

# Making The Centre Court building The Hague More Sustainable

Summary (report 2022-2023)

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Figure: Methods Used.

In the report, we proposed and discussed measures to the RVO to make their office building CC more sustainable. The RVO has a large interest in these measures as it has an example function to fulfil as a governmental department. Additionally, the RVO benefits from these recommendations as well as they offer the potential to reduce costs. Starting from a broad range of sustainability issues, we have narrowed our scope to create meaningful elements that can be linked to and support each other in order to create a holistic solution. Ultimately, this ensued into three topics: reducing energy consumption, reducing waste, and increasing the employees' wellbeing. Those were unified under our own established umbrella framework called Sustainable Office Framework which allowed us to look at these aspects holistically.

- “How can the alignment of CC with the 3 focus areas of the Paris Proof framework be increased?”
- “Which measures can be implemented at CC to reduce waste and make the treatment of waste more circular?”
- “How can the RVO integrate principles of the Living Building framework to increase wellbeing?”

In the report, we proposed and discussed measures to the RVO to make their office building CC more sustainable. The RVO has a large interest in these measures as it has an example function to fulfil as a governmental department. Additionally, the RVO benefits from these recommendations as well as they offer the potential to reduce costs. Starting from a broad range of sustainability issues, we have narrowed our scope to create meaningful elements that can be linked to and support each other in order to create a holistic solution.

In order to follow these promises and enable the RVO to make the shift towards a more sustainable office, this report aimed to answer the following research questions:

To answer the first research question, we recommend to the RVO to apply several energy reducing measures, such as presence detection sensors and daylight dimming, to reduce the energy consumption to 70 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>. One of our recommendations on its own (i.e. daylight dimming) could already reduce the total energy consumption of the building to 80 kWh/m<sup>2</sup> in the best case scenario. Combined with other measures that we recommended, it is plausible that the CC building can decrease its energy consumption to below the threshold of the Paris Proof framework. To improve their energy monitoring and reporting as well as to promote the PP framework, we suggest to adopt the platform Smappee and encourage other GBCB members to also implement the PP framework, respectively.

Regarding the second research question, we recommend to the RVO to create a Waste Taskforce (WT) consisting of employees from different departments which is responsible for supervising the waste reduction initiatives, training of employees and the implementation of sustainability goals. Seeing that most of the waste originates from CATIII (see graph X), which most logically would originate from the cafeteria, this waste category should become a priority of investigation for the WT. However, as the RVO has no influence over the waste resulting from the catering company, its focus should be on reducing waste produced by the RVO's employees. For instance, previous studies have shown that displaying posters with messages about food waste can reduce the food wasted by about 15% (Pinto et al., 2018). This presents an attractive intervention for the RVO, as it offers a simple and affordable intervention with potential to reduce large amounts of waste.

Lastly, to answer the third research question on how to increase employees' wellbeing, we recommend to the RVO to integrate more greenery such as plants on desks and green walls in the atrium and to stimulate the surrounding by means of displaying and creating art to increase employees' awareness on sustainability topics. These measures all aim to increase employees' wellbeing based on the principles of TLB Building Framework.

All of the recommendations stated above are grounded in extensive research, including an analysis of alternatives leading up to a best practice, and is backed up by practical considerations including costs, energy reducing potential, and technical considerations. With that in mind, we feel that this report presents the RVO with a clear, well-thought-out overview of potential interventions it could adopt pertaining to three elements which RVO highly values. We have aimed to make our recommendations as holistic as possible. Firstly, some recommendations we propose to achieve the goals for one pillar also have positive effects on other pillars. A good example for this are the 'upcycling office waste workshops', which are proposed to contribute to stimulating surroundings but which can simultaneously foster the employees' awareness about waste reduction and recycling. Also, several of our pillars share similar goals. For instance, clear communication about goals and initiatives taken is important

for both the waste and energy pillar in order for the RVO to achieve its waste goals and comply with the Paris Proof framework. Lastly, our recommendations take into account the employees' wellbeing by making use of the advantages of plants and greenery, which can have beneficial effects on the employees' physical and mental health. This can have financial benefits for the RVO due to increased productivity and fewer sick days of the employees. That way, we were able to integrate the different aspects of TLB framework. In conclusion, our research provides multiple recommendations that the RVO can implement to catalyse its sustainability goals, while considering the preferences and concerns of as many relevant stakeholders as possible in order to ensure that initiatives related to our recommendations gain the most support.

If you are interested in the full report, please contact Yvette Nason at [yvettenason@outlook.com](mailto:yvettenason@outlook.com).

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