



Rijksinstituut voor Volksgezondheid
en Milieu
*Ministerie van Volksgezondheid,
Welzijn en Sport*

Sustainability at the RIVM

Green Toxicology

How big is your footprint?



Content of this presentation

- › Introduction Eline & the RIVM
- › Sustainability at the RIVM
 - CO2 prestatieladder
 - Purchase
 - Succes stories
- › Challenges in a bureaucratic environment



Introduction

- › Eline Politiek, sustainability coordinator at the RIVM
- › Before this: environmental permitting & sustainability at a consultancy firm (Tauw)

RIVM

- › National Institute for Public Health and the Environment
- › Independent scientific research
- › Part of the ministry of Health (VWS)



RIVM



- > Located in Bilthoven, +/- 2500 employees
- > Multiple (rented) buildings, labs for 7 different departments
- > Built in the 50s, 60s and 80s
- > Lot of similarities between RIVM and universities, hospitals, commercial labs, etc.



Sustainability coordinators' role

- › Making sure the RIVM meets the governmental goals for sustainability:
 - Climate neutral business operation in 2030
- › Lots of other goals for social return, purchase, energy use reduction, travel & commute etc.
- › To get to these goals and maintain overview: CO2 prestatieladder



CO2 prestatieladder / CO2 performance ladder

- > A measurement instrument
- > Different “tredes” (levels) to be certified on, each level has more requirements
- > The whole Dutch national government decided to get certified to help achieve being climate neutral in 2030



CO2 prestatieladder

- > The RIVM started in 2022 under the umbrella of the ministry of Health
- > We're certified on level 3, which means that scope 1 (direct emissions) and 2 (indirect emissions) are included.
- > We strive for level 5 in 2024. This includes the impacts in our purchase and waste chains.
- > The total footprint of the ministry of Health: RIVM is responsible for 80-85% of total CO2 emission



Totaal 8.351 ton CO₂



9.786.825 kWh aan elektriciteit door 3 locaties, waarvan 100% grijs/onbekend en 99% in Bilthoven....



288.689 km + 1.407 kWh gereden met het wagenpark (85% diesel en 14% benzine en 0,4% elektrisch) *plus* gedeclareerde km's



1.430.103 m³ aan gas door 3 locaties, waarbij 98% in Bilthoven



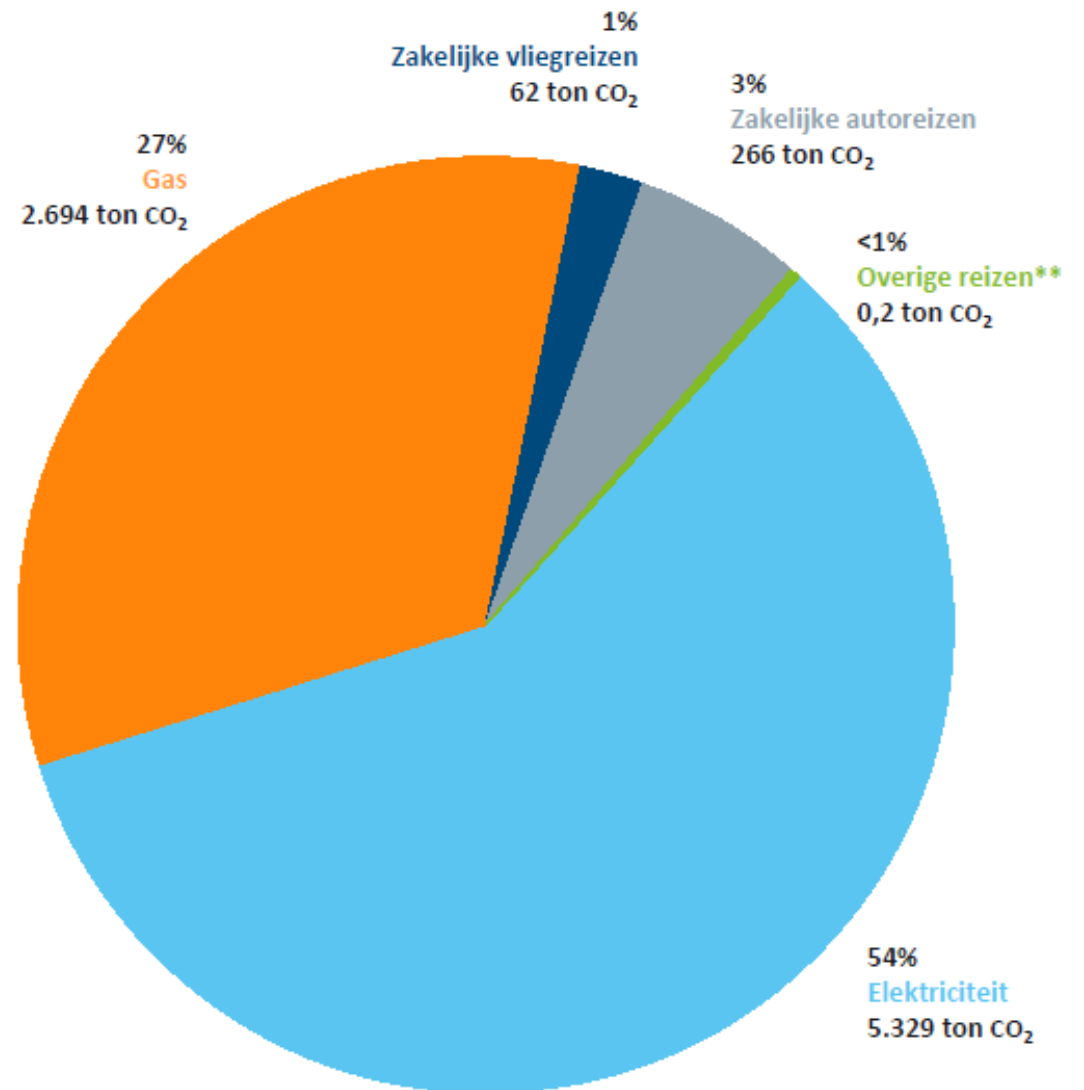
7.313 km gereisd met trein internationaal



0 GJ aan stadswarmtekoeling



394.502 km gevlogen, waarvan 90% bij > 2.500km vluchten



** Onder overige emissiestromen vallen reizen met het OV en internationale trein



Other goals in 2023 for the RIVM

- > Purchase / MVOI
- > Transportation: more bike commute
- > Waste
- > Sustainability in the lab – Implement LEAF



Purchase – MVOI

- > Maatschappelijk verantwoord Opdrachtgeven en Inkopen
- > The spent of the RIVM is 400 million euros / year
- > Sustainability should be a factor in every purchase order / tender
 - Contract management can be involved (innovation, include future developments)
 - See if there is alignment with other parties: universities, hospitals, commercial labs
- > Especially hard when compliance / accreditation is involved
 - Market not yet very developed (quality and safety first)
 - Employees are not used to sustainability as a criterium



Other goals

- > Commute per bike:
 - Within the 10K part of the employees prefer car
 - Stimulate the bike: compensation and tax benefit if you buy a new bike, high kilometer allowance for the bike, bike reparations at the RIVM
- > Waste
 - Waste is not processed separately (quality of the separated streams too low)
 - We now try to unravel why and plan interventions
 - Next challenge: lower the amount of packaging of disposables and other lab supplies



Succes stories – harmonization lab supplies

- › In 2025 we move to a new, sustainable but smaller building
- › Amount of storage is limited and should be shared between departments

- › Harmonization needed:
 - Disposables, chemicals, but also procedures
 - Now all 7 departments order their own preference in disposables etc
 - Resulting in a lot of similar products, but different labels, frequencies of shipping, packaging, etc.



Succes stories – harmonization lab supplies

- > First big project: pipettes
 - One brand was selected
 - 1600 pipettes (about 2/3 of the complete stock) were replaced
 - Now: everyone can use the same type of pipette tips, ordering process is more efficient
 - Negotiation with supplier about (amount of/type of) packaging

- > Gloves
 - From 20+ types and brands to only 2 types of gloves for chemical and biological labs



Challenges in our (bureaucratic) context

- > Especially during covid but still on a day-to-day basis: sustainability is important but never urgent (enough)
 - Hard to get sustainability high on the agenda
 - Quality and safety always come first (ofcourse!)
- > We're moving to a new and sustainable building in 2025. This should have been 2018.
 - Current buildings are neglected for maintenance
 - Freezers have not been replaced for a long time
 - General feeling "no use of putting energy/money in this old buildings"



Challenges in our (bureaucratic) context

> Time

- As a sustainability coordinator my time is limited with only 0.5 FTE
- BUT: it's already a big bonus to have a sustainability coordinator within an organization
- The bureaucratic process costs a lot of time. E.g., get a note approved by the directors: this can take months because every management layer needs to approve as well



Close out

- > It all starts with awareness
- > Measurement of progress is very important
- > For the RIVM: the CO2 prestatieladder covers both
- > Big impact can be made by sustainable purchase
 - Harmonization of disposables within the RIVM
 - For the future: combining purchase power of multiple companies / institutes