

SHORT SUMMARY

Organisation: Municipality of Amsterdam, www.amsterdam.nl

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Product & sector: concrete, office furnishing, coffee | **Country:** The Netherlands



Municipality of Amsterdam goes circular



Making Amsterdam's concrete circular, together with the chain.

Amsterdam wants to be a pioneer in the circular economy. The municipality is running projects for this including office furnishing, coffee and concrete projects. The vision is to impose on the market as little as possible and challenge the market to develop innovations as far as possible.

Project description

The Municipality of Amsterdam aims to make its own organisation more sustainable and has started three procurement projects for this: for office furnishing, coffee and concrete. A chain consultation was established for concrete, with the aim of stimulating concrete recycling.

Approach

The municipality signed the 'Concrete paving material in a circular economy' covenant with seven companies. The objective of this is to investigate how, in the future, concrete paving material can be recycled and used in new concrete materials. The municipality's aim is that 100% of the concrete granulates from paving materials will be reused in the concrete chain by 1 January 2017.

The municipality is now establishing a pilot project with a circular call for tenders for concrete based on MEAT criteria (Most Economically Advantageous Tender).

For office furnishing, a wide market consultation was organised. Market parties were all offered a five-minute pitch. One of the circular ideas was a smart office chair that measures how often and for how long it is used. The municipality then requested an action plan for redeployment and reuse. Circularity was incorporated in the award criteria. The Best Value Procurement method was used for the coffee tender. Circularity also applied here as award criteria.



FACTS & FIGURES

- > **Number of employees:** 14,000 in 2014
- > **Tender volume:** € 6.3 million per year in concrete bricks, tiles and kerbs. This amounts to some 68 football pitches.
- > 1% of the existing furniture was really broken, 54% of the furniture is being used elsewhere and 43% was repaired and reused within the Municipality of Amsterdam.
- > 11,000 kg iron and metal was separated so that new raw materials could be made from this.

Results

The municipality and concrete partners modified the municipality's model specifications for standard works. This stimulated the use of circular concrete. They are investigating whether MEAT criteria can be used for all objects for which quality is an award criteria. The partners are also using Life Cycle Analyses (LCA) and Environmental Cost Indicators (ECI).

"How can companies develop, if you refuse to pay for this?"

Renske Zengers,
Project Leader Innovation and Sustainability

Two suppliers have processed old concrete material from an Amsterdam street into new concrete tiles for another Amsterdam street. The approach is now being extended to other construction works that use a lot of concrete, such as buildings, tunnels and bridges. A business case was formulated for the office furniture. Lease appeared to be the cheapest solution.

However, purchase was selected in the end, with a buy-back deal in which Gispen demonstrates what happens with the 'old' furniture. For the coffee tender, the market was challenged to produce a plan for the machines owned by the municipality.

Lessons learned

- The chain consultation provided transparency and mutual openness, as it was conducted separately from a tender.
- The business case demonstrated that it makes financial sense to reuse baked bricks and to recycle concrete bricks, tiles and kerbs. The chain consultation was established to design the recycling in the most high-quality way possible (and to try to make this circular).
- The conditions for signing the covenant - active participation, introducing a pilot project and a limited financial contribution - contributed to the commitment.
- The market indicated that it can already offer many circular solutions. However, it only offers these if asked. Formulating the request and the assessment are thus crucial.
- Cooperation with local partners leads to concrete initiatives that can be used immediately.

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: Network Concrete Chain: www.betonketen.nl | Covenant partners: Van Gelder, KWS Infra, Rutte groep, PARO, Theo Pouw groep, Struyk Verwo Infra, De Metenaar | Kirkman Company | Gispen

Relevant links & documents: [Amsterdam Goes Circular, a vision and roadmap for the city and region \(October 2015\)](#) |

This publication is financed by Rijkswaterstaat