

Session	Decarbonizing the Glass Industry (II)
Date	APRIL 11, 2025
Time (CET)	14:00 - 14:15
Chair	Değer Demircan Acıloğlu



Together We Make Glass Infinite

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Biography

Niels Schreuder (1977) is currently Board Member of Vlasklas Recycling Nederland (VRN) and Public Affairs & Communication Director at AGC Glass Europe.

Studied European Studies with History and Economics as main disciplines at the University of Amsterdam (UvA). He did an internship at the European Parliament and began his career as an assistant in the political affairs department of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs in The Hague.

In 2004, he moved to Brussels to work as a European affairs consultant for two Brussels-based consultancies successively. In 2008, he moved on to the glass sector and started setting up a lobby strategy for AGC Glass Europe (formerly Glaverbel) as public affairs manager and started representing AGC in sector organization Glass for Europe in Brussels. In 2020, he was appointed director of public affairs & communication (as of then also responsible for all internal and external communication).

Spokesperson for both the company and as chairman of the external relations committee of Glass for Europe (alongside the Secretary-General) at European level he served also as chairman of the Dutch glass sector of Bouwend Nederland from 2016-2024.

As Member of the Board of VRN since 2023, that is directing the now 23-years existing nation-wide flat glass collection & recycling scheme in the Netherlands towards the circular economy, he is looking into the flat glass industry's developments and challenges with circularity and decarbonization across the world.

Abstract

Recycling is not a choice, but a necessity. After all, the depletion of the earth's raw materials has been a growing problem for many years. Our supplies of oil, gas, minerals and metals are being depleted so fast that it is uncertain how much more we can extract from the earth. Recycling is part of the solution to this issue. It is worth separating and collecting any materials that we can in order to recycle them. The same applies to waste sheet glass.



This non-profit organization coordinates all the activities associated with recycling and collecting waste glass in an efficient, environmentally friendly manner and at the lowest possible cost. Furthermore, the foundation promotes awareness of and enthusiasm for recycling glass. The government has also demonstrated its commitment to this process by legislating for the sheet glass recycling levy (financial fee) for double glazing.

The glass cycle...

After collection, the waste sheet glass is transported by boat or truck to specialist recycling plants. There, the dirt is removed from the glass and it is processed into a material called cullet, which is made up of small pieces of cleaned recycled glass. This cullet can then be re-used in the glass industry.

Circular; the next step

But as recycling means melting, still a lot of energy is used resulting in emission of CO₂ and NoX. Therefore we started with the collection of unbroken double glazing from renovation projects. This glazing will be dismantled in to separate glass panes. The uncoated pane can be used for the production of of new double glazing. The other pane can be used for the production of new float glass, instead of packaging glass or glass wool. By doing this we close the loop of flat glass (flat-to-flat) and we create real circular glass.

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