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Renewi plc

Press Release

Renewi opens Recydel site in Belgium

Coolrec, a Renewi subsidiary, has reopened its Recydel site in Liege, Belgium. At the site the WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) recycler reprocesses discarded electronic and electrical equipment into valuable secondary raw materials – over 25,000 tonnes of metals and 13,000 tonnes of plastics per year.

The Recydel site recycles WEEE such as refrigerators using three processes. "The appliances first pass through a depollution line, where all the harmful materials are removed, such as coolants from refrigerators and batteries from electronics. Once the cabling has been removed, the electronic devices enter the brown line and the fridges are processed on a separate fridge line" explains Arjen Wittekoek, Director of Coolrec. "An intensive shredding and separation process results in very clean raw material streams. We process the plastics into new raw materials, while we sell the steel and aluminium back to industry and all of the precious metals to another processor for further separation. Coolrec isn't just a WEEE processor but also an important supplier of secondary raw materials to contribute to the Circular Economy."

High-value recycling and innovation

Coolrec recycles WEEE such as fridges, computer equipment and (small) domestic appliances. These items are recycled into materials such as high-value plastics, metals and other raw materials. Wittekoek comments: "There is a large proportion of valuable materials in discarded equipment. Using innovative technology allows us to recover specific materials so they can be reused to manufacture new products such as new fridges. Recovering these high-value materials also results directly in a CO2 reduction, allowing us to support our customer's sustainability objectives. In collaboration with CRM (*Centre De Recherches Metallurgiques*), we are working to further improve the quality of the secondary raw materials."

Employment

Renewi and Coolrec are committed to social responsibility. "Coolrec contributes to the circular economy and also takes social responsibility seriously. As part of this we are creating employment opportunities in Wallonia, with particular attention and scope for people who have had problems accessing the employment market," adds Wittekoek. "15 out of over 60 employees at Recydel have had such difficulties and we are therefore delighted to help these members of our team secure employment."



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About Coolrec

Coolrec's eight specialist locations in the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany and France form an integrated and international network for the processing of WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) at the highest level. Coolrec recycles electrical appliances and electronic products, recovering high-grade plastics, metals and other raw materials from the discarded items. From monitors to refrigerators, and from IT equipment to home appliances.

About Renewi

Renewi, created in 2017 by the merger of Shanks Group plc and Van Gansewinkel Groep B.V., is a leading waste-to-product business ideally positioned to be part of the solution to some of the main environmental problems facing society today: reducing waste, avoiding pollution, and preventing the unnecessary use of finite natural resources. With over 8,000 employees across nine countries in Europe and North America, we have deep expertise and an extensive breadth of waste management products and services. For us, waste is a state of mind, an opportunity. When we take away someone's waste we then give it new life. We transform a wide range of used materials into useful products and raw materials for our customers, like recycled paper, metal, plastic and glass, woodchips, compost, energy, fuel, and other products. In the process we protect the world from contamination, preserve finite natural resources, and enable customers to meet their sustainability goals. With our deep international expertise we also provide them with an extensive product range, combined with local service and attention. Above all, our team is committed and passionate about our mission: waste no more. www.renewi.com

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