

Recycling at Suez and QCP

More and more people separate plastic waste. In most Dutch municipalities plastic waste is collected separately. But what happens with it?

First, the waste is collected at a regional location. Big pieces of waste that don't belong there are taken out. The remaining waste is then brought to a hyper modern sorting installation in Rotterdam.

Here SUEZ sorts plastic packing material, cans and drink cartons to make them suitable for recycling. The plastic waste is fully automatically sorted in five types of plastic. A drum sieve with different sized holes, first sorts the waste by size. Light materials, like foil are transported to another conveyer-belt. By shaking, flat and three-dimensional shapes are separated. The remaining waste is sorted by using infrared light. After the sorted plastic is checked, it's stored by type in storage bunkers. When a bunker is full it's automatically emptied. The plastic is pressed in bales by type and prepared for transport to different processing plants.

One of these processing plants is plastic factory QCP in Geleen. Here they produce resources for new products from plastic waste. The sorted plastic is shredded first and washed intensively. In a big machine the mixed flakes are then processed to uniform granules. Plastics out of this resources are just as good as plastics made from oil.

From these resources new products can be made. Like here at Rohmann in Germany. The plastic granules are sucked up, melted, and processed into a tube. The soft plastic tubes are cut to size. In a metal mould they get the desired shape. The remaining material is cut off and reused. After the plastic bottles are filled with hot air to check the density, they are ready to use. Via the supermarket the packing material is returned to the consumer as a new product.

So it comes full circle. In this way we save scarce resources and work on a better future together.