

## SHORT SUMMARY

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# Circular economy projects Alliander



The tender procedure for the construction of Duiven was a bold move.

From coffee cups and office chairs to cables and pipes: circularity at Alliander is getting increasingly closer to primary processes.

## Project description

Network company Alliander, distributor of gas and electricity across a large part of the Netherlands, has high circular economy ambitions. These ambitions can be seen in projects ranging from coffee cups, the new accommodation in Duiven, renovation of the Bellevue head office, protective workwear (see Dura Vermeer/TBI Croon/Alliander Workwear factsheet), transformers, office furniture and the Fair Meter (a sustainable energy meter). Alliander is also working with various parties to achieve a 100% use of circular economy materials in the underground infrastructure by 2040.

## Approach

Alliander first gained considerable experience in circular procurement in the facilities company. A showpiece in this area is the transformation of the site in Duiven into an inspiring example of a circular economy-based building. Five existing buildings have now been expanded and covered with a 'climate greenhouse' with a floating roof. The site opened in August 2015. The success of this stimulated Alliander to also make its primary processes circular.

The tender procedure for Duiven was a bold move. The initial selection was made according to an ambition document instead of an extensive specification. Parties were able to respond in a consortium of partners rather than individually.



## FACTS & FIGURES

### Office furnishing:

- > Approximately 2,500 furnishing elements
- > Furniture satisfies circular criteria; retaining value through maintenance and with financial safeguards based on the value on return.

## Results

The Duiven location meets its own energy needs and supplies energy to the surrounding area. Raw materials and materials were reused during construction. This partly contributed to circularity levels of an impressive 80%. For the furnishing, Gispén revamped 750 workspaces, including a technical up-

**“Within five years circularity will be business as usual for us.”**

Hendrik de Vries, consultant Alliander

date. New furniture was purchased according to circular principles using the residual value model (see article).

The learning points from the Duiven project were incorporated in the renovation of the Bellevue head office. This renovation needed to ensure, among other things, an energy bill reduction of some 80% at the start of 2017. Another goal was to collect at least 95% of construction waste separated for processing and reuse on site or elsewhere.

Alliander worked with Stedin to introduce the Fair Meter. By 2020 all 7.5 million Dutch households will be offered such a sustainable, smart energy meter.

Assessment criteria on award included the

use of sustainable materials, the responsibility for the chain, origin of raw materials, the exclusion of child labour and the circularity of the meter.

## Lessons learned

- Circular procurement starts by posing different types of questions and demands a cultural shift.
- The biggest challenge is not in the technology itself but in the ‘soft’ factors: the collaborative approach, the processes, daring to see and do things differently. You need daring for this and you should not allow yourself to be held back by practical objections.
- Progress still depends to a large extent on the ambassadors in the organisation.
- Chemistry between the chain partners is essential.
- Once awarded, the project moves from the meeting room to the workfloor. These employees were not involved in the visionary preparatory phase and you will need to engage them in this.
- Start with a small group, including someone from the management who supports the project. Do not wait too long to include the rest of the organisation.

## About REBus and the Green Deal on Circular Procurement

The Green Deal on Circular Procurement (GDPC) is an initiative of MVO Nederland (CSR Netherlands), NEVI, Central government, Duurzame Leverancier, PIANOo, Kirkman Company and Circle Economy. Various pilots originating from GDPC 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: Copper8 | RAU Architecten | Gispén | Stedin

Relevant links & documents: [Article Deal!](#)

With the contribution of the LIFE financial instrument of the European Community

