



European  
Commission

# PolyStyrene Loop

Offer polystyrene a second life

Synbra



Polystyrene recycling becomes a reality thanks following work by Synbra in Etten-Leur, the Netherlands.

Photo: PSLoop

## OUR STORY

Building on our expertise in producing and recycling raw materials, Synbra B.V. provides expanded polystyrene for industrial products and insulation systems. Our company employs some 900 workers in facilities across the Netherlands, Germany, Denmark and Portugal, bringing environmentally sustainable solutions to European markets.



Circular economy



Waste reduction



Environment

## Larger with Life

Between 2017-2021, the EU LIFE Programme is investing €2.7 million in the €8.4 million PolyStyrene Loop project to collect polystyrene waste from demolition sites and return it to usable condition. Europe's construction sector discards some 200 000 tonnes of polystyrene foam each year. Synbra is working partners including ICL-IP, a raw materials supplier in the Netherlands, to pioneer a sustainable alternative for recycling this waste.

## EU added value

- **Halt polystyrene incineration in the EU**
- **Cut emissions of harmful gases like CO**
- **Save energy and petrochemicals**

## Prospects

- **Pilot plant could easily double capacity**
- **15 recycling plants planned across the EU**
- **Polystyrene CO<sub>2</sub> emissions down 78%**

## Achievements

- Built a **demonstration plant** capable of recycling 3 000 tonnes of polystyrene each year
- Presented a business plan that **pays** companies up to €0.25 per kg of polystyrene waste
- Commended by EU and national authorities for contributions to the **circular economy agenda**
- **Disseminated** the benefits of polystyrene recycling through websites, brochures and events

## Policy support

- **Recycle plastic** as set out in the European strategy for plastics in a circular economy
- **Substitute harmful chemicals** with safer substances in line with Europe's REACH Regulation
- Tailor the **polystyrene value chain** to the 2011 roadmap to a resource efficient Europe

## Contact

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Environment  
& Climate  
Action



# LIFE supporting companies



The **LIFE Programme** has financed green innovation and clean tech solutions since its start in 1992. One of today's key priorities for LIFE is to support close-to-market projects delivering innovative environmental solutions, ensuring that they are sustainable and capable of being widely taken up by society in general, and the economy in particular.

The **Close-to-market initiative's** aim is to help and assist the LIFE projects with market potential to develop towards successfully maintaining project results via commercialisation and upscaling of the proposed innovative solutions.

## How can LIFE support beneficiaries with close-to-market activities?

- Expert review of the close-to-market stage of your project and assessment of the close-to-market potential.
- Help with determining milestones and action points based on project readiness and assisting you with their progress during your project's whole lifecycle.
- Flexibility to use the LIFE project budget to get the necessary expertise including market analysis, detailed business plan preparation, coaching etc.
- Linking you with a network of advisers including the Enterprise Europe Network, coaches and accelerators.
- Assistance with financing and contacts with the investor community through events, introducing you to the SME Instrument and the European Investment Bank Group.
- Networking opportunities through LIFE platforms in order to build business partnerships with other key players.
- Gaining additional publicity for your innovative green solutions through the Innovation Radar platform and via dedicated handouts promoting close-to-market activities of LIFE.

*“LIFE can help you to sustain and thrive even after the end of the LIFE project.”*

## LEARN MORE

 [ec.europa.eu/life](https://ec.europa.eu/life)  [LIFE programme](#)  
 [@LIFEprogramme](#)  [LIFE programme](#)

## HOW TO APPLY FOR LIFE FUNDING

The European Commission organises annual calls for proposals.

Full details are available at [https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/programmes/life/life-calls-proposals\\_en](https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/programmes/life/life-calls-proposals_en)

[https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/programmes/life/life-close-market-projects\\_en#how-to-apply-for-funding](https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/programmes/life/life-close-market-projects_en#how-to-apply-for-funding)

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