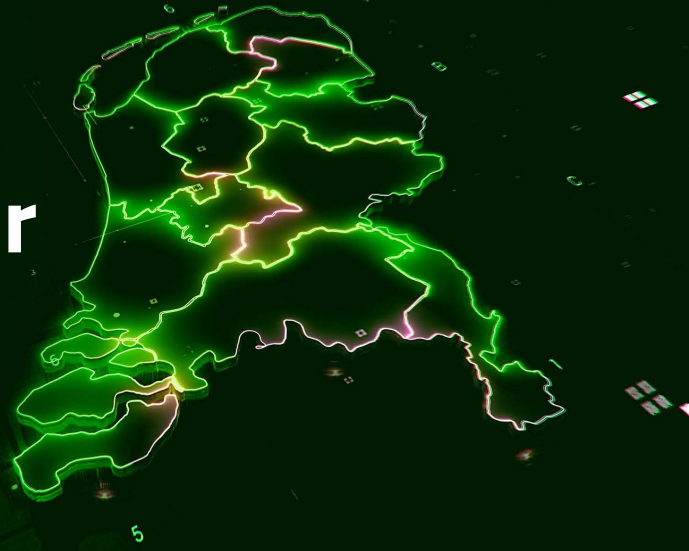


Keeping our finger on the pulse



'We're passing on our heritage to OPEN with full confidence, but we owe it to our members to keep a finger on the pulse as well.'

In 2021, we collected marginally fewer lamps than we did the year before. This is probably an after-effect of the pandemic: by now, all our basements, attics and garages have been cleared out and our home offices are equipped with modern LED office lamps. Nevertheless, we are content with the achieved results, especially given the current conditions of economic insecurity. 2021 was also the first year in which we collaborated closely with the OPEN Foundation. This partnership has us looking towards the future with confidence, and we fully support OPEN's strategy to accelerate the collection of all types of e-waste and reach the target of 65%.

That also means this is the final annual report that LightRec will publish in its current form. By the end of this year, we will cease our collection efforts, and the OPEN Foundation will become responsible for the collection of all energy-saving lamps and luminaires. In 2023, LightRec will publish an annual report covering 2022, the final year in which LightRec was responsible for collecting lamps.

Over the past 15 years, we invested a great deal of time and energy alongside our industry partners to build a well-functioning and accessible collection system. This heritage, too, we are passing on to OPEN in full confidence. However, we owe it to our members to keep a finger on the pulse as well, to ensure that their best interests are served, that ongoing attention is paid to new lighting collection efforts, and that the rates remain competitive. After all, unlike LightRec, OPEN does not merely represent the lighting industry but also other industries, each with their own priorities.

We see it as our mission to ensure that, within that chorus of voices, the voice of the lighting industry continues to be heard. In terms of OPEN's total e-waste collection volume, we may only be a small player – after all, an LED lamp weighs substantially less than a refrigerator. But with almost 700 members, we represent about 20% of OPEN's membership!

Paul Rotteveel, chair of LightRec's Board

2021 In collection volumes

Conventional lamps



sales
843 tonnes (983; -14.2%)



collected volume*
136% (123%; +10.3%)

* the collected volume (relative to POM) is rising as a consequence of the dwindling numbers of conventional lamps sold, but is stable in absolute numbers

LED



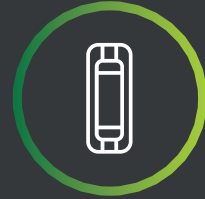
sales
2,538 tonnes (2,720; -6.7%)



collected volume**
2% (2%; +0.0%)

** relatively low collected volume owing to the long lifespan of LED lamps

(LED) Luminaires



sales
35,730 tonnes (31,932; +11.9%)



collected volume
17% (26%; -34.3%)



Lamps and luminaires (collected and put on market)

2015-2021 (in tonnes)

Similarly to 2020, the collection of discarded fluorescent tubes, energy-saving lamps and other conventional lamps fell again in 2021 (by 89% compared to the prior year). The collected volume relative to the POM (sales) has continued to rise to 136%, owing to the falling sales of conventional lamps. This is good news, given that the collection of conventional lamps has the most significant environmental impact. These results are also in line with LightRec's and its members' ambition to continue the collection efforts of conventional lamps in Europe for as long as possible. LED lamps are less problematic, as they contain far fewer (or no) harmful substances, and they are currently only collected in small numbers due to their relatively long lifespan. To achieve the regulatory collection target of 65% for lamps, collection efforts will have to continue to target both conventional and LED lamps.

2021 was the first year that the OPEN Foundation was responsible for the collection of luminaires. The Foundation operated in close consultation with LightRec, which has leveraged the financial reserves built up over the past years by producers to support collection efforts and the communication surrounding them. Unfortunately, despite the high ambitions and our significant efforts (including the implementation of a reimbursement system for the return of luminaires by professionals), collected volumes in the luminaire segment fell, while the POM saw a significant rise of 12%. New collaboration efforts with the metal industry have been initiated and we have redoubled our focus on the construction and demolition industries to help bring the targets within reach.

● Collected ● Put on market

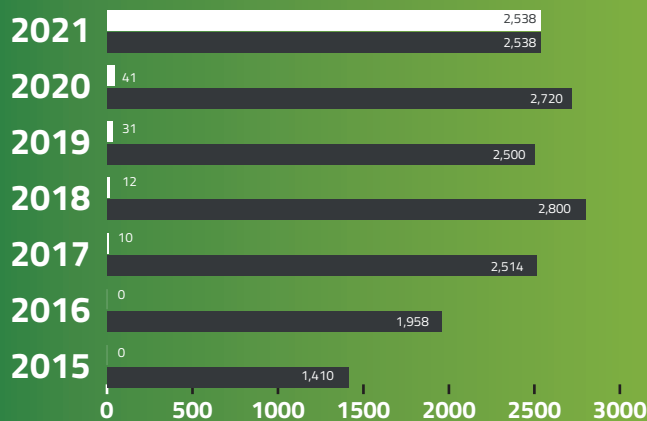
Fluorescent tubes



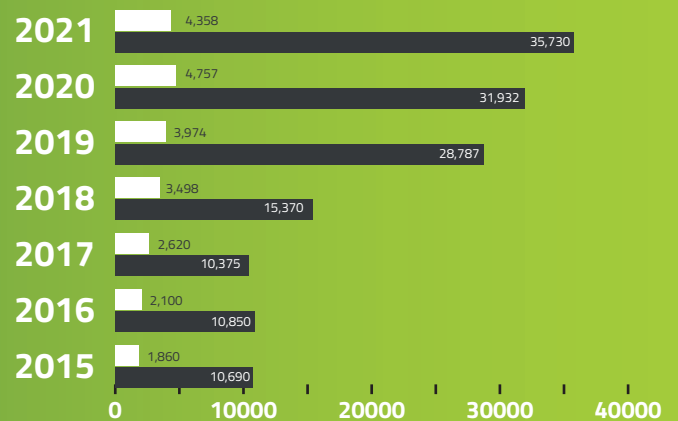
Energy-saving and other lamps



LED



Luminaires*



* Before August 2018: only professional luminaires (construction and demolition industry).

From August 2018: also very large volumes of consumer luminaires (legally required since August 2018).

The future 2022 and beyond

Intensified collaboration with the Dutch Light Association

With the emergence of LED lights, lighting has taken a new role in society and industry, moving from stand-alone lamps and luminaires to integrated smart lighting solutions. This is an important part of the reason why the Dutch Light Association (NLA) has opted to no longer operate as an independent industry organisation, but to join forces instead with Fedet (Federation Electrical Engineering), the representative organisation for electrical engineering businesses.

LightRec is currently strengthening its ties to Fedet-NLA, in order to even better serve the interests of our members. Together with Fedet-NLA, we want to ensure the maintenance of light quality, actively inform the market about trends and developments, and exercise (political) influence on laws and regulations in order to accelerate the uptake of LED lighting in the Netherlands. Because Fedet-NLA is member of the European umbrella organisation Lighting Europe, this also gives us a seat at the table regarding legislation made by the European Union, e.g. phasing out certain types of lamps, legal warranty terms and ensuring a level playing field for online and offline markets. Last but not least, we will be able to take steps in the area of circularity, such as strengthening the requirements for reparability.

A powerful international lobby

LightRec is directly represented in the board of EucoLight, the European partnership of foundations involved in the collection and recycling of WEEE lamps and lighting products. EucoLight represents its 20 members in all concerns related to the WEEE guideline, as well as legislation and standards applicable to the collection and recycling of WEEE lighting.

EucoLight manages a number of highly socially relevant dossiers, including pushing back against so-called online freeriding. It has been found that dominant online retail platforms enable third parties to sell lighting products without requiring these parties to be members of producer representative organisations, allowing them to avoid contributing to the collection and recycling infrastructure. In this way, such parties meet the definition of a freerider: they benefit from a legally compliant collection system without meeting the requirements linked to the Extended Producer Responsibility guideline. It is now clear that within several years, online freeriding will be eliminated in the EU, and that online retail platforms will become liable for sales over which no disposal fee is paid.


A nuanced vision on circularity


The OPEN Foundation and LightRec have pushed for more realistic criteria to measure the effectiveness of collection efforts in the future. The POM (put on market), i.e. the total of marketed products, should no longer be the basis on which to evaluate collection results. Instead, the targets should be calculated on the basis of 'available e-waste', so that other circular approaches such as refurbishing, reparation and remanufacturing are further explored and encouraged.


It is a rarely mentioned fact that the lighting industry is a global frontrunner in the sustainability transition. The large-scale shift to LED lighting enables the industry to make massive cuts to its energy consumption, ranging up to 80%, while the very long lifespan (already up to 100,000 hours under the right conditions) helps reduce the use of scarce resources.


Many lighting producers are also thinking about their next step, which takes circularity as a point of departure in the production of lighting. That means that producers are exploring how lighting can be made repairable or refurbishable, or how it may be recycled into reusable resources without the application of complex industrial processes.

Although the OPEN Foundation is increasingly vocal about the importance of circularity and the ways to get there, LightRec considers this matter primarily the concern of producers themselves, whether on a national level or on a European level through Lighting Europe. After all, producers are positioned at the beginning of the chain, and can realise the desired changes in the quickest and most efficient way through smart product designs and adjustments to production methods.

 Costs	Budget 2022*	Actual 2021	Actual 2020	Actual 2019
	(€)	(€)	(€)	(€)
Costs for collection, transport and recycling	2,994,000	2,361,816	3,191,131	2,873,602
Other costs (including Action plan Lightrec)	701,000	178,244	175,817	68,016
Total	3,695,000	2,540,060	3,366,948	2,941,618

 Collected volume	Budget 2022*	Actual 2021	Actual 2020	Actual 2019
	(in tonnes)	(in tonnes)	(in tonnes)	(in tonnes)
Fluorescent tubes	1,227	1,316	1,505	1,555
Energy saving and other lamps	222	221	220	253
LED lamps	37	44	42	31
Luminaires	0	0	4,896	3,974
Total	1,486	1,581	6,663	5,813

 Marketing expenses and publicity campaigns	Budget 2022	Actual 2021	Actual 2020	Actual 2019
	(€)	(€)	(€)	(€)
Wecycle publicity campaigns	0	11,590	101,885	97,704
Communication	125,000	80,394	97,817	166,217
Total	125,000	91,984	199,702	263,921

 Consumer and professional campaigns	Budget 2022	Actual 2021	Actual 2020	Actual 2019
	(€)	(€)	(€)	(€)
Installer / professional campaigns	690,000	305,866	387,092	492,574
Retail / consumer campaigns	1,775,000	1,292,308	1,381,610	1,316,979
Total	2,465,000	1,598,174	1,768,702	1,809,553

* As the AVV of the OPEN Foundation has come into force in 2021, all producers of fittings are now members of the OPEN Foundation. Lighting manufacturers remain members of the LightRec Foundation Netherlands. For this reason, starting January 2021, LightRec's budget only covers lights and not fittings.