Plastic pellets in the rivers

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Rijkswaterstaat

www.zwerfafval.rws.nl

Motive

2018
Motion plastic soup surfer accepted

2019 - 2021
Program microplastics

2022 - 2025
Program plastic litter in rivers

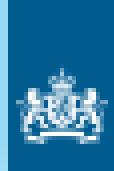# First **indicative** results

Microplastic
- Through Lobith and Eijsden comes 2,5 million kg microplastics in NL
- Measured microplastics concentrations (**g**/kg) are high, in comparison with other contaminants (**mg** of **µg**/kg)

Macroplastic
- Riverbanks: 100 meter: 65 pieces (median); outliers 900 pieces
- Floating: 80 pieces a hour (median); Maastricht 250 pieces a hour

2024: Start trendmonitoring micro- and macroplastic in rivers

Plastic zwerfafval in rivieren

Vanuit de plastic keten komen plastics in onze rivieren terecht. Dit is wat producenten, gebruikers, beheerders en beleidsmakers kunnen doen om zwerfafval in rivieren te verminderen.

Producenten

- Plasticvrij produceren
- Good housekeeping
- Consumenten voorlichten over plastic in producten
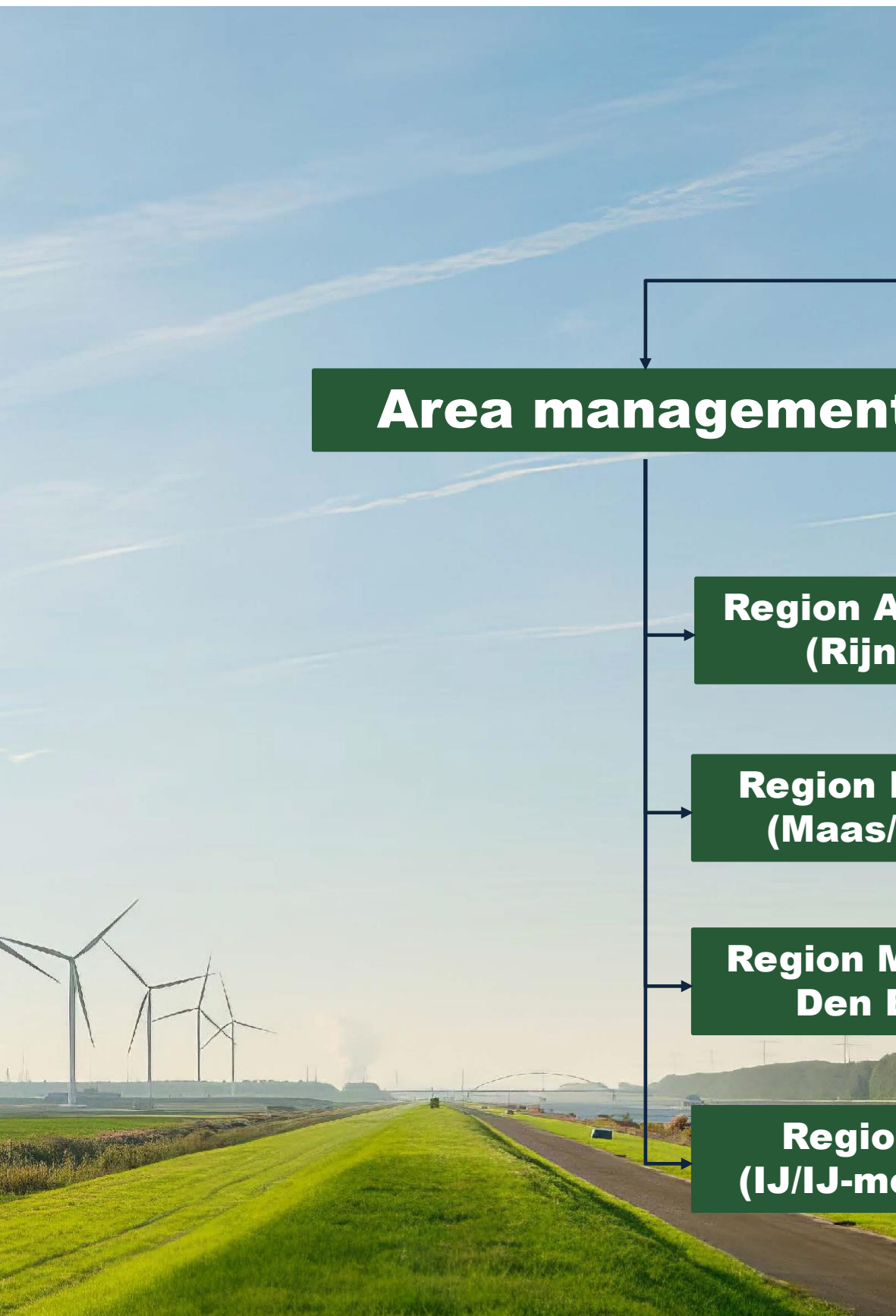- Consumenten stimuleren tot het juiste weggooi-gedrag

Gebruikers

- Zwerfafval opruimen
- Eigen afval mee naar huis nemen
- Afval in water/op oever melden bij beheerder
- Uitdragen naar andere gebruikers dat een schone omgeving belangrijk is

Beheerders en Beleidsmakers

- Doelen en normen stellen
- Regelgeving naleven, vergunningen verlenen en handhaven (bijvoorbeeld: SUP, UPV en statiegeld)
- Monitoring van zwerfafval in en rondom rivieren
- Kennisdeling
- Gedragsbeïnvloeding en communicatie
- Opruimen

Zee

Monitoring

Producent

Producent

Nurdles

Gebruikers

Producenten

Beheerders en Beleidsmakers

Rijkswaterstaat

IenW

Waterschappen

Gemeenten

Natuurbeheerders

Program plastic litter in rivers 2022-2025

Ambition: rivers free of plastic

Area management

- Region Arnhem/Nijmegen (Rijn/Waal/IJssel)
- Region Hollandse Delta (Maas/Merwede/Lek)
- Region Maastricht/Venlo/ Den Bosch (Maas)
- Region Amsterdam (IJ/IJ-meer, N-Z kanaal)

Producers

- Sanitary litter

Companies

- Pellets
- Shipping industry
- Construction sites
- Industrial estates

Monitoring

Development measuring methods| 2020 – 2023-24

Start trend-measurement banks- surface: 2024

Start trend-measurement water column: 2025

Examination
Origin plastic pellets
in surface water
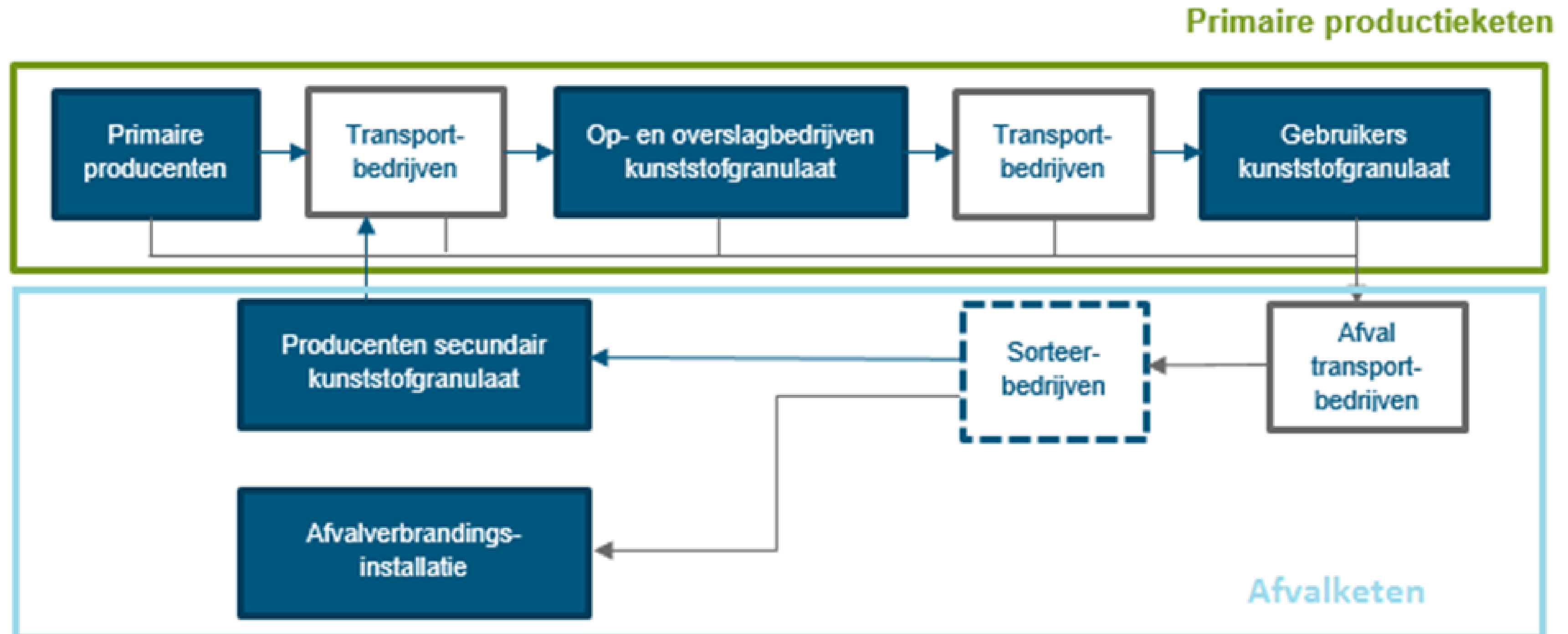
Locations where plastic pellets are found

Yellow – location where pellets are found
Red – Hotspot (> 400 pellets per square meter)
Grey – Plastic producer and/or distribution

Examination origin plastic pellets

- Which companies work with plastic pellets and where are the spills?

- How many spills are in the Netherlands and what is the estimated amount?

- Which links in the chain are there?

- Which legal measures are there against spills?

Identification companies

Scope plastic pellet spills

- No validated measurements of plastic pellets in rivers, waterways and lakes

- Compagnies have no measurements of plastic pellet spills

- Eunomia-study, not representative for the Netherlands

Spill of plastic pellets - activities

- **Big**: with the transport of plastic pellets in (big) bags and containers

- **Average**: cleaning of spill locations, repackaging damaged packaging, (un)loading silos, storage of plastic pellets in big bags

- **Little**: remaining activities

- Most situations with spills are <u>inside</u> a facility and can be controlled by management measures
- Spills outside a facility are difficult to handle and results most likely in a spill to the environment

Measures against spills

- **Conscience and education** of personel is crucial in preventing spills of plastic pellets

- **Regulations** No direct measures, only duty of care (zorgplicht in Wet Milieubeheer) and 25 meter rule (Omgevingswet). Possibilities in different Dutch laws (Besluit activiteiten leefomgeving, Wegenverkeerswet en/of de Wet verontreiniging oppervlaktewateren)

- **Management measures** overview of measures against preventing or reducing spills of plastic pellets
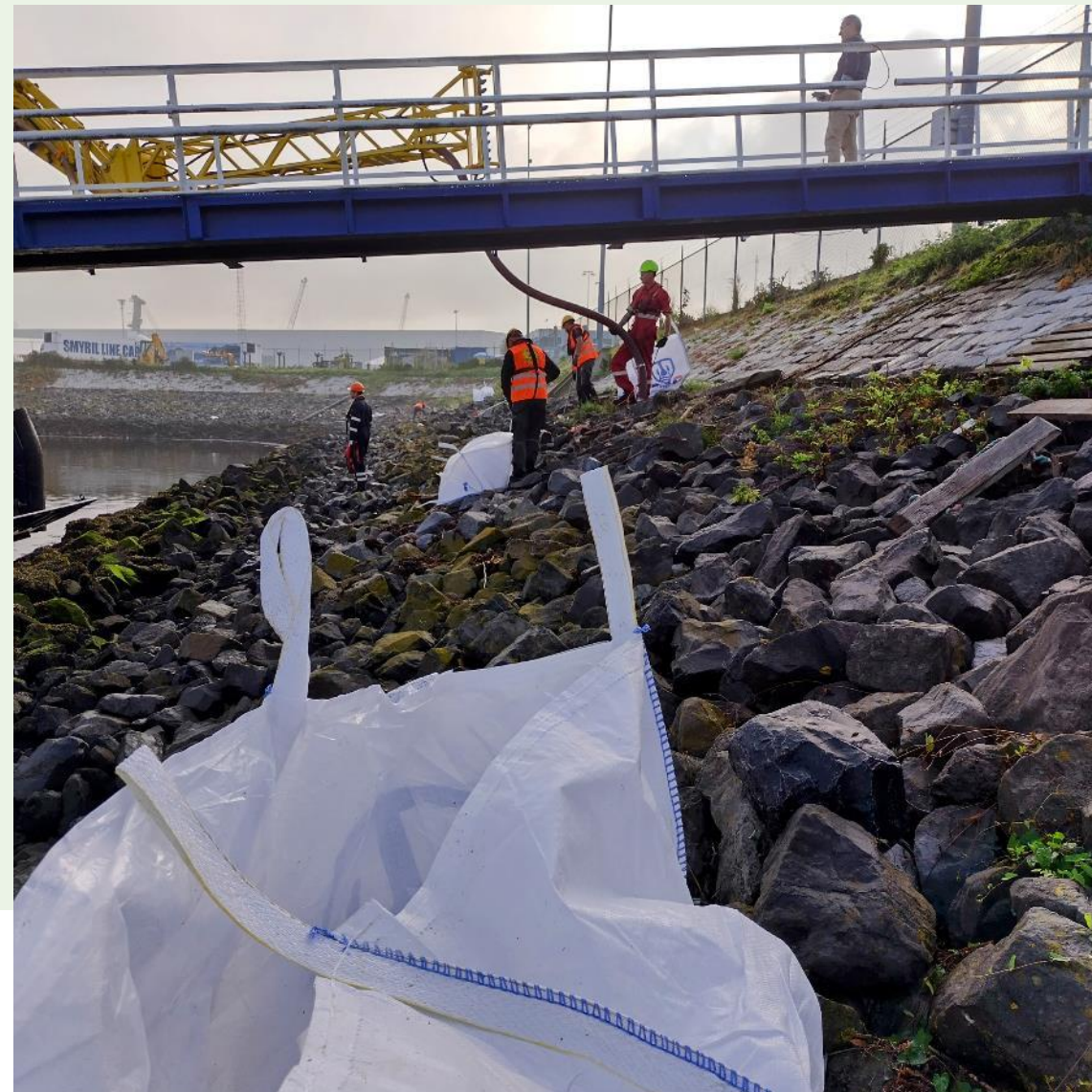
Actions and developments

- **Communication and behavioural change**: Checklist 'good housekeeping' and duty of care (zorgplicht).

- **Monitoring**: 2024 Start trendmonitoring plastic pellets riverbanks

- Research possibilities in adjusting **laws and regulations**

- Involve **stakeholders**: NRK, Plastics Europe, DCMR, TLN, environmental services, local & port authorities and compagnies

- Proposal **EU**: among others registration and good housekeeping

What can we do together

- **Share knowledge and experience** about measures, results of monitoring (amount, composition, origin of the plastic pellets), implementation EU-proposal

- Harmonisation **monitoring**; protocol

Thank you for your attention

Questions?

If you have any ideas/suggestions, please contact me at
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