

# cmartlife



## Closing loops for less (plastic) waste

Flanders (Belgium) has high rates of recycling and reuse. But more innovation and better know-how on how to deal with plastic waste are required. In the circular economy, today's products are tomorrow's raw materials. Smartlife commits to closing material loops in order to reduce residual waste and create a litter free environment by:

### **Reducing waste and making efficient use of materials**

- ⦿ Gather data and knowledge to measure the effect of the Smartlife project
- ⦿ Phase out and ban all non-essential uses of microplastics in various products
- ⦿ Implement the European Single Use Plastics Directive in consultation with the other regions and the federal government department
- ⦿ Reduce the use of light plastic carrier bags in Belgium to 40 bags per inhabitant by 2025
- ⦿ Set up an international cooperation to prevent the inflow of plastic waste into the oceans
- ⦿ Optimise the collection and processing of biowaste
- ⦿ Reduce the food loss in households
- ⦿ Shape solutions to substitute or recycle plastics from agricultural and horticultural practices, develop sustainable cultivation substrates for horticulture and support farm level composting
- ⦿ Set up a green deal with the distribution sector to promote the prevention and reuse of packaging
- ⦿ Develop bootcamps and educational programmes on consumer behaviour

### **Preventing litter**

- ⦿ Encourage companies to commit to Operation Clean Sweep to prevent pellet loss into the environment, and investigate possible government measures
- ⦿ Stimulate the collection of packaging waste out-of-home
- ⦿ Realize a Plastic Free Coastline by prevention campaigns and cleaning up beach litter
- ⦿ Optimize the recycling of fishing gear from commercial and recreational fishing, as well as waste from aquaculture
- ⦿ Monitor the plastic flux of macro- and microplastics through Flemish rivers to the North Sea

## Paving the road towards a sustainable recycling market

- ⊙ Formulate design criteria for consumer textiles being produced in or imported to Europe in order to reuse and recycle collected textile as much as possible
- ⊙ Stimulate innovative sorting and recycling techniques
- ⊙ Optimize collection and composting of packaged food waste from retail
- ⊙ Investigate markets for recyclates of plastics from construction and demolition waste and look for solutions to tackle logistic barriers for selective demolition
- ⊙ Analyse the quantity and destination of plastic waste streams both regional and international, up to the point of effective recycling
- ⊙ Develop a new methodology to monitor statistics of municipal waste treatment and management in Flanders and abroad

## Stimulating the use of recycled materials

- ⊙ Investigate and harmonise the interfaces between legislation on substances, products and waste in order to close the plastics loop
- ⊙ Develop regulatory and fiscal measures for stimulating the demand for plastic recyclates
- ⊙ Support and stimulate the creation of an outlet for plastic recyclates by encouraging producers to use plastic recyclates

## Tracking and disseminating the example role of governments

- ⊙ Conduct composition analyses of residual household and bulky municipal waste, and residual enterprise waste
- ⊙ Implement the regional legislation on reusable cups and catering materials for events
- ⊙ Achieve a circular solution for diapers in Flanders by working out sustainable solutions for recycling single use diapers and promoting reusable systems
- ⊙ Realise sector specific approaches to reduce residual waste
- ⊙ Support knowledge exchange networks to reduce residual household waste
- ⊙ Disseminate the Smartlife results in international waste and product policy fora
- ⊙ Transfer the knowledge and results generated in the project, allowing replication of the Smartlife approach to facilitate the transition to a circular and carbon-neutral Europe



SAMEN MAKEN WE  
MORGEN MOOIER  
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VOOR EEN DUURZAME TOEKOMST

**vlaco**  
Meer halen uit de biologische kringloop

**vvsg**

**ia.**

**westtoer**



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