

Environmental plan

Matth. Verdegaal B.V. applies the principles of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) as the basis for its strategic policy. This environmental plan is derived from these principles and covers the following themes:

- Nature conservation in the direct surroundings of plots and premises
- Waste management
- Energy management
- Management of crop protection products and related residues
- Purchasing from sustainably certified companies

1) Nature conservation

As part of nature conservation, we aim to preserve the natural environment in the direct surroundings of our plots and premises. For cleaning the exterior of the company building, only environmentally responsible cleaning agents are used, and weeds on the yards and paved areas are treated as little as possible with chemical herbicides. If such products are necessary, we only use legally permitted products.

The control of vermin (rats, mice) takes place as far as possible in an environmentally responsible manner. Nesting sites of birds (especially swallows) are left undisturbed and, where necessary, given extra protection.

2) Waste

The waste streams have been mapped, providing insight into the existing and expected waste materials. These waste materials are collected and stored separately. Periodically, at a frequency that depends on the season, the waste materials are collected and processed by professional parties. The waste sources are specified in **Appendix B.04.01.04**.

Matth. Verdegaal has been registering the waste removed since 1 July 2020, which provides insight into the number of kilograms of agricultural waste removed and the number of collections of the residual waste wheeler bin (**Appendix B.04.01.05**).

With regard to reducing waste, we have not formulated quantitative targets. The volume of agricultural waste depends on the quantity of product and the product processing in a season. The percentage of waste depends on the quality (rejection and destruction of lots) and the cleanliness of the unsorted flower bulbs supplied. However, qualitative targets have been set, such as ensuring a stricter separation of waste materials.

3) Energy management

Through detailed registration of the meter readings and analysis of these in relation to the development of business processes over time, we are aware of our energy consumption (Appendix B.04.01.02). Based on this, we formulate our objectives to minimize energy consumption and we invest, where possible, in energy-saving measures.

Energy-saving measures 2019-2024			
Measure	Explanation	Investment	Status
LED lighting	Replace existing lighting in all rooms with LED lighting. Advice and materials supplied by AGK. Implementation carried out in-house.	€ 5,357.00	Completed June 2020
Energy-efficient storm/drying walls	Purchase of 4 energy-efficient drying walls, second-hand, from the company Van Vlerken (Veblij).	€ 7,330.00	Completed October 2020
Replacement of 2 boiler installations (Viessmann flame-tube boilers) by 2 high-efficiency boilers	Boiler installations from 2002 will be replaced by a cascade setup with 2 Remeha Quinta Ace HR boilers.	€ 15,000.00	Completed June 2021
Installation of solar panels on the roof	On 14 October 2022, company Aton was commissioned to install 1,210 solar panels. This will provide an expected output of 420,000 kWh per year. As preparation and completion, various adjustments were made to the electrical system and the meter box was modified.	€ 350,000.00	Delivery of roof-mounted panels January 2023. Connection of 50% of the inverters in February 2023. Final delivery March 2023.
Electric driving	Provision for charging electric cars at 11 kWh.	€ 2,500.00	Completed January 2022. Management drives fuel-efficient electric cars (Skoda Enyaq).
Installation of solar boilers	The roof offers sufficient space for installing solar boilers. We have received permission from the landlord to install these. They could be cost-effective in the summer period for producing the hot water required for drying hyacinths.	t.b.d.	Under study and consideration. The possibilities of heat storage in a storage tank or in the ground are being investigated.
Heat recovery installation for residual heat from cold rooms to heat storage cells	In-house installer Eval is investigating the possibilities of heat recovery (HRV) and heat storage.	t.b.d.	First recommendations expected spring 2023.

4) Management of crop protection products and pesticides

Our objective is to limit the use of crop and flower bulb protection products and pesticides as much as possible. Where we do use these products, we ensure that this is done in a responsible manner. The storage of these products takes place in a suitable, lockable storage area.

The management and use of these products is carried out by Mr Piet Goemans. He has sufficient knowledge and training in the field of protection and control agents and holds a spraying license (**Appendix B.04.01.06**).

5) Purchasing from sustainably certified companies

Since June 2021, the purchasing administration records which suppliers meet the qualification of a “sustainable company” and are validly certified by MPS, GAP, SGS or another certification body. The minimum standard is 25%. Measurements we have carried out show that we comfortably meet this requirement (**Appendix B.04.01.07**).

	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Category	jun-21	jun-22	Mar-23
Suppliers with sustainable certification	41%	46%	62%
Suppliers without certification or unknown	59%	54%	38%
	100%	100%	100%

For the 2023–2024 season, we aim to purchase 60% from sustainable companies. The sustainability requirements are regularly discussed with (potential) suppliers.