automotive industry. A circular procurement process for 72,000 m² of flooring. These are two successful examples of the Municipality of the Hague’s circular ambitions.

Project description
This project comprises two pilots, that flow from the Green Deal. The first is the tender for the construction of a waste and recycling centre, which was delivered in late 2016. Sustainable, partly reused material was used. In using such material the municipality also wanted to stimulate the centre’s users to start thinking about the reuse of raw materials. The second pilot is a circular tender process for 72,000 m² of flooring for various locations.

Approach
The Municipality of The Hague wanted to put circularity on the agenda, but chose not to set any concrete goals and deadlines at this time. The municipality first wanted to examine current initiatives to which the municipality could connect and initiatives it wished to establish itself. For the two tender processes, an initial investment was made to increase knowledge about circular procurement. For the waste and recycling centre, the municipality requested support from Witteveen en Bos (circular specialist). This engineering agency assessed all proposed designs for the waste and recycling centre according to the circularity level of the chosen materials. This contract was awarded according to MEAT (Most Economically Advantageous Tender) using the award criteria of price, design, sustainable material use and action plan. The tender for the flooring was assessed according to price (50%) and circularity (50%).

“The investment will soon pay for itself.”
Jos van den Bulk, Procurement Adviser, Municipality of The Hague
Results
The flooring contract was awarded to a party that scored highly on circularity (approx. 71% for new product and approx. 80% for reuse of old flooring). This contract is now being used for all official accommodation, such as the town hall and district offices.

“The material use demonstrates the building’s function.”
Hilde Palland Mulder, Procurement Adviser, Municipality of The Hague

The construction of the waste and recycling centre was also awarded and is expected to be delivered by the end of 2016. The sort of reused materials in the construction, including their volume percentage and origin, is known exactly per component (roof, façade, walls). By-products are reintroduced into the chain; with the Superuse Studios Harvest Map (used by contractor Van Boekel Zeeland). The façades are largely constructed from plates from the automotive industry and the sheet piling is also reused. As well as using recycled and reusable materials, the building will also be energy and water neutral.

Lessons learned
• Consider the assessment system carefully in advance to prevent that certain aspects influence the score more than intended.
• It is important to know the market possibilities and which parties are interested: factories, retailers, construction or installation companies.
• Our own assessment method for types of sustainable material worked well. For the waste and recycling centre this was constructed as follows: 1) Reuse of household waste, 2) Reused materials, 3) Renewable materials, 4) Recycled materials and 5) Non-renewable materials. For the flooring, the order was: 1) Reuse, 2) Recycling, 3) Downcycling, 4) Reclaiming and 5) Removal.
• As yet, a self-sufficient energy-supply building is not interesting for the construction market.
• The bar can be raised somewhat regarding sustainable material use, by making a distinction in visible components and non-visible components (e.g. construction and floor) with an adapted rating scale.

About REBus and the Green Deal on Circular Procurement
The Green Deal on Circular Procurement (GDCP) is an initiative of MVO Nederland (CSR Netherlands), NEVI, Central government, Duurzame Leverancier, PIANOo, Kirkman Company and Circle Economy. Various pilots originating from GDCP are partly financed by the European REBus project, implemented in the Netherlands by Rijkswaterstaat (Directorate-General for Public Works and Water Management). They are working together to support businesses and government organisations in their circular procurement ambitions.

Contact information
> E-mail: Circulair@rws.nl
> Website: PIANOo

Partners: Van Boekel (Waste and recycling centre contractor) | Interwabo BV and Interface Nederland BV (flooring) | Superuse Studios | Witteveen en Bos

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