



Enable the circular economy

Helping to drive circular activities and turn waste into secondary raw materials and products is central to our mission to be the world-beating waste-to-product company

OBJECTIVES

▶ Turn our customers' waste into new products

Our purpose is to protect the world by giving new life to used materials. We recognise the value of waste: we collect it and make something new out of it. We take a precautionary approach to environmental challenges. Turning residual materials into secondary raw materials helps protect the world's natural resources and preserve the planet for future generations. This puts us at the heart of the circular economy and creates value for our stakeholders.

That's why one of the three central themes of our new sustainability strategy, working together with our enhanced business strategy, is to 'enable the circular economy'. The business strategy also affirms our support for the circular economy: two of its main objectives are for Renewi to be a leader in recycling and in secondary material production.

Our purpose is entirely in step with developments in the countries where Renewi operates and beyond: the circular economy is growing, and more businesses are exploring sustainability, driven by the wider economy, legislation and social pressure. There is growing market demand for more sustainable products and services, and increasing government incentives in the form of legislation and regulations. This means more businesses are taking sustainability seriously and realise that they should be contributing to society. Much more needs to happen, however, to tackle the big challenges the world is facing. Large businesses play an important role here and need

to upscale and accelerate changes in their production, sourcing and output. We also need a wider system change towards an economy driven by purpose and profit. For that, we need active co-operation between business and industry, politics, science and the public. We're helping customers design their products, to make it easy to extract materials for re-use or recycling at the end of a product's life. We also help them develop circular business models, so scarce materials stay within the chain for as long as possible. In this way, we want to enable the circular economy.

TRANSFORMING WASTE INTO NEW PRODUCTS

The single focus of our sustainability strategy's 'enable the circular economy' theme is to turn our customers' waste into new products, and by doing so avoid carbon emissions, because today's waste materials are tomorrow's resources. After products have been used for as long as possible, valuable raw materials must be brought back into the product value cycle. More businesses look to us for advice on circular practices – on how, for example, their own used materials can be used again for new products, or how they can make their own procurement practices more circular. By giving guidance, we promote environmental responsibility within our supply chain and in society as a whole. We prioritise waste recycling over energy recovery or landfill disposal for all waste we receive.

We plan to divert more residual waste from energy recovery to recycling solutions in the future. We do this first by communicating with our upstream clients, encouraging them to sort and separate their waste streams so that we can provide the highest recycling output. One example is our commercial PMD (plastic bottles, metal packaging and drink cartons) collection. Our Commercial Waste Division in Belgium and the Netherlands deploys part of its own sorting and recycling operations for paper, cardboard, wood, plastics, metals, and construction and demolition waste. We have partnerships with other recyclers to make sure that we can offer our customers the solutions that are best suited to their waste streams. Specific recycling activities for glass, electric and electronic waste, and hazardous waste are clustered within our Specialities and Mineralz & Water Divisions.



SDG LINK





Enable the circular economy, continued

More and more low-quality residual waste gets a new life instead of being incinerated – and we invest in innovative technologies and business models for circular products, placing them into markets where their sustainability benefits can be maximised. For example, with IKEA we have invested in Dutch company RetourMatras, which transforms old mattresses into secondary products, so it can expand its recycling operations. We have an exclusive delivery partnership with Purified Metal Company, which decontaminates waste steel for re-use in construction. We have a similar arrangement to pre-treat and deliver waste plastic to chemical recycling specialists, who transform it into oil that can be used to make new plastic products. Waste streams that can't be recycled are given a useful purpose as high-quality fuel products, such as refuse-derived fuel (RDF) or solid recovered fuel (SRF), biomass

fuels and Renewi's ICOPOWER® pellets. We also expect the amount of waste in landfill to reduce further as more landfill sites are decommissioned.

CARBON AVOIDANCE FROM RECYCLING AND RECOVERY

Our recycling and recovery activities also have a carbon avoidance benefit. By recycling materials and making them available as secondary raw materials, the use of primary raw materials is avoided. By doing so, less carbon is emitted in the life cycle of these materials – hence carbon avoidance in the supply chain of products made from these materials. When waste is used as fuel, carbon emissions that would occur by using fossil fuels are partly avoided. We turn landfill gas into electricity at our biggest landfill sites, reducing the release of carbon emissions (CO₂ and methane).

These emissions should decrease as less landfilling takes place. Our sustainability objective here is measured by three metrics: recycling rate, carbon avoidance and innovative secondary materials we produce – each with a target for 2023 and 2025. See below for full details.



Enable the circular economy – our metrics and targets

OBJECTIVE	METRIC	FY20 BASELINE	FY23 TARGET	FY25 TARGET
Turn our customers' waste into new products	Recycling rate (% of total waste handled)	65%	70%	75%
	Carbon avoidance (kg CO ₂ per tonne waste handled)	257	266 (+8%)	275 (+15%)
	Innovative secondary materials produced (tonnes)	200,000	750,000	1 million

75%

Our recycling rate objective for 2025

275

kg CO₂ per tonne of waste: our 2025 carbon avoidance target