

Press release

EU Innovation Fund grants €108 million to RWE's waste-to-hydrogen project FUREC

- **FUREC consists of two plants to be built in Limburg (NL) that will convert residual waste into circular and green hydrogen**
- **Hydrogen from non-recyclable solid waste streams saves around 3.6 million tonnes of CO₂ in 10 years' time**
- **Final investment decision by RWE expected in 2024**

Geertruidenberg, 19 January 2023

Roger Miesen, CEO of RWE Generation SE: "FUREC is a prime example of the circular economy at its best, using waste to produce hydrogen. The funding commitment from the EU Innovation Fund proves us right and underlines that RWE can make an important contribution to the decarbonisation of the economy with our project. For the chemical industry, hydrogen offers a great potential to make the production process of raw materials more sustainable. This is where our project comes in. With FUREC, we are facilitating the establishment of a centre for the circular economy in the Limburg region. At the same time, we are enabling the chemical industry to reduce its CO₂ emissions. Thanks to FUREC, Limburg can serve as a blueprint for other locations in the Netherlands and in Europe."

RWE's FUREC project, which aims to produce circular and green hydrogen from non-recyclable municipal solid waste in Limburg, the Netherlands, received a €108 million grant from the EU's Innovation Fund. Roger Miesen, CEO of RWE Generation, accepted the grant agreement today at the Financing Innovative Clean Tech Conference in Brussels.

The funding by the EU Innovation Fund marks a key milestone for advancing the FUREC project, which will require an investment of more than €600 million to complete. With the funding commitment secured, RWE forges ahead with project development at full speed, including seeking the necessary approvals and permits. In parallel, the company is starting to contract preferred suppliers for the plants, potential customers for hydrogen and CO₂, and companies that can provide waste of suitable quantity and quality. A final investment decision is to be made in 2024.

RWE

Fuse Reuse Recycle (FUREC)

As part of the FUREC project, RWE plans to build a pre-treatment plant in Zevenellen, Limburg, to convert non-recyclable municipal solid waste (MSW) into solid recovered fuel pellets. The plant will process about 700,000 tonnes of MSW per year, of which about 50% will be of biogenic origin (e.g. textiles, paper). This is equivalent to the amount of MSW produced by approximately two million people each year.

The feedstock pellets from the pre-treatment plant will then be converted into hydrogen in a second RWE plant which the company is to build at the Chemelot industrial park in Limburg. The plant is expected to produce 54.000 tonnes of hydrogen per year. For comparison: This is equivalent to the output of a 700-megawatt offshore wind farm with coupled electrolyzers.

By using this hydrogen, the Chemelot industrial park in Limburg will be able to reduce its natural gas consumption by more than 280 million cubic metres per year. This corresponds to half of the annual domestic gas consumption in Limburg. This will save around 400,000 tonnes of CO₂ per year. The CO₂ released during the hydrogen production is captured and can be stored or possibly used as a raw material by industry in the future. The hydrogen will either be marketed locally in the Chemelot industrial park or transported to industrial companies in Rotterdam and the Ruhr area. FUREC is preparing the necessary grid connections to the hydrogen and CO₂ infrastructure.

EU Innovation Fund

FUREC receives funding from the EU Innovation Fund, which is 100% financed by the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS). The Fund is expected to provide around EUR €38 billion of support for the commercial demonstration of innovative low-carbon technologies over the period 2020-2030, with the aim of bringing to market industrial solutions that will help decarbonise Europe and support its transition to climate neutrality.

Important driver for economy in Europe

FUREC is a game changer in CO₂ reduction, hydrogen production and waste management: it facilitates unlocking the massive potential of the circular economy to meet the EU's climate targets. RWE sees FUREC as a blueprint for future roll-outs at other sites in the Netherlands and Europe. The province of Limburg, where Chemelot is located, has followed the development of FUREC with great interest in recent years.

More information about FUREC can be found on the [website](#).

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RWE

RWE is leading the way to a green energy world. With an extensive investment and growth strategy, the company will expand its powerful, green generation capacity to 50 gigawatts internationally by 2030. RWE is investing more than €50 billion gross for this purpose in this decade. The portfolio is based on offshore and onshore wind, solar, hydrogen, batteries, biomass and gas. RWE Supply & Trading provides tailored energy solutions for large customers. RWE has locations in the attractive markets of Europe, North America and the Asia-Pacific region. The company is responsibly phasing out nuclear energy and coal. Government-mandated phaseout roadmaps have been defined for both of these energy sources. RWE employs around 19,000 people worldwide and has a clear target: to get to net zero by 2040. On its way there, the company has set itself ambitious targets for all activities that cause greenhouse gas emissions. The Science Based Targets initiative has confirmed that these emission reduction targets are in line with the Paris Agreement. Very much in the spirit of the company's purpose: Our energy for a sustainable life.

Forward-looking statements

This press release contains forward-looking statements. These statements reflect the current views, expectations and assumptions of management, and are based on information currently available to management. Forward-looking statements do not guarantee the occurrence of future results and developments and are subject to known and unknown risks and uncertainties. Actual future results and developments may deviate materially from the expectations and assumptions expressed in this document due to various factors. These factors primarily include changes in the general economic and competitive environment. Furthermore, developments on financial markets and changes in currency exchange rates as well as changes in national and international laws, in particular in respect of fiscal regulation, and other factors influence the company's future results and developments. Neither the company nor any of its affiliates undertakes to update the statements contained in this press release.

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