



# Zero Waste Lab Amsterdam

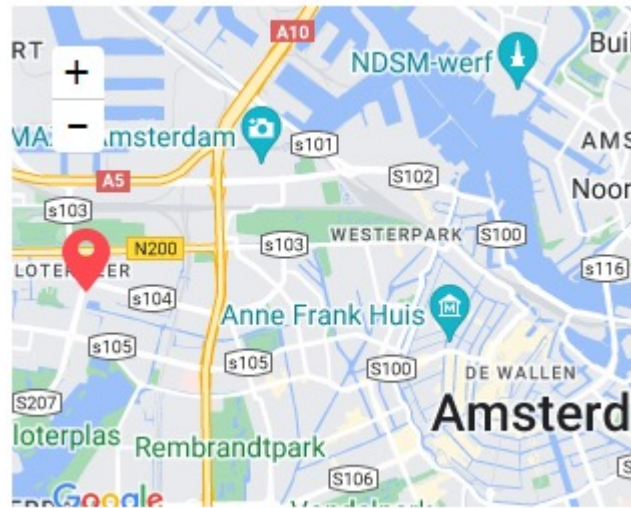
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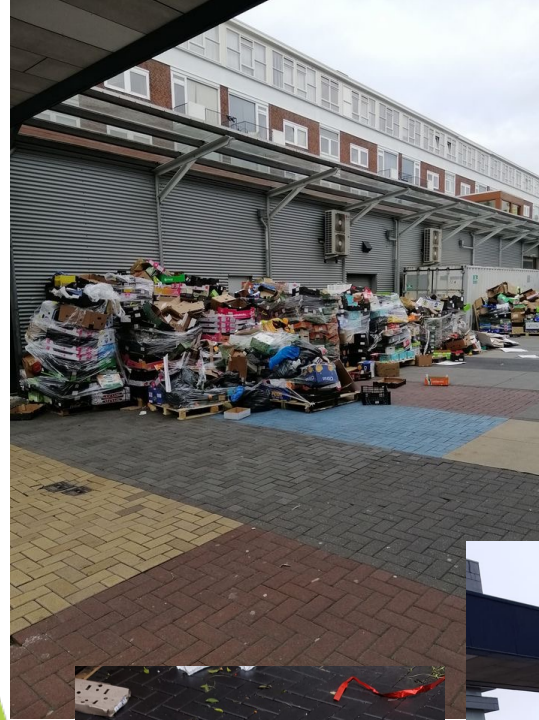
## Reducing waste on a market square - Plein 40-45 - in western Amsterdam

- One of the busiest markets in western area of Amsterdam
- Daily commodity market from Tuesday to Saturday from 9-17h
- About 150 market stalls
- Surrounded by shops, restaurants and indoor shopping centre



## Struggling with huge waste problem for years

- For years, market had self-cleaning character, i.e. market vendors had to clean own litter
- Not enough space in underground private waste containers
- Many litter was left behind and was blown across market and surrounding area
- About 4 years ago municipality introduced a waste levy and started to dispose the waste itself
- And found out it was a huge bulk and quite a challenge to bring together in 2 pack containers



## Market vendors came up with a plan to separate waste

- Problems with waste disposal continued as municipality did not have much experience
- 2 market vendors, Mous and Hakim came with the idea to start a waste separation and recycle station
- Area manager Redouan Boussaid helped them to write a business plan and find their way in municipality landscape
- Complex structure municipality: waste & raw materials, cleaning, economic affairs/ market office and area team new west district all different domains
- Difficult to get commitment from domains



## Neighborhood budget to the rescue

- Market vendors instead submitted their plan for funding from neighborhood budget
- Residents, entrepreneurs and organizations can submit plans
- Municipality checks whether they are feasible for subsidy
- Residents divide the available budget among plans by voting.
- The chosen plans are then implemented
- In 2022 municipality had € 916,000 neighborhood budget available for New West neighborhood
- In 2022, no less than 328 plans were submitted and 12,220 residents voted



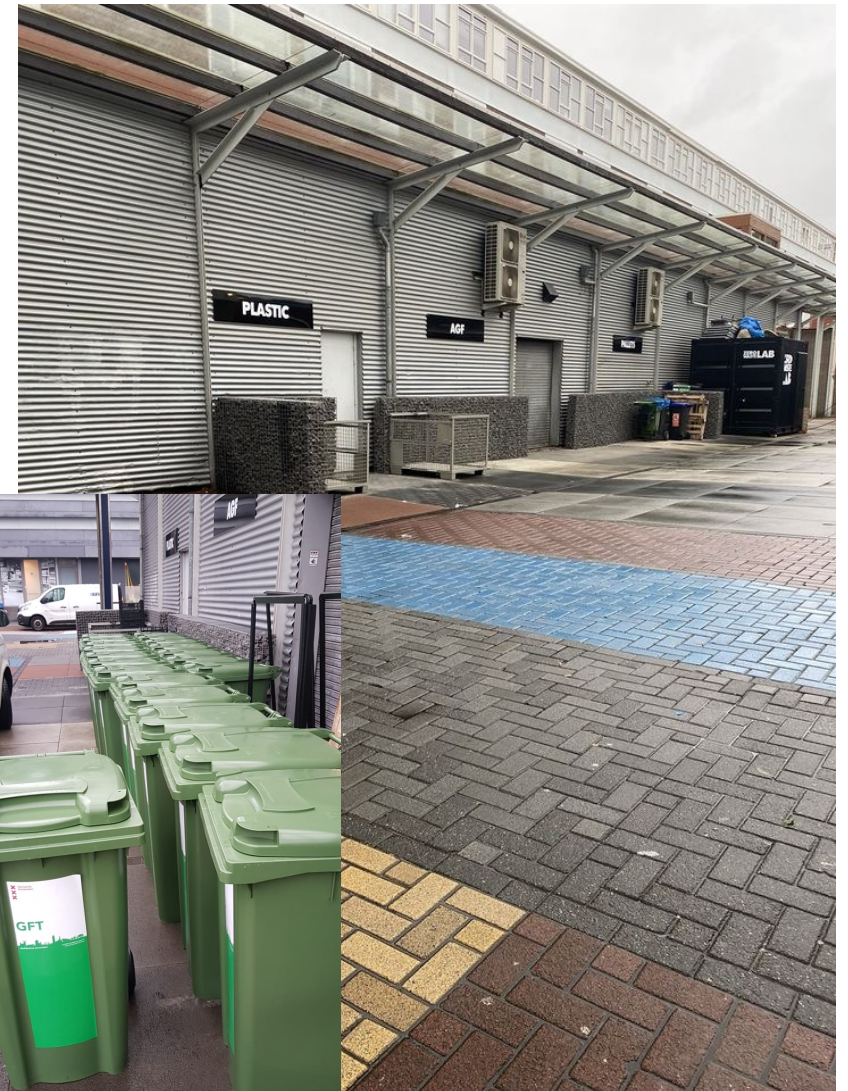
## Zero Waste Lab

Zero Waste Lab was commissioned in January 2021 with a budget € 90.000

Previously, all market waste went straight to the AEB incinerator.

Now 80-90% of waste is processed circularly:

- The largest waste streams of cardboard, AGF, Hard Plastic and Pallets are separated here and receive a circular solution.
- Cardboard to the cardboard processor, from which cardboard is made again.
- Fruit and vegetables to the biodigester, where biogas and compost are made.
- Plastic crates and pallets go back to the source, the Food Center.



## Future of Zero Waste Lab

**Goal 1:** separating as much waste from the market as possible and reuse it (locally)



**Goal 2:** bring about a change in the waste pricing system of the municipality

