

There is no such thing as waste

Waste is a valuable raw material for tomorrow's products. The city of Almere is making an effort of using waste for new products. For instance, we make from biomass paper and bio composite for a bench. We do so by collaborating with companies, surrounding regions, government agencies and other interested parties. Almere would like to be before the year 2022 an energy neutral and zero waste city.

Less CO2, less costs, more work

The circular economy – in other words recycling as many products and raw materials as possible instead of destroying them – is clearly aimed at achieving sustainability goals, but that is not all. Yes, we are discarding fewer things and reducing our CO2 footprint. The circular economy also arms companies against volatile prices for raw materials. It even provides cost savings because they do not have to purchase as many raw materials and they can re-use materials for new products. Besides this sustainable approach, the circular economy is a great boost to business and employment opportunities.

What activities are already taking place in Almere?

Almere has already taken the first steps. We can now produce paper from aquatic plants harvested from our waterways. We recently built a bench from recycled biomass materials; that bench has been given a place in Almere Stad. There are many benefits to re-using harvested water plants and, in doing so, we are able to kill more than two birds with one stone, as it were. Water sports enthusiasts can now experience even more enjoyment on the

water in Almere because so many of the plants that would otherwise obstruct water sports activities are being cut down. All these cuttings, for which the city no longer has to pay for disposal, can now be converted into a great raw material for paper and paper-based products. The production of paper and the bench – as well as other products in the future – provides employment opportunities and generates revenues. It is a first, small step. But big transitions start like that.

Government and companies innovate together

Now we are looking for innovative ideas, companies and agencies that feel compelled to participate in the ambitions of converting waste into raw materials. After all, this is not just a theme for the municipality of Almere. It is an opportunity for everyone who would like to contribute to a future without waste. It will be valuable for the economy, the government, education, residents and the environment. This is eminently a project in which government, companies and knowledge institutions must work together in order to realise this.

waardeuitreststromen.edba.nu

Gemeente Almere

