

# Reuse of materials flows offers business opportunities for business parks in the Drecht Cities

The Netherlands are committed to a circular economy, an economy in which material flows, energy and water (flows of substances) always find their way back into the cycle. Opportunities for a future-proof, innovative and sustainable economic climate! Not surprisingly endorsed in the 'National Sustainable Resources Agreement' with ambition to be 100% circular in 2050. The Drecht Cities are also responding positively to this!



## From small to large

One time it is economically and ecologically profitable to close a cycle at a local level, another time you have to operate (inter)nationally. However, a circular economy on a local and regional scale is pre-eminently manifested on a business park. This is the scale level where the company Cirkellab - located in the Drecht Cities - specializes in. As far as they are concerned, the scale level of a business park is the accessible, first step for companies towards circular business. It is easier to start one cycle in your own organization or in proximity than to enter into a complicated, large-scale (cross-sectoral) chain collaboration with different flows of substances. The Drecht Cities are also very promising for a circular economy because of the presence of the maritime (manufacturing) industry. "For example, two large maritime players - from a customer-suppliers perspective - have developed a joint business proposition for modular installations on a ship. They discovered that a business model aimed at delivering services (according to the so-called 'performance model', think of light hours instead of lamps), leads to more innovation, greater efficiency, higher quality and a long-term customer relationship.", says Thirza Monster - one of the associates of Cirkellab.

## Look beyond the exchange of residual flows alone

Often, when you think of a circular business park, one thinks primarily of the exchange of flows of substances or the sharing of, for example, machines, tools and means of transportation between companies on the site. But there's more! Think of interventions within the company with a eye on circular design and business model, chain collaboration (in the region), circular area development and eco-industrial clusters. In addition, there are a number of important conditions for a circular business park. Collaboration is at the top of the list, where the organizational level of a site is important and the relationship with the local government. Subsequently, we can look at the industries present and whether there have promising flows of substances. An anchor tenant is indispensable! Finally, physical space is important to attract 'missing links' to close loops or develop new circular activities as a material hub or biorefinery.

## Circular projects provide inspiration for upscaling!

The potential of a circular business park has been experienced by Cirkellab in a project at the Oosteind business park in Papendrecht, carried out in close collaboration with the municipality of Papendrecht and Environmental service Zuid-Holland Zuid. During various 'innovation tables', companies such as Boskalis, VandeGrijp and Visser Smit & Hanab, worked on circular business cases. For example, several companies have started working on the joint purchase of solar panels that offers various advantages in terms of purchasing power. The companies Topec and Gebr. De Koning have found each other in sharing a workshop and equipment if there is a peak in work at one company and capacity over in the other. Joris Ijzermans (Topec): "*I see this as the first practical step working towards a shared facility where several companies from the Drecht Cities cooperate.*" The participants also look at the implementation of a B2B online 'market place' for easy matching between supply and demand. And Jean-Paul from Rivierendriesprong adds: "*Through this process we came up with the idea of a biodigester. As a building materials trading company, all sorts of organic streams enter our plant, such as wood waste. We can do something useful with that by generating energy with it. To make things profitable you have to scale up and utilize flows from other companies!*" The process has generated even more ideas and next steps for circular cooperation, both at Oosteind and at other business parks in the region. Such as a smart grid and energy storage, a joint storage and physical 'market place' for unused office furniture and the reuse of rainwater for production processes. Aleida van den Akker (Province of South Holland): "*The approach to this process certainly serves as an example for other business parks in the Netherlands!*"

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► City Councillor Anouk van Eekelen from the municipality Papendrecht reveals an artwork with an impression of the results of the project



► At the 'innovation table' participants brainstorm, discuss and concretize joint circular opportunities

**cirkellab\***

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