



Rijkswaterstaat
Ministry of Infrastructure
and Water Management

Textiles procurement in the Netherlands

Circular Procurement Summit
2021 Canada



Emile Bruls

16 November 2021



What's on the agenda?

- Dutch Policy program on Circular Textiles
- Public procurement
 - Criteria
 - Category management for national government procurement
 - Buyer group for regional and local government
- Case studies
 - Buying coveralls and towels with recycled fibres
 - Collection and reuse/recycling of workwear
 - Leasing of uniforms





Goals of the Circular Textiles policy programme

2025:

- 25% recycled / sustainable materials in new textiles (50% 2030)
- 30% after end of life to be recycled (50% 2030)
- 10% reuse of textile products within the Netherlands (15% 2030)
- For government 10% recycled content in corporate wear in 2022 and 25% in 2025

2035

- 50% reduction of ecological footprint (water, carbon, chemicals)

Actions in production & design | purchase & use | disposal & recycling

[Policy programme for circular textile 2020-2025](#)



National category management

- One for all!
 - Bundling of knowledge and experience
 - One clear message to the market
 - Efficiency and cost reduction
- For workwear and textiles Ministry of Defense





Market engagement in category management

- Start dialogue
- Regular market meetings with a clear message:
 - Prepare yourself;
 - We are going to ask for recycled fibres in new textiles in a few years
- For certain products additional meetings
 - What percentage of recycled fibres is possible?
- Internet consultation / request for information
- Many visits to suppliers



Circular procurement criteria

- Dutch sustainable procurement criteria can be found here:
- [Sustainable Public Procurement Webtool \(mvicriteria.nl\)](https://mvicriteria.nl)
- Use of functional criteria versus technical criteria
 - What are the functional needs? Situations differ.
 - Technical criteria have a functional background, history and overlap
- Lessons:
 - Don't change all aspects and products at once
 - Start with easy products with high impact/volume



Buyer group local law enforcement uniforms

- Municipalities (350) and provinces (12) are autonomous
- On their own they need very small amounts of uniforms
- Together they are big
- Often very different requests to the market
- One market vision (nearly ready)



- A similar buyer group for hospitals



A



Reduce total amount
of materials

B



Reduce amount of
virgin inputs

C



Extend
the useful life

D



Maximise the
reusability of a
product or component

E



Maximise the
reusability or recyclability
of materials

A
1

Internal sharing

B
1

Understanding the share of
recycled, biobased and virgin
materials present

C
1

Extending guarantees

D
1

Design for Disassembly

E
1

Design for recycling

A
2

Renting or
peer to peer sharing

B
2

Increasing the amount of
recycled content

C
2

Contractual arrangements
for maintenance and repair

D
2

Modular design

E
2

Understanding materials

A
3

Reuse, refurbishing or
upgrading

B
3

Increasing the amount of
biobased content

C
3

Upgradable products

D
3

Standardised design

E
3

Contractual arrangements
for take back and recycling

A
4

Minimal use of materials in
design

C
4

Design for longevity

D
4

Understanding the internal
composition and connections

E
4

Reducing or banning
toxicity

A
5

Less waste

C
5

Repairability and
maintainability

D
5

Contractual arrangements
for take back and reuse

E
5

Biologically degradable /
compostable

C
6

Modular/change oriented
design

D
6

Stimulate circular business
models

E
6

Stimulate circular business
models

C
7

Contractual incentives for
extension of useful life

C
8

Supplier guidance for
use optimization

GOALS AND STRATEGIES FOR CIRCULAR PURCHASERS



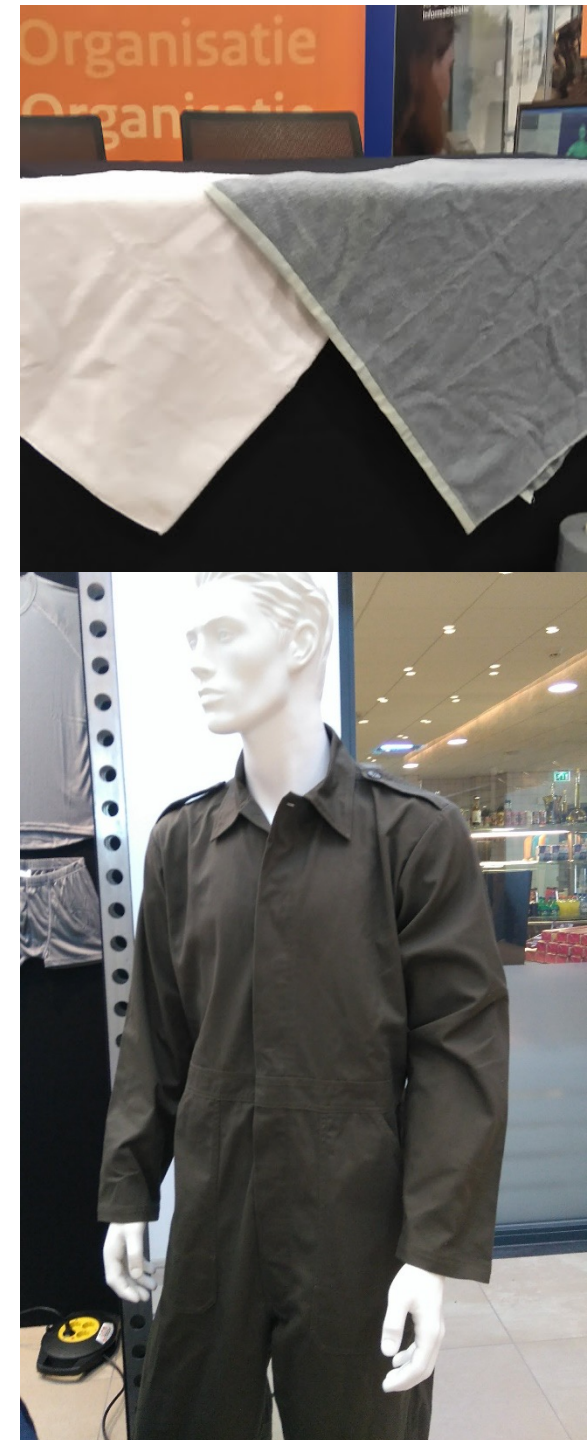
Reduce total amount of materials





Reduce amount of virgin materials

- Goal: use of recycled fibres in new textiles
- Towels and coveralls
- Knock-out requirement of 10% recycled textiles fibres
- Higher percentage awarded with bonus points
- Result: 36% recycled fibres in towels, 16% coveralls





Extend the useful life

- Goals: check if lease is possible as business model
- Uniforms for lock stewards
- Supplier remains owner and is responsible
- Take-back after summer season
- Wash, repair and reuse if possible,
- Recycle if not
- Results: Lease is possible, but ...





Collection and sorting



- Traditionally discarded workwear and uniforms were incinerated for security reasons
- Centralized collection of uniforms and workwear
- Results:
 - More direct reuse
 - Recycling instead of incineration
 - Work for people with distance to labor market
 - Savings of more than € 500.000 and up.



Thank you!

- Do you like to know more?
- Please contact me at Rijkswaterstaat: emile.bruls@rws.nl





- National category management
- Circular Criteria
 - Please provide examples of functional requirements and why they are helpful in supporting circularity
- Market development and engagement
 - Offer insight and advice as to why market engagement is an important first step
- Share information about the regional and local buying groups and their purpose
- Provide an overview of the Dutch Ministry of Defence and Leasing Service Contract case studies
 - Quick overview of the goal of the pilot.
 - Share the process undertaken
 - Share the criteria used as part of the procurement. How were the criteria weighted, scored, and verified (if applicable)?
 - Results: what economic, social and environmental benefits were achieved.