

## SHORT SUMMARY

**Organisation:** [Meerlanden](#) | **Contact persons:** Edwin Bergman (Meerlanden interim Procurement Coordinator), [LinkedIn](#) | Antoine Rustenburg (Meerlanden Buyer), [LinkedIn](#) | **Pilot product & sector:** Workwear (Textiles), mini-containers, re-use of released material in public spaces (Spatial Planning), maintenance of own grounds, buildings and systems (Construction) | **Country:** The Netherlands



# Circular Procurement Meerlanden



*Waste becomes raw material through using our own collection streams.*

Together with its stakeholders, Meerlanden would like to stimulate the circular economy and strengthen and promote employment opportunities in the region. Its mission is: 'Achieve circular economy ambitions faster together!'. For this Meerlanden is organising various circular economy initiatives, including procurement processes for workwear and mini-containers and reuse of residual materials in managing public spaces.

### Project description

Meerlanden provides waste collection and waste processing and manages public spaces. Each year Meerlanden collects 62,000 tonnes of organic waste. This organic waste is processed into five new products, including green gas and compost. The procurement department uses a circular approach in its procurement process. There are circular economy procurement processes for workwear, mini-containers and facilities where possible, and in the maintenance of its own grounds, buildings and systems. Meerlanden is also one of the leaders of the Royal Dutch NVRD (association for waste and cleaning management) 'Invest in Circular' project. Within this project, Meerlanden is working together with others on the circular procurement of mini-containers.

### Approach

The starting point for the procurement department was the link to the Green Deal on Circular Procurement in April 2015. Meerlanden now has a new strategy (2016-2020): 'Achieve circular economy ambitions faster together'. The organisation is working towards a concrete translation of this strategy in its procurement policy. Meerlanden is investigating sustainable and circular economy opportunities in every procurement process. As well as the NVRD pilots, Meerlanden is also working with other waste collectors via the Midwaste cooperative association. Midwaste creates more volume to stimulate movement in the market during calls for tender.



## FACTS & FIGURES

- > Number of FTEs: 310
- > Turnover in 2015: € 62.6 million
- > 42% of the fleet runs on green gas

### Using food and garden waste, Meerlanden's production included the following in 2015:

- > 3.1 million kWh heat for the horticulture sector
- > 2.4 million m<sup>3</sup> of green gas
- > 2.5 million bags of Meercompost

## Results

A circular procurement process for workwear is currently ongoing. A market consultation produced information from various producers and suppliers. How far these parties are in realising circularity varies from no initiatives to entire concepts for reusing or partially reusing workwear.

*"You may want to attempt something really big, but it still needs to stay realistic."*

Edwin Bergman, Interim Procurement Coordinator Meerlanden

For sorting collected textiles, Meerlanden works together with MeerGoed B.V. Together with this local partner, Meerlanden is investigating whether the sorted textiles can be processed into workwear. In all processes in the various product groups, determining the results at the end of the life cycle is still proving difficult. The criterion of reusing released materials in maintaining public spaces has been used in tenders and recorded contractually. This also applies to the concrete used in underground waste containers.

The concrete granulates for this must comprise concrete products that are reused as raw materials at the end of their service life.

## Lessons learned

- Ensure that the circular ambitions are known and are supported widely across the organisation. You need people from all organisational levels to implement this successfully.
- Formulate SMART circular ambitions (specific, measurable, acceptable, realistic, time-bound). What do you want to achieve in concrete terms?
- Investigate what has already been done regarding the circular economy and search for examples and experiences. Don't keep reinventing the wheel.
- Conduct market research. It is essential that you know how the market works and what the options are. Look for more possibilities across the entire chain. Do not be reluctant to conduct market consultations. These are not a problem as long as all parties receive the same information during the call for tenders.
- Suppliers need frameworks for the call for tenders.
- Make the chain transparent, otherwise you will not succeed.

## About REBus and the Green Deal on Circular Procurement

The Green Deal on Circular Procurement (GDGP) is an initiative of MVO Nederland (CSR Netherlands), NEVI, Central government, Duurzame Leverancier, PIANOo, Kirkman Company and Circle Economy. Various pilots originating from GDGP 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.

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Partners: Midwaste | NVRD | MeerGoed

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