

# Circular Friesland's Ambition: Striving to Become the Most Circular EU Region by 2025

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Friesland is committed to spearheading the transition towards circular economy. Through a strong emphasis on innovative solutions and collaborative initiatives, Friesland is working towards the ambitious target of becoming the most circular region in the EU by 2025. Embracing the core principles of circularity, the region prioritizes sustainable practices that emphasize resource efficiency and waste reduction.

To effectively translate these principles into action, the Circulair Friesland Association was established. This association plays a pivotal role in promoting and advancing the adoption of circular economy principles in practice within the region. By bringing together key stakeholders, businesses, government entities, and community members, the association works towards driving tangible change and fostering a culture of sustainability and circularity in Friesland.



## Chemport ecosystem

Plastics play a crucial role in our modern society, serving a wide range of essential purposes. However, the current reliance on petroleum for plastic production poses environmental challenges due to its non-renewable nature and contribution to CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Recognizing the urgency of the situation, Circular Friesland is committed to addressing these issues proactively. One significant initiative undertaken by Circular Friesland is the Clean North project, which seeks to establish the region as a pioneering hub for circular plastics by 2030. Leveraging the unique Chemport ecosystem in the Northern Netherlands, this project fosters collaboration among businesses, government entities, and research institutions to create a fully circular industrial ecosystem. Through initiatives like the Greenwise campus and Transition Centre, Circular Friesland is accelerating its progress towards this goal.

<https://www.chemport.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Transition-Centre-Circular-Plastics-brochure.pdf>

## Circular plastics in the Chemport

Within Chemport Europe, the focus extends beyond plastics to encompass key themes such as Biomass, Hydrogen, and Carbon Dioxide. By integrating circularity into these areas and embracing innovative recycling technologies, biobased materials, and CO<sub>2</sub>-based polymers, Circular Friesland is driving sustainable practices and reducing its environmental footprint. The Chemport is comprised of two key components: the Chemical Cluster located in Emmen, where CuRe is leading the way in chemical recycling of challenging polyester streams, and the Chemical Cluster in Delfzijl, where Avantium is pioneering the production of biobased

monomers for a new generation of polyesters. These initiatives exemplify the region's commitment to advancing circularity in the plastics industry.

CuRe's innovative approach to chemical recycling enables the conversion of difficult polyester streams into materials suitable for food applications, showcasing a prime example of upcycling. Meanwhile, Morssinkhof is another notable player in the plastic recycling market, specializing in the production of various products from mechanically recycled polyester (rPET).

In Delfzijl, Avantium's efforts to develop biobased monomers highlight the region's dedication to exploring sustainable alternatives in polymer production. By collaborating with partners across the value chain, the goal of achieving full circularity is being pursued earnestly. Through advancements at all stages of the value chain, the realization of a fully circular economy for plastics is now within reach.

### **The Transition Centre Circular Plastics**

Transitioning towards circular plastics requires more than just technological advancements; it necessitates a profound understanding of legal, economic, and social aspects. While technological innovation and business support from regional authorities play a crucial role in this transition, a holistic approach that integrates diverse knowledge domains is essential. The Transition Centre Circular Plastics (TCCP) serves as a focal point for integrating multidisciplinary expertise and driving business development to propel the region towards a truly circular plastics economy. By combining knowledge from various disciplines and levels, TCCP is facilitating the transition towards more sustainable practices and fostering a circular economy mindset among businesses and stakeholders.

By harnessing collective expertise and fostering a culture of innovation, Circular Friesland is laying the foundation for a more sustainable future. Through its proactive approach and commitment to circularity, the region is poised to set a benchmark for sustainable development and inspire other regions to follow suit in creating a more sustainable and resilient economy.

