

## SHORT SUMMARY

**Organisation:** Rijkswaterstaat, [www.rijkswaterstaat.nl](http://www.rijkswaterstaat.nl)

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**Product & sector:** Workwear (Textiles) | **Country:** The Netherlands



# Workwear package for Rijkswaterstaat



*The lease contract for stewards' circular workwear is a first for Central government.*

Rijkswaterstaat used the annual replacement of workwear as an opportunity to contribute towards the circular economy. The workwear is now being leased.

## Project description

Rijkswaterstaat posts stewards at locks in the summer season to guide leisure craft. They wear recognisable workwear, which is replaced every season. The project involves a pilot with a circular workwear package for 56 lock stewards. The package was leased for a two-season period (May 2015 - October 2016).

## Approach

The annual replacement of the stewards' workwear proved to be a great opportunity to develop a circular model with which Rijkswaterstaat can contribute towards the circular economy. Together with the market they investigated business models to handle raw materials efficiently. Rijkswaterstaat started collaborating with a market party for a two-year lease contract. At the end of the pilot, Rijkswaterstaat is reviewing whether the lock stewards' workwear can also be used in a circular way in the coming years. Rijkswaterstaat also aims to apply circular economy principles to sections of the standard uniforms.



## FACTS & FIGURES

### Volume contract:

- > 112 polo shirts and 56 fleece vests, 56 waterproof trousers, 56 raincoats and 56 caps

### Contract form:

- > performance-based contract for 2 years

### Global budget:

- > 8,000 excl. VAT per year

## Results

With this pilot Rijkswaterstaat is demonstrating that it is possible to develop a high-quality, circular package of work clothing, with the environment starting to play an even greater role in orders and tenders. The pilot resulted in a performance-based contract with Dutch aWEARness, in which the supplier remains the owner of the clothing and thus also owner of the raw materials.

*“We wanted to demonstrate that it is not necessary to purchase clothing.”*

Wilco Kalkman, Facility Services Adviser,  
Rijkswaterstaat

The clothing will be returned to the supplier for recycling after use. It would be even more sustainable to wear the clothing for longer than one season. Rijkswaterstaat, however, wanted the pilot to examine the possibilities of recycling and a lease construction.

It is possible to reuse, for example, the rainwear material, thanks to Infinity, a 100% recyclable polyester material. This material is shredded into fibres that are then used in a mix with another recycled material for new clothing items for the next season. The environmental impact of this pilot is minimal because no new raw materials were used and no waste was created. According to the supplier, this process can be repeated up to eight times. A

track and trace system was also developed (Circular Content Management System) that offers insight into the entire production process and the accompanying environmental impact by scanning the QR code in the clothing.

## Lessons learned

- The level of reuse differs per item of clothing.
- It was not possible to produce the clothing for the next period entirely using the material from the used clothing. An extra (recycled material) needed to be

## About REBus and the Green Deal Circular Procurement

The Green Deal Circular Procurement (GDGP) is an initiative of MVO Nederland (CSR Netherlands), NEVI, Central government, Duurzame Leverancier, PIANOo, Kirkman Company and Circle Economy. Various pilots originating from GDGP are partly financed by the European REBus project, implemented in the Netherlands by Rijkswaterstaat (Directorate-General for Public Works and Water Management). They are working together to support businesses and government organisations in their circular procurement ambitions.

### Contact information

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**Partners:** Dutch aWEARness

**Relevant links & documents:** [Article Rijkswaterstaat](#) | [REBus Case Study Leasing 100% recyclable workwear](#)

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