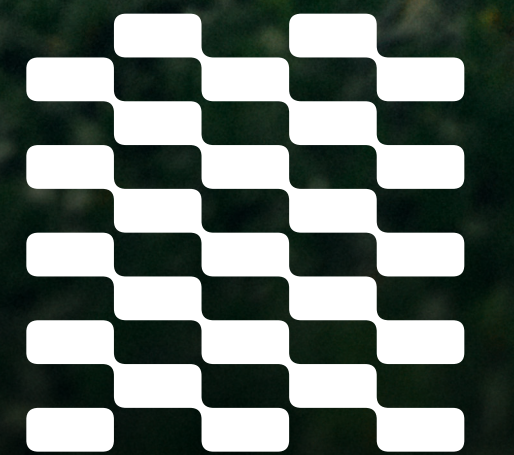




# Flanders Classics



Sustainability plan







# Foreword

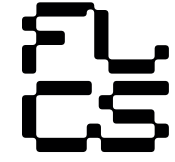
Sustainability is not a trend; it is an essential change in direction. At Flanders Classics, we believe that the future of our sport goes hand in hand with a responsibility to care for our planet. As a leading organiser of cycling events worldwide, we believe that it is our duty to inspire not only on the sporting stage, but as a catalyst for positive change.

This sustainability plan is more than just a collection of actions and ambitions; it reflects our core values and our commitment to creating impact through innovation and collaboration. From reducing our ecological footprint to promoting inclusivity and health, our dedication to sustainability is embedded in every decision we make.

We invite everyone to join us in setting course towards a future where sport and sustainability go hand in hand. Together, step by step, we can realise lasting change.







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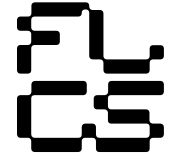


# About us

Flanders Classics started in 2010 as an organiser of 6 spring classics and now, 15 years later, it has grown into a sports and events company that, each year, organises some 70 events. As well as road cycling, which is of course still the core business of our company, as owner of the Telenet Superprestige and licence holder of the UCI Cyclo-cross World Cup, we have also been particularly active in the sport of cyclo-cross.

Besides professional cycling, we build total experiences whereby we encourage and invite cycling fans to participate actively themselves in a large number of recreational events, including Heathland Gravel; a gravel race that serves as a qualifier for the big Unbound Gravel in Emporia, Kansas (8 - 10 August in Maasmechelen, Terhills).





# Our mission & vision

## Set the Pace

Setting the pace is what we try to do at Flanders Classics every day. In a rapidly evolving sports world, we want to be the most progressive organiser of cycling events, while still respecting cycling's rich traditions. That is why inclusiveness, sustainability and innovation are among our most important core values. Every day, step by step, we strive to improve our events and make them more attractive for all participants and fans.



### FOCUS POINTS

**Innovation**

**Safety**

**Equality**

**Sustainability**

**Experience**





# Sustainability vision



## OUR PILLARS

1. **A green path towards the future:** We are committed to keeping the ecological footprint of our events to a minimum. This means actively reducing waste, promoting recycling, and opting for sustainable materials and mobility solutions.
2. **Collaboration and awareness:** Sustainability is a team achievement. That is why we collaborate with local authorities, suppliers, teams, and fans in order to create a culture of responsibility and awareness. We encourage participants and spectators to join us on our sustainability journey.
3. **Innovation and renewal:** Flanders Classics aims to lead the way by embracing innovative solutions. Whether it is CO<sup>2</sup> compensation programmes, green energy or smart technologies, we are continuously pushing forward in our efforts to lessen our impact on the environment.
4. **Social engagement:** Our events serve as a platform not only to promote cycling but also to address societal challenges. Inclusivity, accessibility, and support for local communities are at the heart of this effort.

## CLIMATE NEUTRALITY

Flanders Classics' ultimate goal is to be fully climate-neutral by the year 2035. In order to realise this, we are focusing on significantly reducing our CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and investing in sustainable solutions within all our events.





## THE PROCESS

Developing a sustainability plan for Flanders Classics is a careful and inclusive process that involves different stakeholders and which addresses multiple aspects of sustainability.

1. **Stakeholder analysis:** All the relevant stakeholders, from local communities and governments to sponsors, teams, and fans, are identified and involved in the process. It is important to understand their perspectives, concerns, and ideas about sustainability and to incorporate them into the plan.
2. **Strategy development:** A practical and actionable sustainability strategy is developed, covering all aspects of the event, such as waste management, energy consumption, and water management.
3. **Ambition:** For each theme, an ambition is first defined that the organisation aims to achieve. This is a general objective that is coupled to each theme.
4. **Objectives:** To measure progress and evaluate the impact of the sustainability plan, concrete objectives are set. It is important that these objectives are ambitious, but also achievable.
5. **Action points:** The objectives set can only be achieved by formulating action points. These actions serve as concrete steps that are adopted during the organisation of the event in order to achieve the objectives.

6. **Partnerships and collaborations:** We collaborate with sustainable partners, environmental organisations, and experts for advice and support, while also engaging local communities in order to ensure that the event contributes ecologically and socially to their well-being.
7. **Communication and awareness:** A communication strategy is developed that highlights sustainability and engages participants, fans, and partners. It includes an awareness campaign with educational and inspiring messages.
8. **Reporting & evaluation:** Lastly, a system is implemented for the continuous monitoring of the sustainability performance during the event. Each year, a thorough evaluation is conducted to assess whether the objectives have been achieved.

The development of a sustainability plan for Flanders Classics requires close collaboration with all stakeholders and a commitment to creating a positive impact on both the sport and the environment.







## SUSTAINABILITY VISION

### SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

At Flanders Classics, sustainability is not an option; it is an essential part of our organisation. Every event that we organise presents a unique opportunity to spread a sustainability message and to minimise our ecological footprint. By placing sustainability at the heart of all our activities, we aim to stimulate a positive change and to serve as an inspiring example for the sports world and our fans.

Our sustainability strategy is based on the conviction that cycling events should not only be sporting high points, but should also have a positive impact on the environment and the communities where they take place. In order to realise this, we collaborate with a wide range of partners, including local authorities, environmental organisations, and sponsors.

Our ambition is clear: every Flanders Classics event must contribute to a sustainable future. This means integrating sustainability into each phase of the organisation; in planning and execution and in evaluation and follow-up.

Sustainability is a collective effort. We collaborate with local authorities, suppliers, teams, and fans in order to create a culture of responsibility and awareness. Through education and awareness campaigns, we involve all stakeholders in our sustainability strategy.

To measure our impact, specific objectives and action points are set for each event. Monitoring and evaluation is an integral part of our approach, so that we can continually learn and improve. With this sustainability strategy, we strive to not only have a positive impact on the environment but also to improve the overall experience for our participants and fans. Together with our partners and supporters, we are building a greener future for the sport of cycling.

### TEN IMPORTANT THEMES

Mobility

Energy

Water

Use of space

Waste

Catering

Materials

Health

Good governance

Accessibility

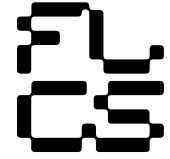






# A green path towards the future





# Mobility

## AMBITION

At Flanders Classics, we promote safe, efficient, and sustainable mobility for visitors, participants, staff and suppliers. We promote active and collective transport (walking, cycling, public transport) while limiting private vehicle use. We also ensure that mobility around our events does not cause inconvenience to the neighbourhood while benefiting the broader region.

## OBJECTIVES

- Increase the use of sustainable modes of transport (bicycle, public transport).
- Reduce the use of private vehicles by visitors, staff, suppliers and partners.
- Optimal traffic safety and liveability during the events.
- Full access to and availability of all official fan and VIP zones.

## SDG



## Actions

- 1. The development of mobility plans per event in collaboration with the local authorities**  
Together with local authorities, a mobility plan is developed for each Flanders Classics event, adapted in scope from limited for smaller events to extensive for larger ones, where the focus is on traffic management, existing parking facilities and minimising parking inconvenience for residents.
- 2. Actively promote the S.T.O.P principle (walking, cycling, public transport)**  
The S.T.O.P principle is promoted at all Flanders Classics events: Walking, Cycling, Public transport, and Private motorised transport. Attendees are encouraged to come on foot or by bike and to avoid the use of cars as much as possible.

### WALKING

- Safe walking routes to the event sites

### CYCLING

- Safe cycling routes to the event sites
- The provision of sufficient bicycle parking facilities
- Encouraging the use of bike-sharing platforms and informing users about their availability.

### PUBLIC TRANSPORT

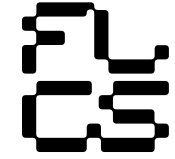
- Providing clear information about walking distances from bus and railway stations.
- Visualisation of the accessibility.
- Clear communication about the availability and prices of SNCB and De Lijn trains and buses.

### PRIVATE TRANSPORT

- Visitors are made aware of the limited number of parking spaces. They are advised against travelling to the event by car.
- Maximum use is made of existing parking facilities and the creation of extra parking is kept to a minimum.

- 3. Work with public transport companies to arrange extra services for specific events**  
For major events such as the Tour of Flanders, we work together with public transport providers, such as De Lijn and SNCB, to provide additional bus and train services to the event locations, thus encouraging visitors to travel by public transport.





# Energy

## AMBITION

Flanders Classics wants to reduce energy consumption as much as possible during the setup, the event itself and during the break-down. The energy we use is primarily sourced from renewable resources. By implementing innovative and sustainable energy technologies, we actively contribute to the transition to a low-carbon society. In this way, we set an example for other events and inspire our partners and visitors to be mindful of their energy consumption.

## OBJECTIVES

- Maximum use of green energy at all events.
- Measure and optimise the energy requirement and consumption.
- Avoid energy guzzlers and inefficiencies.

## SDG



## Actions

- 1. Appoint energy specialist**  
Flanders Classics will appoint an energy specialist to help ensure that energy consumption at the events is as green and sustainable as possible.
- 2. Prepare an energy plan per event**  
To ensure that the energy consumption at all Flanders Classics events is kept to a minimum, an energy plan is prepared for each event. An energy plan always contains:

### REQUIREMENTS ANALYSIS

- Overview of energy required for lighting, sound, catering, equipment, etc.

### ENERGY SUPPLY

- Description of the sources, such as mains electricity, generators, or renewable energy.

### EFFICIENCY

- Measures to minimise energy consumption, for example: Led lighting or timers.

### BACK-UP PLAN

- Strategies for power outages, such as emergency generators.

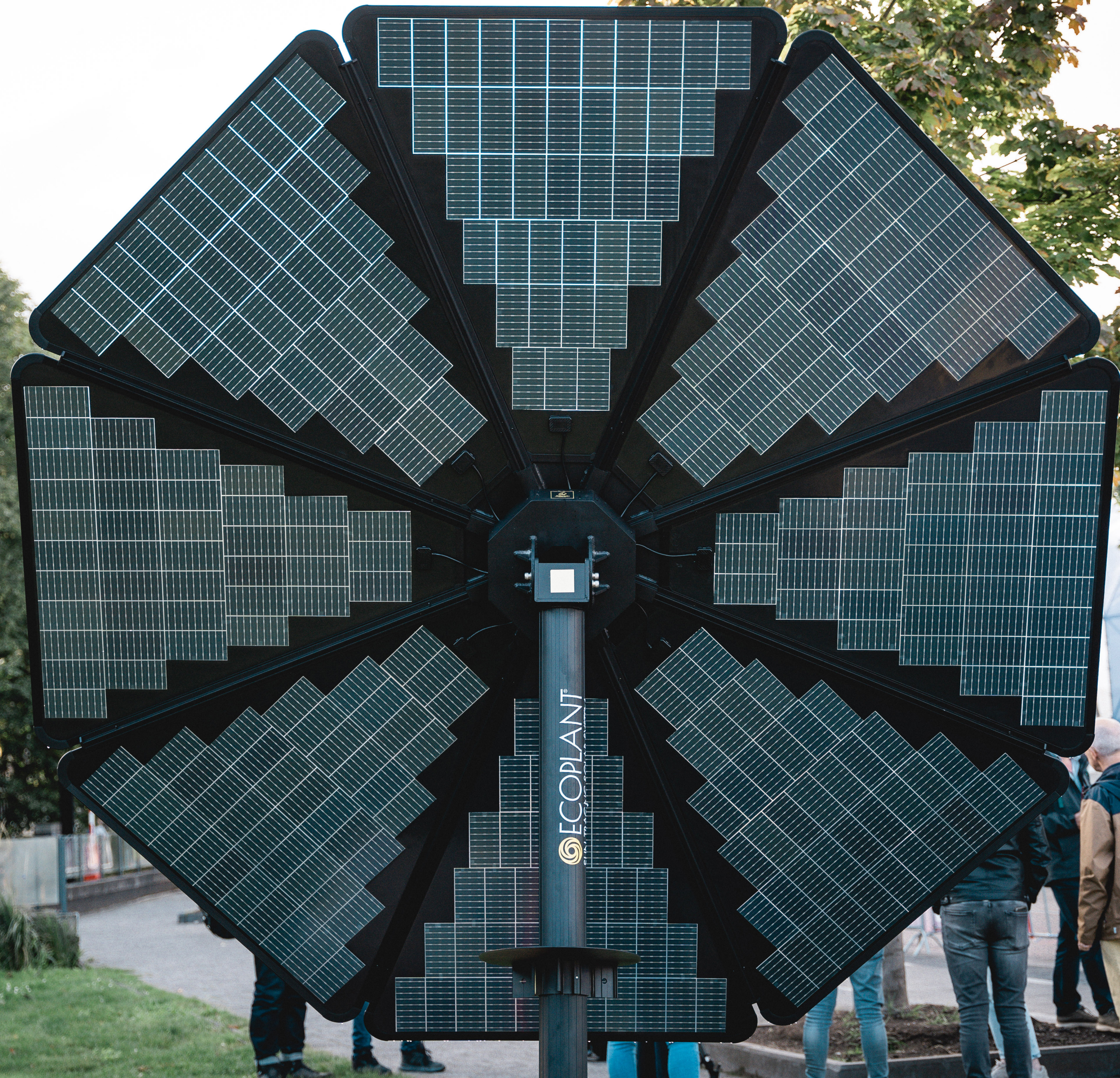
### GREEN ENERGY SOURCES

- A focus on the use of green energy sources and the minimisation of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

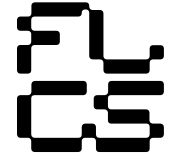
### LOGISTICS AND SAFETY

- Location of energy points and safety measures.
- 3. Use of urban green energy**  
During Flanders Classics events, the existing power grid is used as much as possible in order to minimise the need for generators.
  - 4. Deployment of sustainable solutions such as mobile batteries and solar panels.**  
If no grid connection is available, green batteries or mobile solar panels will be deployed. If generators are necessary, biodiesel is used.
  - 5. Requiring partners to implement energy-saving measures through the sustainability charter**  
Through the sustainability charter, agreements are made with partners and stand-holders about energy efficiency measures. (LED lighting, A+++ appliances, etc.)
  - 6. Measuring energy consumption**  
Where possible, energy consumption is monitored at every Flanders Classics event, from setup to break-down, so that it can all be evaluated afterwards.
  - 7. Use of electric vehicles**  
All vehicles deployed are fully electric. This primarily concerns the vehicle fleet used in the Spring Classics and events such as the 1000 km of 'Kom op tegen Kanker'.









# Water

## AMBITION

We see it as our responsibility to optimise and to minimise water usage at Flanders Classics events as much as possible. Free potable tap water must be accessible for everyone. In this way, we can avoid excessive use of bottled water. Furthermore, we ensure that wastewater is disposed of and treated responsibly, while encouraging partners and stall-holders to make sustainable choices regarding water usage and cleaning products.

## OBJECTIVES

- Maximum the use of tap water as drinking water. For staff and volunteers, this must be 100%.
- Chemical toilets should only be used when alternatives are not available.
- All cleaning products used during the events are environmentally friendly.

## SDG

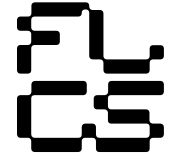


## Actions

- 1. Prepare water plan**  
For each event, a plan is created to manage (waste)water as efficiently as possible. In this plan, there is an assessment of the water needs of the event and a list of possible conservation measures. The plan also explains how the removal and treatment of wastewater will take place.
- 2. Public water points at all locations**  
Public water points are provided at almost all Flanders Classics events.
- 3. Environmentally friendly cleaning products**  
During the Flanders Classics events, the use of environmentally friendly cleaning products will be maximised. This applies to the organisers, as well as to the partners and stand-holders. Environmentally friendly cleaning products are not only better for the environment, but they are also much less harmful for the lungs and skin. Furthermore, using environmentally friendly cleaning products also contributes to corporate social responsibility.
- 4. Use existing toilets**  
Maximum use is made of the existing toilet infrastructure. This applies for the visitors, as well as for the volunteers and staff.
- 5. Use of vacuum toilets**  
If no public toilets are available or if there are not enough, additional toilets will be provided. Where possible, vacuum toilets are used, with wastewater discharged directly into the sewer whenever feasible. Chemical toilets are only used when other alternatives are not available.







# Use of space

## AMBITION

Flanders Classics aims to put on events that blend in seamlessly with their environment. Our approach is to minimise the impact on the land and nature, while fully respecting and reinforcing vulnerable and protected zones. By using the existing infrastructure and keeping temporary structures to a minimum, we contribute to the preservation of local biodiversity and the beauty of the regions where our events take place.

## OBJECTIVES

- Indoor event activities, where possible, are organised in existing buildings. Tents are used only for VIP arrangements and race-related technical aspects.
- Maximum protection of the land and plant life.
- Maximum protection of protected areas.

## SDG

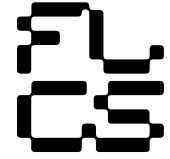


## Actions

- 1. Respect for the noise regulations**  
The noise regulations are adhered to during all Flanders Classics events. If sound systems are used, they are positioned in such a way that the sound is evenly distributed across the public
- 2. Use of existing buildings and minimising temporary structures**  
During the events, maximum possible use is made of existing buildings. The erection of extra tents is kept to a minimum and they will only be used for VIP or race-related technical purposes
- 3. Collaboration with environmental organisations such as Natuur & Bos for protection and recovery measures**  
Flanders Classics works together with Natuur & Bos to ensure nature protection during all the events. For each event, an assessment is made of whether the races or other bike rides can pass through nature areas.
- 4. Showcasing nature areas in Flanders**  
Working together with Natuur & Bos, Flanders Classics wants to set the nature areas of Flanders in the spotlight. In the fan guide, as well as on social media and TV.
- 5. Prevent public urination through clear signage and sufficient toilets**  
Sufficient toilets and clear signage are in place to minimise public urination. The police present at the events will issue fines for public urination







# Waste

## AMBITION

At Flanders Classics, we want to set an example in waste management by striving to achieve a waste-free organisation. Our approach is to minimise as much as possible the waste that is generated during our events, carefully segregating it and maximising recycling. At the same time, we promote the use of reusable materials, avoid disposable products and focus on raising awareness among visitors, staff and partners.

## OBJECTIVES

- Up to 90% of waste is separated and recycled.
- Measure the various categories of waste produced during the events.

## SDG



## Actions

### 1. Prepare a waste plan

A waste plan is prepared for each event, setting out what needs to be done to achieve the waste management objectives. This plan provides details of the prevention measures to be taken. It also refers to the sustainability charter and reiterates the agreements made with sponsors and exhibitors. The plan describes the categories of waste present at the event as well as the details of the waste infrastructure at the event. Lastly, the plan also includes a description of the agreements and the division of responsibilities around separated waste collection, both internally and externally.

### 2. Adequate infrastructure provision

Flanders Classics ensures that there is an adequate waste infrastructure at all of its events. This is provided in the form of waste islands consisting of a general waste bin and a PMD bin. Sufficient bins are also provided backstage.

### 3. Sorting and recycling of waste

Every effort is made to maximise the sorting and recycling of the waste. Different containers are provided for the different waste flows

### 4. Appointment of eco teams at large events

Eco teams are deployed at Flanders Classics' large events to keep the event sites clean. These teams are responsible for keeping the sites clean, ensuring proper recycling, staffing the busiest waste islands, and so on.

### 5. Collaboration with Ecofest

Flanders Classics has been working with Ecofest since 2022. Ecofest helps Flanders Classics to reduce its ecological footprint by offering eco-friendly solutions and advice.

### 6. Raising awareness of waste management among visitors and staff

Both visitors and staff, including volunteers, are continually made aware of waste and the importance of sorting.

### 7. Organise clean-up actions after events

After each event, a clean-up action is organised. Depending on the size of the event, the cleaning is done either with eco teams or by the crew. After the event, the site is completely clear of waste.

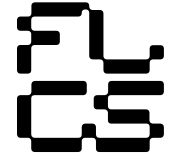
### 8. Measure and analyse the categories of waste collected

Collection and recycling figures per category are measured before, during, and after the events. This enables conclusions to be drawn about the measures taken and recommendations made for other Flanders Classics events.









# Catering

## AMBITION

Catering at our events reflects the values of Flanders Classics: sustainable, local, and accessible. We offer a varied and healthy selection that considers different dietary preferences (vegetarian, vegan, halal) and we collaborate with local caterers who focus on seasonal products and fair trade. We ban disposable materials entirely and promote reusable solutions so that our catering has a minimal impact on the environment.

## OBJECTIVES

- Maximum use of reusable catering materials for the visitors and staff.
- Each food stall offers at least one vegetarian or vegan dish and informs customers of it.
- Maximum use of seasonal and local products.
- Food surpluses are prevented, and if they occur, the food is donated

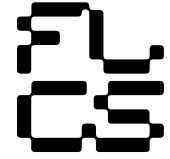
## SDG



## Actions

- 1. Reusable cups**  
Reusable cups are used at all Flanders Classics events. Disposable cups are not used. The cups for the public are made of high-quality plastic. At certain locations, such as in the VIP zones, glass and porcelain will also be used. There is always a system for the collection of returned cups.
- 2. Reusable catering material**  
Wherever feasible, maximum use is made of reusable catering material. In the VIP areas, crew spaces, and press rooms, this is 100%
- 3. Reducing water packaging**  
During the Flanders Classics events, steps are taken to reduce beverage packaging. Wherever possible, bulk packaging, draught kegs, large bottles, and glass bottles are used. Where feasible, tap water must be used for drinking water.
- 4. Ban on straws**  
Straws are totally forbidden at all events.
- 5. Stand-holders are obliged to comply with sustainable catering standards through the sustainability charter**  
Through the sustainability charter, agreements are made with partners and stand-holders with regard to the catering. Included in the charter are the following statements:
  - ▶ Work as much as possible with local products
  - ▶ Work as much as possible with seasonal ingredients
  - ▶ Offer vegetarian, vegan and halal options
  - ▶ Use organic and Fair Trade products where possible
  - ▶ Avoid overfished species
- 6. Collaboration with local caterers and farmers**  
Work as much as possible with local caterers who source products from local farmers. This applies to both the public catering and the catering for staff and volunteers.
- 7. Leftover food is donated to food banks or other organisations**  
Measures are taken during the events to minimise food waste. After the event, any leftover food is donated to associations and organisations that can use or process it.





# Materials

## AMBITION

Flanders Classics consciously chooses ecological and reusable materials when organising its events. By embracing circular solutions such as renting, borrowing, and using second-hand materials, we cut down on the production of new goods and the environmental impact that that has. Where possible, we avoid single-use materials and encourage the reuse of promotional materials such as banners and flags.

## OBJECTIVES

- Maximum digital promotion and ticketing.
- Maximal use of borrowed and rented materials.
- Minimal production of single-use materials.

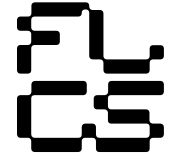
## SDG



## Actions

- 1. Renting material and buying second-hand as the standard approach**  
Flanders Classics rents materials as much as possible. The production of new materials is minimised by using second-hand alternatives. Materials that are produced are of high quality and made from sustainable resources to ensure maximum longevity.
- 2. Use of sustainable materials**  
As much use as possible is made of sustainable materials. In other words:
  - ▶ As much as possible is reusable.
  - ▶ They are ecological or are made of recycled or recyclable material.
  - ▶ Flags and banners that can no longer be used are repurposed afterwards.
- 3. Restrict gadgets**  
Gadgets are kept to a minimum. Any distribution of gadgets must be approved by Flanders Classics. Gadgets should not be individually wrapped and must be valuable enough to ensure they are not immediately thrown away.
- 4. Ban on flyers and samples**  
The distribution of flyers and samples is not permitted during Flanders Classics events.
- 5. Sustainable clothing**  
All the clothing purchased for staff, volunteers and winners is Fair Trade and made from organic materials. All this clothing bears the EU Ecolabel and is plastic-free. To reduce unnecessary clothing production, the sizes of volunteers and staff are collected beforehand.
- 6. Digital promotion and restriction of printing**  
Optimal use will be made of digital promotion before, during and after the Flanders Classics events. This via the website, social media, screens in the cities, etc. With this approach, printed materials are kept to a minimum. If printing is necessary, environmentally friendly options are chosen.
- 7. Donation of materials such as banners and flags to local organisations for reuse**  
Flags, banners, Heras coverings, and other materials that can no longer be used are donated to local organisations such as Creazi so that they get a second life.
- 8. Collection campaign second-hand sportswear**  
Together with Sport Vlaanderen and De Kringwinkel, Flanders Classics organises a collection campaign for second-hand sportswear. The collection campaign kicks off at the start of the cycling season with Omloop Het Nieuwsblad. All the sportswear is donated to De Kringwinkel.





# Health

## AMBITION

At Flanders Classics, we prioritise the health and well-being of visitors, participants, staff, and volunteers. We encourage a healthy lifestyle by promoting physical activity, offering healthy food, and providing free access to drinking water. Furthermore, we create a smoke-free environment at our events and are committed to promoting the well-being of everyone involved.

## OBJECTIVES

- Organise entirely smoke-free events.
- Promote healthy eating, exercise and a healthy lifestyle in general.

## SDG

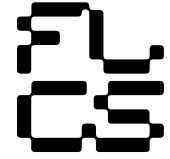


## Actions

- 1. Smoke-free events**  
The Flanders Classics events are as smoke-free as possible. Visitors are encouraged to refrain from smoking at the events.
- 2. Promote the drinking of water**  
The drinking of water is promoted by offering free potable tap water from the municipal water network.
- 3. Promoting movement**  
By organising professional and recreational cycling events of different magnitudes, Flanders Classics actively promotes cycling.







# Good governance

## AMBITION

Our aim is transparency, honesty and sustainability in all facets of our organisation. We adhere to the highest ethical standards, respect legal regulations and operate a transparent awarding policy. Furthermore, we provide a safe, inclusive, and healthy work environment for all our staff and volunteers.

## OBJECTIVES

- Full compliance with the sustainability charter.

## SDG

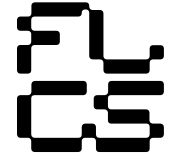


## Actions

- 1. Sustainability charter**  
Flanders Classics has produced a sustainability charter outlining mandatory and optional conditions for all stand-holders, partners, course municipalities, and host cities. From the outset, this charter is shared with all parties, and they are asked to sign it. Compliance with the charter is overseen by the sustainability coordinator and the event managers on-site.
- 2. Transparency**  
Flanders Classics is very transparent about its sustainability efforts. We communicate our sustainability efforts, highlighting what works well and what is less effective.
- 3. Guarantee the safety and well-being of staff**  
We work in a safe and healthy environment. Both at the events and in the Flanders Classics offices.
- 4. Respect for the law**  
The law will be fully respected in all aspects of the events.







# Accessibility

## AMBITION

Flanders Classics wants to organise events where everyone feels welcome, regardless of their age, gender, origin or physical or intellectual disabilities. Accessibility is a core value in all that we do, so that every visitor can have a comparable experience. We provide both physical and digital access options, clear-language information and we offer support where needed to remove barriers to participation.

## OBJECTIVES

- Maximum accessibility for everyone, with extra initiatives for those experiencing barriers due to disability, skin colour, gender, origin, etc.

## SDG



## Actions

### 1. Collaboration with Inter vzw

In collaboration with Inter vzw, we strive for maximum accessibility of the Flanders Classics events and implement a variety of measures to make the event accessible in every aspect.

### BASELINE ACCESSIBILITY CRITERIA

- Visitors are informed before and during the event. All information about accessibility can be found on the websites of Flanders Classics and Inter vzw and is signposted at the events.
- The locations of the events provide good accessibility, with designated parking spaces close to the event sites.
- Every effort is made to ensure that people with disabilities have the same experience as other visitors

### INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

- All accessibility information can be found on the website. Anyone wanting to submit a request to attend an event, can find the contact information for Inter vzw there.
- Communication is done in simple, clear language, free of jargon, with structured text in readable fonts and colours. Pictograms are the main form of signage at the events.
- The events are added to the UitInVlaanderen calendar, with Inter tagged for quick access to accessibility information.

### LOCATION

- The event sites are accessible by car, public transport, bike or on foot.
- There are reserved parking spaces near the event sites, with access routes and information provided in advance upon request.
- Accessible toilets are provided at various locations, the positions of which are communicated in advance and signposted at the event.
- The crossing points at the event sites provide good accessibility, close to the Inter stage, and clearly marked.
- For wheelchair users and people with disabilities, there is an Inter podium at the start presentations and award ceremonies which provides a clear view of a screen. The podium has chairs, a tent and is built with safety in mind.
- The passageways at the events are sufficiently wide.
- For height differences of more than 2 cm, an anti-slip ramp is placed if there is no other solution or route.
- A ground plan is available on which the accessibility facilities are clearly marked. This plan is shared in advance and is also visible on the event sites.





## SUSTAINABILITY VISION

### EXTRA PROVISIONS

- During major Flanders Classics events, Inter vzw provides assistance to people with disabilities, accompanies them to accessibility facilities such as the Inter-podium, and serves as the main contact point for all accessibility-related questions. This support is provided by Inter vzw staff and also by volunteers.
  - A hearing loop is provided at the largest events for people with a hearing impairment. This enables them to follow the live TV coverage, team presentation and the awards ceremony without interference from background noise.
  - If there is demand, an interpreter is provided during the team presentation and awards ceremony at the largest events. This will be a Flemish sign language interpreter.
2. **Involvement of disadvantaged groups**  
We work with disadvantaged groups, offering them volunteer roles at events.
  3. **G-sport race**  
During the spring classic Gent-Wevelgem, a G-sport race has been organised. This is a race on the Gent-Wevelgem course for cyclists with a physical disability.
  4. **Special Olympics**  
The Ronde van Limburg will feature a Special Olympics race that will take place on the same course. This is a race for cyclists with an intellectual disability



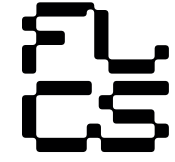


# Sustainable development goals

Flanders Classics embraces the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a guiding framework for its efforts. By focusing on diverse SDGs such as gender equality, responsible consumption & production, and climate action, Flanders Classics aims not only to deliver an exciting sporting experience but also to have a positive impact on local communities and the environment. The SDGs that are applicable within Flanders Classics are:







# UCI Climate Action Charter

Flanders Classics wholeheartedly supports the ambition of offering a sustainable future perspective for the sport of cycling. As a proud signatory of the UCI Climate Action Charter, we are committed to fulfilling the objectives of this initiative and so upholding our role as a leading cycling event organiser.

The UCI Climate Action Charter sets ambitious goals aimed at reducing the ecological impact of the sport of cycling. One of the most important objectives is to half CO<sup>2</sup> emissions by 2030. This objective aligns perfectly with the sustainable path Flanders Classics has outlined and reinforces our commitment to implementing structural improvements.

Signing the UCI Climate Action Charter is not an endpoint for Flanders Classics, but a new step in our long-term sustainability vision. It motivates us to continue innovating and constantly improving our processes with the goal of reducing our emissions by 50% by 2030 and setting a benchmark for other organisations in the cycling world.

## Our efforts in line with the charter

- **Transition to renewable energy:** At our events, we use green energy sources and minimise energy waste.
- **Sustainable mobility:** We actively promote the use of bicycles, public transport, and other sustainable modes of transport for participants, spectators, and staff.
- **Waste reduction and recycling:** By working with reusable materials and strict waste separation methods, we are contributing to a circular economy.
- **Awareness and collaboration:** Together with our partners, suppliers, and fans, we are building a culture in which sustainability becomes the norm, both during and outside of our events.





# Impact measuring

At Flanders Classics, we aim not only to act in a sustainable manner, but also to accurately measure and to improve the impact of our efforts. In order to realise this, we are looking for an experienced partner who can help us to assess and analyse the ecological and social impact of our events. The first impact measurement will be performed in 2025. For this, we are still looking for a suitable independent agency.

## SCREENING AND ADVICE REGARDING THE SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

Our approach begins with a thorough screening of the existing sustainability plan. Each aspect of the plan is analysed and assessed in order to determine its effectiveness, and targeted advice is formulated. The aim is to offer practical and feasible suggestions that further reduce the ecological footprint of our events.

## QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE REVIEW

The sustainability of our events is evaluated both qualitatively and quantitatively. In this, we look at:

- Use and management of water
- Materials and waste management
- Energy consumption and origin of energy
- Mobility of participants, visitors and suppliers
- Sustainability of energy and catering
- Communicating about sustainability
- Management and monitoring of sustainability measures
- Impact on biodiversity

## TARGETED ADVICE PER SUSTAINABILITY DIMENSION

Based on the review, targeted advice is formulated for each dimension. This advice not only helps with the implementation of improvements for our events but also serves as a guideline for future initiatives.

## EVALUATION FRAMEWORK AND SCORING SYSTEM

To make our impact measuring transparent and comparable, an evaluation framework with a scoring system has been developed. This system enables us to compare the results at different events and to monitor our progress.

## CALCULATE CO<sub>2</sub> EMISSIONS

An essential part of the analysis is calculating CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, including direct emissions (Scope 1), indirect emissions from purchased energy (Scope 2), and other indirect emissions from the value chain (Scope 3).

## COMPENSATION FOR RESIDUE EMISSIONS

Finally, advice is provided about ways to compensate for the residue CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, such as investing in sustainable projects or purchasing CO<sub>2</sub> certificates.

With this approach, we aim not only to optimise the sustainability of our events but also to set a benchmark for the sports world. Together, we are building a greener future for Flanders Classics and the sport of cycling.





# Reporting & evaluation

At Flanders Classics, we see monitoring and evaluation as a crucial part of our sustainability strategy. By carefully monitoring and reviewing our sustainability measures each year, we aim to measure and effectively improve our overall impact.

## CONTINUOUS LEARNING AND IMPROVEMENT

By reviewing, each year, what went well and identifying areas for improvement, we ensure that our events become increasingly sustainable. These evaluations enable us to adjust our objectives and formulate new action points that reflect the latest insights and technologies.

## TRANSPARENCY AS CORE VALUE

We consider it important that we communicate about our progress in an open and honest manner. We will share the results of our monitoring and evaluation in an accessible way with our partners, participants, and fans. By doing so, we build a culture of openness and reliability, while we inspire others to adopt sustainable practices.

## MAKE PROGRESS VISIBLE

By analysing our performance each year and comparing it with previous years, we gain a clear understanding of our progress. This not only allows us to celebrate successes but also to work strategically on improvements that create a lasting positive impact





# Next steps

1. Appoint sustainability partner
2. Launch of general sustainability plan
3. Appoint an independent bureau for impact measuring and reporting
4. Perform baseline measurement for Flanders Classics
5. Detail internal policy







# Contact

## E-MAIL

sustainability@flandersclassics.be  
+32 472 35 15 18

## ADDRESS

### Flanders Classics

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Haresesteenweg 228  
1800 Vilvoorde, Belgium

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