

Setting up base camp by 2023

(work in progress)



The circular
construction
economy

Base camp

Where do we stand with the circular construction economy?

The Netherlands' goal is an entirely circular construction economy by 2050. The market is already changing radically. There is growing awareness among companies of the need to use natural resources responsibly and of their impact on the environment. There is widespread experimentation with circular materials and designs, new forms of contract and business models. Tenders increasingly include circular criteria. The first circular buildings, homes and infrastructure projects have already been completed.

The path to a circular construction economy will not follow a straight line. It is a process of abandoning old ways of thinking and working in search of new market models and strategies. The Circular Construction Economy Transition Agenda plots the course to the final goal. To use the analogy of mountain climbing, we will reach the summit in stages. But one thing we know for certain is that we must start out well-prepared and with the right basic equipment.

An important milestone will come in 2023 when the so-called base camp will be ready. This base camp comprises all the instruments, tools and conditions needed to proceed to the following stages. What is the purpose of the base camp? And what instruments will it contain? In this brochure, the transition team provides an initial answer to those questions. It is a work in progress and is intended as an invitation to all the relevant stakeholders to join the dialogue.

What are the spearheads of the base camp?

The base camp contains only specific conditions and instruments that are crucial for the strategy and which must be in place by 2023. Its purpose is to bring focus to the activities in the coming period. The base camp will be designed on the basis of the four spearheads defined in the Transition Agenda for creating the circular construction economy. They are:

- Market development
- Policy, legislation and regulations
- Measurement
- Knowledge and awareness

Our definition of Circular Construction

The development, use and reuse of buildings, areas and infrastructure without unnecessary resource depletion, environmental pollution and ecosystem degradation. Building in a manner that is economically sound and contributes to the well-being of humans and animals. Here and there, now and later.





The path to a circular construction economy in 2050 does not follow a straight line. It is a quest.

Spearheads

What elements will the base camp contain in 2023?



Spearhead 1: market development

Step-by-step plan for the development of supply

In 2022, an analysis of the success and failure factors for circular solutions will have identified how we can improve the match between the supply of high-grade secondary materials and the demand for them for new building, repair and renovation of buildings and infrastructure. The recommendations from this analysis will have been implemented by 2023.

Step-by-step plan for the development of demand

Demand has to be created to kick start circular building. Because of their prominent role in commissioning projects in the construction and infrastructure sectors, public authorities can use their purchasing power to stimulate that demand as 'launching customer'. The ambition of the main public organisations (Central Government Real Estate Agency (Rijksvastgoedbedrijf), Rijkswaterstaat, Prorail and the 21 waterboards) is that from 2030 all of their tenders will be circular. In 2023, organisations in the public sector that commission projects will have committed themselves to an action plan for achieving that objective. The knowledge and experience that is acquired in the process will enable other parties in the market to quickly follow their example.

Clarity about the materials passport

The materials passport is a tool for identifying the materials that are used in a building or infrastructure and how they have been used. This makes it easier to ensure that the construction process and the reuse and recovery of materials during demolition or disassembly follow circular principles and adds value to structures. By 2023, there will be clarity about the role and function of a materials passport. An important requirement in that context is to identify the potential for reuse of the various materials and components.



Insight into producer responsibility in the construction sector

How can producers, suppliers and importers of building materials be made responsible for their own waste management? In 2023, there will be a document describing a possible design for a system of producer responsibility in the construction sector, under which companies themselves would be responsible for financing and carrying out their own waste management. The producers of building materials (suppliers) have given a commitment to adopt this system.



Spearhead 2: measurement

Detailed measurement instruments

An important component of the base camp is a reliable and accessible measurement instrument based on the aforementioned definition of circular construction. In 2023, it will be clear to everyone in the construction sector precisely what circular construction actually involves. In other words, there will be a detailed and uniform set of definitions and terminology. There will also be clarity about the statutory requirements and the scope of the application of the measurement instrument.



Spearhead 3: policy, legislation and regulations

Transparency of policy instruments

The national government is currently drafting policy instruments in relation to every aspect of the circular economy. For example, by refining the Environmental Performance of Buildings and infrastructure projects (MPG) method and extending it to renovations and other types of building in order to maximise the value of circularity. In 2023, there will be a roadmap setting out how the goal of a circular construction economy can be reached in 2030 and how requirements, pricing and incentives will be used in reaching it. The roadmap will be drafted in consultation with the construction sector and public authorities.

Compatibility with European legislation

It is very important that the progress made in terms of circular construction in the Netherlands corresponds with developments in the rest of Europe (and vice versa). In 2023, the national government will have charted relevant developments at European level and identified what more is needed to promote the transition to a circular construction economy.



Spearhead 4: knowledge and awareness

Anchoring circularity in relevant training

In 2023, circular principles will be covered in all construction related training courses. Knowledge, expertise and public support are crucial for the development of circular construction. Embedding knowledge transfer and effective communication in training programmes will create public support for circular construction and promote the training of skilled personnel.



Transition

What must not be missing

The base camp encompasses the actions that must be completed by 2023 in order to accelerate the transition to a circular construction economy. Meanwhile, the success of the transition will also depend on a number of other continuous activities.

For example, from 2022 the progress with the transition to a circular construction economy will be monitored annually. In addition, a transparent system will be developed for the documentation, management and exchange of data in passports, which will also include measures to connect the passport with existing processes such as Building Information Modelling (BIM) and DigiGO, the national digitalisation programme for the built environment. There will be clarity about the structure of a financial framework. During the transition to the circular construction economy in the Netherlands it will also be necessary to monitor developments in other countries and international forums. In addition, possibilities will be explored for linking the challenge of creating a circular construction economy to other transitions, such as the programmes for Nearly Energy-Neutral Buildings (BENG), gas-free districts, the Renovatieversneller (a programme to accelerate the process of increasing the sustainability of rented housing) and the insulation of existing homes, as well as the roadmaps for public real estate.

Progress

The transition team is responsible for the Circular Construction Economy Implementation Programme. The programme for 2021-2023 sets out the activities required to set up the base camp. The transition team's role in that programme is to advise the government and promote knowledge creation and raise awareness. The team coordinates the implementation programme with the government-wide programme 'A circular economy in the Netherlands by 2050' in consultation with the responsible officials in the ministries of the Interior and Kingdom Relations and Infrastructure and Water Management. It also coordinates with other platforms and initiatives dedicated to circular construction.

**Knowledge, expertise
and public support are
crucial for the development
of circular construction.**





Colophon

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