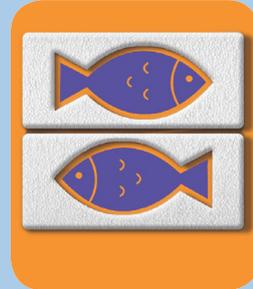


CONTRIBUTIONS TO A CIRCULAR ECONOMY

CASE STUDY
RECYCLING#5

EPS PACKAGING WASTE RECYCLING IN THE NETHERLANDS

- 400 privately organised collection points throughout NL; the operators are incentivised for their efforts to collect and to transport the waste to recyclers
- Estimated 70% of post consumer EPS packaging waste is recycled
- Approx. 90% of the fish boxes are recycled
- Close cooperation with retailers like Cool Blue, Saturn / Media Markt, Expert, BCC etc to collect EPS packaging waste
- In total, more than 650 tns of EPS packaging waste were collected in 2016.



DESCRIPTION

Since 1974, Stybenex, the Dutch National Association for EPS converters, has been initiating and supporting the schemes for optimal EPS recycling. In combining all local and municipal initiatives in a new program since 2013, EPS recycling of EPS packaging material is a part of the Dutch government supported collection and recycling scheme for plastics.

400 municipal stations take back EPS post-consumer waste. Here 653 ton (2016) of EPS packaging material is collected in transparent bags, marked with clear images of EPS and airpop at collection points, so it is easy to sort. The stations are responsible for shipping the waste to recyclers. They receive bonus points for the material; EPS is thus a desirable material. In this way it is possible to re-use a maximum of the material for new products. Recycling of EPS is part of an overall effort to maximize waste from households to 100 kg pp/a.

Up to 70% of EPS packaging material is currently recycled. Recycling of fish boxes is as high as 90%. EPS horticultural products are in a closed loop system that takes care of collection and recycling.

EPS packaging collection trends show a steady increase. 630 tons from 104 stations in 2016 moving up to 1320 tons of EPS Packaging material from 200 stations in 2020.

Stybenex is also involved in several parallel collection systems at point of sale for household appliances and white goods. Partners include Cool Blue, Media Markt, Saturn, Expert, BCC etc.

CONTRIBUTION TO CIRCULAR ECONOMY

The Dutch program is a good example of a mutually beneficial business relationship between municipalities and private companies. The rewards system for municipal collection points works well – annual growth of EPS packaging waste collection and recycling activities proves its success. The collected material can be processed in various ways and is reused for new products.

PARTNERS

Stybenex, Municipalities, retail companies

“In Stybenex, the association of the Dutch EPS industry, recycling is a top priority issue. We observe that the demand for EPS waste is higher than the current supply and we aim to exploit all EPS waste streams.”

Eric Las, Stybenex