



RWE AG

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Bijlage(n)

Telefoon
Maastricht
Verzonden

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VERZONDEN 25 FEB. 2022

Onderwerp
FUREC Project

Dear Sir,

On behalf of the province of Limburg I would hereby like to recognize the importance of the FUREC project for the Province and support its application to the EU ETS Innovation Fund.

Project FUREC focuses on the development of a large-scale waste-to-hydrogen plant at Chemelot in Limburg. By innovative use of commercially available technologies, FUREC is able to convert municipal waste into circular and green hydrogen. In this way over 10 years 3,5Mton CO₂ is saved. The circular hydrogen will serve directly and in close proximity as renewable feedstock for the chemical industry at Chemelot, thereby contributing to its ongoing transition towards a leading sustainable chemistry site.

The Province of Limburg has a highly ambitious agenda for developing the circular economy as well as becoming an essential roundabout for clean hydrogen. Chemelot is currently one of the largest chemical sites in Europe and has a strategy to become 'Chemelot Circular Hub', making Limburg the first circular hub in Europe. By developing towards circular chemistry, sustainable materials and products will be produced that will serve society in the journey to a more sustainable world. The use and reuse of waste streams is an essential part of this strategy which enjoys broad support in the region because it is seen as an important driver for the economy in Limburg and the Euregion.

Project FUREC is entirely aligned with this strategy, since it contributes at several levels:

- FUREC will deliver considerable volumes of regionally and autonomously produced sustainable hydrogen, and thus contributing to Limburg's position in the hydrogen market in the 'Euregion';
- Green hydrogen is pivotal in achieving large CO₂ reductions and thus FUREC contributes substantially to achieving the CO₂ emission targets of The Netherlands and Chemelot in particular;
- The project offers a solution for the existing unsustainable practice of burning waste;



- FUREC will lead to new, circular, value chains. Due to its large scale, FUREC will be supportive and complementary to other re-use and recycling initiatives;
- The project generates regional higher and lower skilled jobs. Moreover it functions as an innovation engine for the circular economy and hydrogen expertise and research at the knowledge institutes at Chemelot like Brightlands and Brightsite;
- The project is repeatable in Limburg as well as other locations in the Euregion and Europe, where large population and chemical industry are geographically combined.

The project supports the ambitions at both national and European level to expand clean hydrogen production in the coming decade, an important part of the future decarbonised economy. Given the nascent state of the clean hydrogen sector, support is needed to make innovative projects such as FUREC commercially viable.

The Province of Limburg followed the developments of FUREC with great interest over the last years and is convinced that the project progresses well. In light of the above, the Province of Limburg is pleased to continue and enhance its support for FUREC and advocates that FUREC is considered favourably in its application for support from the EU ETS Innovation Fund. We make every effort to ensure that the process of granting the required (environmental) permits runs smoothly. In that context, it is good to mention that the EIA procedure has started for the activities at Chemelot. For the hub at Zevenellen the EIA assessment has been concluded. Where possible, we provide assistance in obtaining the circular raw materials and in establishing the pre-treatment installation at the Chemelot satellite site in Zevenellen.

On behalf of
The Executive Council of the Province of Limburg,


E. Roemer
King's Commissioner