

“KRACHTENKAART” (POWER MAP)

C I R C U L A R E C O N O M Y

Provinces: the ideal midfielders, also aiming at a circular world.

The Dutch provinces feel that it is very important that by 2050 the Dutch economy will be fully circular: there will no longer be any waste and raw materials will be reused. We are approaching the circular economy (CE) from a broad playing field – each province from its own angle, appropriate to the region. While doing so, we look at what is happening nationally, but also internationally, across the Dutch border. The provinces can, and want to, fulfil a managing role as the linking pin for a circular economy in the region. An ideal midfielder, also aiming at a circular world. The Association of the Dutch Provinces' (IPO) "Krachtenkaart" is a kick-off initiative for using our own regional strength, to work together with the Government, other public authorities, and other regional parties, on the transition to a circular economy in the region. Through topics such as the CE Implementation Programme, we would like to make agreements with the Government and evaluate the circular progress annually.



WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

Circular procurement and tendering

The provinces are including the circular economy (CE) as an integral part of their core business. This is done by implementing CE fully within the province and its activities. Within the field of public procurement, the provinces will firstly consider whether circular products or services can be used, and they will then work towards the principle of "comply or explain".

Circular continuation of the Environmental Vision, also when implementing VTH (authorization, supervision and enforcement)

The provinces aim to firmly embed CE in their policies and practices. We are doing so by setting up a toolkit about 'The Circular Economy and the Environmental Vision' in 2021/2022. In consultation with the municipalities, the regional Environmental Services and Omgevingsdienst NL (the Dutch Environmental Services Association), in 2021 research will be done to find out what is needed to make circularity a standard part of the VTH tasks by 2025. This research will be worked into a set of guidelines, as an initial impetus for circular testing and a training framework.

Develop and strengthen Regional Circular Ecosystems

The provinces want to focus on "transitional thinking". To achieve this, by 2025, we want to have a thorough overview of the networks that support the circular ecosystem, so that we can concentrate our efforts on speeding up the transition to a full circular economy. In this way, as a connector and facilitator we will stimulate and strengthen the regional networks in a triple helix form and continue to build up the system. Guidelines for this will follow in 2021/2022.

Support regional businesses during the CE transition.

The core task of the provinces is to support regional business via, inter alia, our own incentive programmes. Promoting the CE transition in the corporate sector calls for expansion, intensification and acceleration, which also means looking beyond the (inter)national borders. From 2021 onwards we want to make agreements with the National Government and together create a programme of research funds, accelerate innovation, connect with SMEs and intensify the partnership with "Versnellingshuis Nederland Circulair", a joint venture organisation that is helping businesses with their transition to CE.

Implement the monitoring of CE

The provinces are working on a clear-cut way of monitoring CE, whereby the national ICER approach, introduced by the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (PBL), will be extended, through regional expansion, intensification and supplementation. This needs to be done quickly, in the short term, in order to already get an insight into progress being made with the transition. In 2021, the first set of indicators will be determined and the partnership with the PBL will be further developed. We want to evaluate the CE monitoring and the progress of the IPO Power Map on an annual basis.

WHAT WE ARE ASKING FOR:

GOVERNMENT SUPPORT ON 3 FRONTS

After sowing the seeds for the 5 guidelines for transition to a Circular Economy, in order to be able to actually harvest them (at the national level), the provinces are also asking for action to be taken by several, different parties and, in particular, the National Government.

Building a CE using the power of a regional approach.

- In order to build on an approach to a regional circular economy, using the regional power of the provinces, we are asking the Government:
- To help build on the provinces' approach of using regional power by facilitating the development of full-blown, circular eco-systems, through enhancing knowledge, regulations, innovative instruments and financial resources, etc. As part of this, we are asking the Government to develop a joint strategy with us to further advance a circular eco-system that is specific to the region and market leading. The joint initiative to create a knowledge infrastructure for CE for the region can contribute to this.
- To continue developing regional CE activities that are connected to the national transition agendas, so that they reinforce each other.
- To facilitate circular transition by the Environmental Services by providing resources for training, implementation and experiments.
- For clear, unambiguous, national coordination of the CE policy, so that the departments and regions are all following the same track.

Increase market opportunities for circular products

- It is crucial that market opportunities for circular products and processes are expanded, and that a level playing field is created. Furthermore, attention needs to be paid to the circular use of raw materials. That is why we are asking the Government:
- To contribute towards a competitive price on the world market, for example by:
 - well before 2030, introducing tax incentives for the circular economy (e.g. lowering tax on circular production; transferring labour tax to (virgin) raw materials; the so-called 'ex-tax');
 - providing support through the introduction of a "true price" across Europe;
 - imposing a mandatory percentage of recycling of products in Europe.
- To attach stricter CE compliance regulations to Government-initiated initiatives, such as projects, programmes, procurement and tendering procedures, subsidies and schemes.
- To set up a CE authority for unambiguous, coordinated laws and regulations (advice), licensing, supervision and enforcement (knowledge hub), and the issuing of, or sharing information about, rulings/end-of-waste status.
- To implement the advice given by the Waste Evaluation Taskforce concerning waste streams, etc.
- To control amendments to the European additives directive (sort and range), so that future value can be taken into account in the product design phase.

Make room for the up-scaling of circular innovations

- The up-scaling of promising innovations often transcends the (financial) capacity of the companies and regions involved. In their role as midfielder, the provinces can fulfil an initiating role by involving and connecting different parties via the municipalities, for example. We are asking the Government:
- To make promising regional up-scaling projects viable (providing finance, space, regulations), and to form a plan with us for this.
- To facilitate a single regional platform approach for the up-scaling of innovation, knowledge and education in the region for this.
- To support the provinces' and municipalities' commitment to the labour market and human capital in relation to the Circular Economy.

