



Luxembourg, 7 July 2022

Environmental and Social Data Sheet¹

Overview

Project Name: Waste recovery & recycling
 Project Number: 2021 0559
 Country: Belgium and the Netherlands
 Project Description: Investments in existing and new waste sorting, recovery and recycling facilities in Belgium and the Netherlands.

EIA required: No

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise²: Yes

(details for projects included are provided in section: “EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise”)

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

This operation comprises the following five investments that form part of the promoter Renewi Europe BV’s 2021-2024 investment plan:

- 1) three new commercial & industrial (C&I) waste sorting lines in Flanders, Belgium, that will increase recovery of materials for recycling, and reduce the share of outputs destined for incineration;
- 2) installation of a new 25 kt/yr rigid plastics sorting line at an existing facility in Acht (the Netherlands), that will cater for increasing collection of plastics and enable production of higher quality outputs required by off-takers; and
- 3) upgrade of gas management and utilization at an existing anaerobic digestion plant in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, where the capacity will be increased 10% due to changed feedstock and operational regime.

The new and upgraded waste sorting and recovery lines will increase materials and energy recovery from C&I waste, and decrease environmental and climate change impact from alternative forms of handling. The project components will contribute to compliance with regional and national waste policy and regulation, including the EU Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC, as amended) and the Flanders Vlarema 8 regulation. They will generate positive externalities from increased material and energy recovery and reduced incineration and landfill disposal of waste resulting in an overall net reduction of GHG emissions with significant climate change mitigation impact. The proposed operation has been assessed for Paris alignment and

¹ The information contained in the document reflects the requirement related to the environmental, social and climate information to be provided to Investment Committee as required by the Invest EU Regulation and it represents the equivalent of the information required in the template of the InvestEU sustainability proofing summary

² Only projects that meet the scope of the Carbon Footprint Exercise, as defined in the EIB Carbon Footprint Methodologies, are included, provided estimated emissions exceed the methodology thresholds: 20,000 tonnes CO₂e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tonnes CO₂e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.



Luxembourg, 7 July 2022

is considered to be aligned both against low carbon and resilience goals against the policies set out in the Climate Bank.

All four new waste treatment facilities were subject to EIA screening with status summarised below.

- *Ghent C&I waste sorting line*: The EIA screening application was submitted in December 2021. In March 2022, the Competent Authority (Provincie Oost-Vlaanderen) issued a decision that no significant environmental impacts should be expected, and therefore no EIA would be needed. This decision was confirmed on 18 May 2022 following the conclusion of the one month public consultation process.

- *Puurs C&I waste sorting line*: The EIA screening application was re-submitted with complimentary information in late April 2022 with a Competent Authority (Provincie Antwerp) decision expected to be issued in Q3 2022, and confirmed following a one month public consultation period. Since this project is very similar to the Ghent project and it is also implemented on a site where the promoter today is handling and sorting waste, a similar Competent Authority decision as for Ghent is expected also for this project. The Puurs site is located close to the waterway Rupel, which is a Natura 2000 site. However the project will not have a significant impact on the site, since the facility do not discharge into the Rupel.

- *Beringen C&I waste sorting line*: This sorting line will be implemented on a newly purchased site located in an industrial area, where the distance to non-industrial activities is larger than for the Ghent and Puurs sites. In the past, production of different industrial chemicals took place on the site, which caused some soil pollution that has been remediated by the company responsible for the pollution. The EIA screening application is under preparation and is expected to be submitted in June 2022, with a Competent Authority (Provincie Limburg) decision expected to be issued in Q1 2023. Since the sorting line, capacity, waste types targeted, site and surroundings are very similar to the Ghent facility and site, a similar Competent Authority decision as for Ghent is expected also for this project.

- *Acht plastic sorting line*: This plastic sorting line will be implemented on an existing site where plastic is sorted in a smaller and simpler facility today. The site is located in an industrial zone, where also other recycling companies are located. A permit application was submitted in October 2021. In January 2022, the Competent Authority (Omgevingsdienst Zutdoost-Brabant) concluded that the proposed activities do not lead to significant adverse effects on the environment, and do not need to be further investigated through an EIA. The Competent Authority furthermore concluded that there are no Natura 2000 sites in the immediate vicinity of the site, and the project have no (negative) impact on any Natura 2000 areas.

- *Amsterdam green gas upgrade*: This component primarily involves the installation of new equipment on an existing site and an EIA screening was not required. Instead the promoter submitted an application for modification of the existing environmental permit in February 2020. The Competent Authority (Omgevingsdienst noordzeekanaalgebied) granted an amended Environmental Permit in August 2020.

EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise

The carbon footprint of the project is based on the estimation of the GHG emissions related to 4 advanced sorting plants and a “green gas” (bio-methane) production facility installed as part of the project. In summary, it is expected that the project will result in a considerable decrease in GHG emissions, i.e. **relative emissions of the project are -90.1 ktCO₂eq/y, based on absolute GHG emissions of 36.8 ktCO₂eq/y and baseline GHG emissions of 126.9 ktCO₂eq/y.**



Luxembourg, 7 July 2022

The sources for scope 1 and 2 emissions include electricity consumption of the new plant equipment, as well as fuel of the vehicles and machinery operating at the project sites. Scope 3 emissions directly associated with the project include GHG emissions from chemical recycling of sorted mixed plastic in an external pyrolysis facility and GHG emissions from the consumption of grid electricity by final consumers, in an amount equivalent to renewable electricity production to be displaced by the project's bio-methane production.

In the baseline scenario, a large amount of plastics (around 60 kt/y) would not be recovered and would continue to be sent to external incineration facilities, which is the main source of avoided scope 3 emissions. In addition, scope 3 emission savings through the project result from avoided natural gas consumption in the residential and industry sectors (displaced by bio-methane and bio-CO₂ produced by the project).

For the annual accounting purposes of the EIB Carbon Footprint, the project emissions will be prorated according to the EIB lending amount signed in that year, as a proportion of project cost.

Social Assessment

For external social impacts, the new investments are expected to create direct employment in the construction and operation of the new facilities as well as indirectly through wider socio-economic effects such as the strengthening of the EU waste management and recycling industries, their global competitiveness and the support to long-term economic growth. The promoter is limiting negative environmental and social impacts to the extent possible. Since the facilities are all situated in industrial zones located in sufficient distance to residential areas, the impacts on such areas is negligible. The promoter is engaged in maintaining a good relationship with relevant public authorities and neighboring industrial companies, and responds in a timely manner to requests and complaints received concerning any negative impacts from its operations.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

All the EIA screening decisions issued by the Competent authorities are subject to mandatory one month public consultation periods according to relevant legislation in Flanders and the Netherlands before the decisions are confirmed.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The promoter has a management system that complies with ISO 9001 (quality), ISO 14001 (environment) and ISO 45001 (safety) to ensure that quality, the environment and safety are engrained in all the company's processes.

The promoter furthermore has an environmental management system that among others include requirement to perform a limited life cycle analysis of investments in line with the ISO environmental aspects analysis, and continuous monitoring of performance as compared with industry benchmarks; and monitoring and control of waste streams.

Conclusions and Recommendations

This operation will increase materials and energy recovery from C&I waste, and decrease environmental and climate change impact from alternative forms of waste handling.



Luxembourg, 7 July 2022

The project components will contribute to compliance with regional and national waste policy and regulation including the EU Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC, as amended) and the Flanders Vlarema 8 regulation.

They will generate positive externalities from increased material and energy recovery and reduced incineration and landfill disposal of waste resulting in an overall net reduction of GHG emissions with significant climate change mitigation impact.

The project investments will create employment in the proximity of the new facilities.

The promoter is limiting negative social impacts to the extent possible. Since the facilities are all situated in industrial zones, the impacts on residential areas is limited. The promoter also proactively manages the relationship with neighbours.

All project components will be subject to the promoter complying with the following requirements:

- The promoter is required not to allocate Bank funds to project components that require a full EIA until the EIA and/or the necessary nature assessment have been finalized and approved by the relevant competent authority. In such a case and once any EIA is available, the promoter will provide the Bank with an electronic copy of the EIA, for publication on the EIB website.
- The Promoter undertakes to provide to the Bank, if requested, any decisions issued by the competent authority that screen out project components and the main reasons for not requiring EIA with the reference to the relevant criteria listed in Annex III of the EIA Directive.

The proposed operation is therefore in line with the EIB Climate Bank Roadmap, and also acceptable for EIB financing in E&S terms.