



REDUCING FOODWASTE AT SCHIPHOL AIRPORT THROUGH BEHAVIOR CHANGE

Graduation project for circular airports

Background

This graduation thesis will be part of Tulips. Tulips is a European H2020 project on demonstrating lower polluting solutions for sustainable airports across Europe and will run for 4 years. As part of the approach, it will demonstrate how 'zero-waste' can be achieved in an encapsulated airport environment, based on the following three principles: 1) Circular design principles, 2) Closed loop, and 3) Reuse and upcycle. By designing out waste and pollution, keeping products and materials in use, and regenerating rather than degrading natural systems, the circular economy represents a powerful contribution to achieving global climate targets.

For more information on Tulips visit the website: <https://tulips-greenairports.eu> or reach out to e.tschavgova@tudelft.nl

Assignment

Food waste is one of the biggest challenges when it comes to waste management according to our interviewed airports and stakeholders.

Your assignment is on the one hand to analyze the current state of food waste and current strategies related to food waste at Schiphol. And on the other hand, to introduce and test behavior change strategies, which lead to reduced food waste. The aim is to understand the main cause of food waste (operational or passenger actions) and to introduce strategies to intervene. In the bigger picture, your work will contribute to our knowledge of waste reduction and get us a step closer to a circular airport.

First, you will be provided with existing data from Schiphol, which need revision and will be your base for the upcoming research. At Schiphol, you zoom into current food waste of gastronomy and passengers with the aim to back up the problem with data, as well as conducting stakeholder interviews to assess what can be learned from the current state. This will be your base to identify potential opportunities for food waste reduction strategies. Next, you will conduct literature research on behavior change strategies and develop interventions to reduce food waste by behavior change. In consideration of feasibility from Schiphol's side and your graduation timeline, one approach will be selected, tested and the impact evaluated.

Conduction of interviews, observations, and evaluations of your ideas will be essential during this project.

We are looking for

We look for a Master's student, preferably SPD, who has an explicit interest in circular economy and sustainable behavior change. It is important to be open-minded and curious. Familiarity with the Dutch language is not required but can be of advantage.

We are offering

The position will be a collaboration between Schiphol and TU Delft. Since it is required to test your coffee cup system at Schiphol, there will be support from the Schiphol facilities to conduct your research and tests.

Contact and more information

Start: January/February

If you are interested, please send us a short motivation e-mail and your curriculum vitae. You can send this to Elisabeth Tschavgova (e.tschavgova@tudelft.nl) and Sonja van Dam (S.S.vanDam@tudelft.nl)

For more information on the project, you can contact Elisabeth Tschavgova.