

# CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY REPORT





## A brief overview of the ANL history...

1915

Alfons Neven founds the company.  
He installs a watermill on the river to mill grain



1938

His sons take over the company and register  
the sawmill under the name A. Neven-lemmens

1958

The first thermoforming machine is installed and  
production of the famous blue mushrooms punnets is  
started. From now on the company is called ANL Plastics



1963

Start of extrusion department  
and recycling of own material

1991

ANL France Is founded in Cahors



1994

ISO 9001 certification

2003

Oscar de l'emballage with Visiopaq®

2006

BRC certification

2010

ANL Poland Is founded in Dabrowa



2015

Installation Of SSP unit which allows us to  
decontaminate post consumer recycled material  
into food grade resin

2020

Changing company name in ANL Packaging

## Introduction

Founded as a small family company in 1915, over the years ANL Packaging has grown to become a reference in the European market of thermoforming. With over 400 motivated and creative colleagues spread over 3 locations across Europe, ANL Packaging puts its craftsmanship and know-how to work to produce tailor-made packaging for food and non food applications. Over time ANL has undergone some major changes and has evolved to keep up with this ever-changing world we live in. These past few years have been particularly challenging as lately packaging, and more specifically single use packaging has become a central point of criticism. Only recently we decided to change our company name from ANL Plastics to ANL Packaging. Not due to the negative undertone that surrounds the word plastic today, but because

packaging communicates in a much more clear way what we offer to our customers: tailor-made packaging that not only protects its content and also improves its shelf life.

As a company we are very much aware of the issues our industry faces today, as does entrepreneurship in a more general sense. Companies must take responsibility for their actions and for the larger consequences of their activities. As such ANL engages in various initiatives to make sure we contribute to a more sustainable future. With this document we would like to communicate to everyone to whom it may concern about the activities we undertake as a company to ensure a more sustainable world.





## Sustainable Development Goals

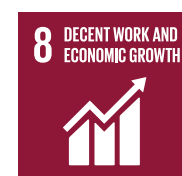
In September 2015 the UN formally adopted 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which have as ultimate goal to free humankind from poverty and give the planet a more sustainable future. Each of the initiatives taken by ANL can be appointed to one of these SDG's.



- investment in new machinery to reduce water consumption
- installation of closed loop water circuit



- installation of solar panels



- safety first at all time
- promote employee involvement with "Samen+Sterker" campaign
- develop innovative & sustainable packaging which require less raw material



- build new infrastructure to reduce transport
- not using carbon black in our masterbatches
- participation in various research projects to work towards a more sustainable packaging industry



- use of recycled materials (post industrial and post consumer waste)
- hybrid and biobased packaging
- design packaging that prolongs shelf life and reduces food waste
- reporting about our efforts in the domain of CSR



- new SSP machine > significant reduction in logistic processes
- use of renewable energy sources
- reduction of water consumption



- operation clean sweep
- ensuring 100% recyclability of our products

## Working towards a more sustainable future

As part of the plastic industry we're confronted with our environmental responsibilities on an everyday basis. Depletion of natural resources, the oceans which are littered with plastic waste... People are quick to condemn plastic as the "devil". Due to this negative storm it faces today, we often forget that this material has transformed our lives and also brings numerous advantages: it helps to preserve food longer and in doing so combats against food waste; it helps to insulate our houses better; it enables us to produce green energy; its light weight reduces CO2 emissions of transport... to name only a few. A lot of today's modern technology wouldn't be possible without the use of plastic material.

Nonetheless the issues we face today are real and can't be ignored. ANL Packaging has made it a priority to strive towards a more sustainable packaging industry. We engage ourselves to develop optimal packaging for our customers, that at the same time have a minimal impact on the environment. We are involved in numerous research projects and programs in which, together with other stakeholders, we're looking at the possibilities for a sustainable packaging industry. And on the other hand we look into our own operations and take various initiatives to evolve towards a more sustainable company.



### Ecovadis

Ecovadis is the number one in business sustainability ratings. It is a platform on which more than 45.000 companies are active, situated in as many as 110 countries. We, as a supplier, get rated on our Company Social Responsibility performance. We fill in a vast questionnaire that overviews a lot of different domains within the company (people management, environment, energy consumption, communication...). Every single thing we declare has to be supported with documentation. The Ecovadis team performs an analysis of these documents and also consults with external sources to verify the information that we've submitted.

The special thing about Ecovadis is that they also conduct research themselves throughout the supply chains of the member organizations. They visit plants throughout the world to make sure that companies do as they promise. It is an extra service that brandowners receive when becoming a member.

We currently hold a silver recognition level, this puts us among the 30% best scoring suppliers. Of course we strive to do even better in the future and obtain a golden medal. In this regard we have put together a CSR policy which we can use as a guide for all our future actions. In this way we can contribute to evolving towards a sustainable future which is based on a more circular economy approach.





## As one team we...

**Believe in exceptional service**

**Are adventurous, creative, and open-minded**

**Treat each other with fairness and respect, fully understanding that, above anything else, we are human**

**Train our employees on circular economy thinking**

**Enhance awareness of sustainable packaging amongst our customers**

**Believe we can close the loop together**

**Will do more with less**

**We are driven by passion for our solutions and products**

## In our products we aim...

**For 100% recyclable& sortable**

**Low energy consumption**

**Fight against (food) waste**

**To turn waste into valuable resources**

**To use recycled material where we can**

# Social responsibility

ANL Packaging engages itself to respect the current legislation at all times. However as a company we want to do more than what is expected by law. ANL started out as a small family company, and a family takes care of each other. We keep this spirit alive by taking care of our employees. Moreover we try to expand this view by doing what's right for all our stakeholders, from our subcontractors to the final customer, who is able to enjoy the contents of our packaging without having to worry about food safety.

We have identified three main focus points in this area.

First of all ANL Packaging considers the care of safety, health and the wellbeing of all her employees, temporary employees, interns, students and coworkers included, as an important task. Our slogan: Safety first at all times!

Second we set up activities and communication channels to create a community for our employees. Besides that, we also try to encourage the development of all our employees by providing training opportunities.

And third the products which are produced at all three of our production sites have to be of outstanding quality, and satisfy our customers' demands. Here also we like to take it to the next level by developing innovative products which better serve our customers, but that at the same time contribute to resolving the issues of global climate change we know today.

## Caring for our employees

During extreme weather such as heat, ANL Packaging provides extra cooled water in the production area and offers extra breaks. Ever more so, free ice cream is available to better cope with the extreme temperatures.

During the cold winter months, fresh soup is served in the lunchrooms to give workers an extra health and warmth boost.

In case of protracted illness, the management sends a get well card to give an extra 'get well' encouragement.





Safety first at all time

ANL Packaging conducts a prevention policy to avoid incidents, injuries & sickness and to avoid & limit risks as much as possible. All our factory workers are provided with safety shoes, custom made ear protection and (prescription) safety goggles. Regular checkups are conducted by third party institutions to guarantee safe working equipment. And as an ongoing process we are constantly testing the configuration of the workplace to find the best option to avoid static stagnation of our employees.

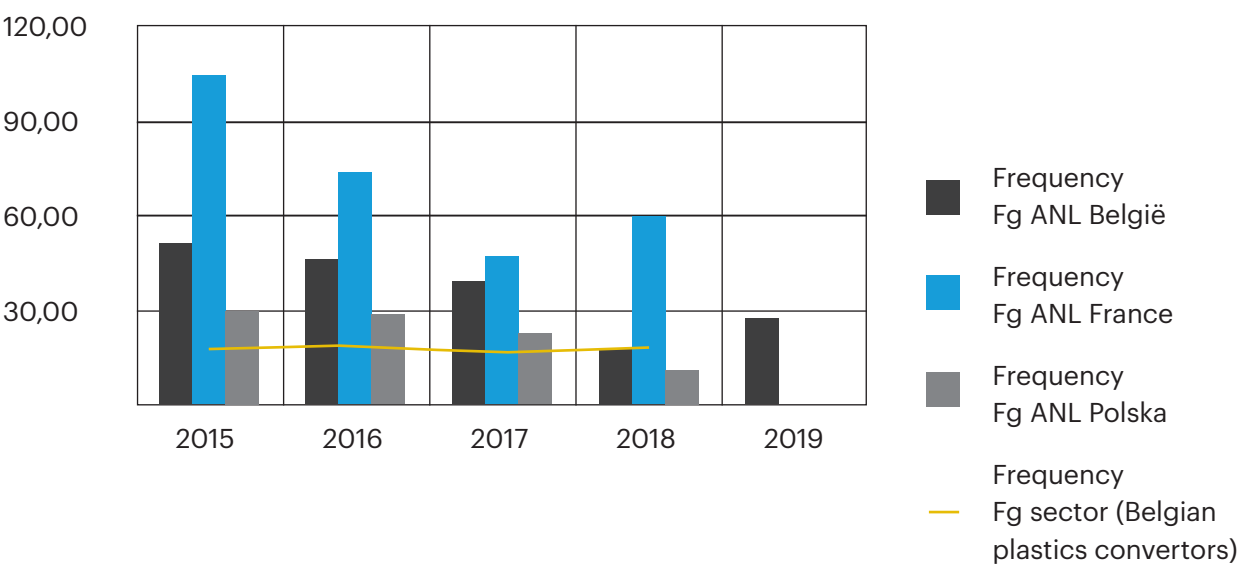
Since a couple of years we have put tremendous efforts in reducing the number of work related accidents. We have implemented several systems. First of all every department is subject to 2 safety tours per year to identify any unsafe or risky situations within the company walls. A report is made up and the department manager has to study every situation and identify the actions needed to resolve them. Second, every work related accident or injury, however small, is documented, reviewed and if necessary thoroughly analyzed so targeted preventive actions can be identified and set up. Furthermore for subcontractors performing tasks within the company, a last minute risk analysis (LMRA) is done before a work permit can be delivered.

And last but not least, all of our employees have access to our software program which holds a special area where they can report any discrepancies or risky situations they might incur on the factory grounds. These notifications are consulted on a daily basis so that necessary actions can be identified and discussed.

The actions identified by these various initiatives are synthesized in the departments PCDA-cycle to make sure necessary follow-up and realization of these measures is guaranteed. Since 2015, when the PCDA-system was put into place, more than 200 actions have been successfully implemented to reduce the number of accidents on the work floor. For example we have invested in new cutting knives which make it impossible for the user to cut himself and we have introduced extra personal protective equipment to perform certain (high-risk) tasks.

At ANL Packaging we closely monitor the number of work accidents and it clearly shows that our efforts in this area have paid off. Over a period of 5 years the number of accidents have dropped with 46% in Belgium, 43% in France and 63% in Poland.

Off course this remains an ongoing process as we strive to provide our workers with the most healthy and safe working environment. Recently we have started a new campaign to raise more awareness among workers about safety on the work floor. Because every incident is one too many!



Charter on safety, health and well-being at work

The ANL Packaging group considers the care for safety, health and welfare of all its employees, including temporary workers, trainees, students and employees of outside companies, to be an important priority. Its policy is based on the following principles:

ANL Packaging strives for a healthy and safe working environment for all its employees and is committed to conducting an active welfare policy.

ANL Packaging is committed to always respecting the applicable legislation.

ANL Packaging implements the necessary systems, procedures, risk analyses, action plans, etc. in order to continuously improve the safety, health and welfare of its employees.

ANL Packaging pursues a prevention policy aimed at preventing incidents, injuries and illnesses and at avoiding and limiting risks as much as possible.

ANL Packaging states that all its employees and those from outside companies are jointly responsible for an orderly, safe and healthy working environment and that they must cooperate in detecting and avoiding risks.

ANL Packaging attaches particular importance to the exemplary role of its managers and their active cooperation in its policies.

ANL Packaging provides the necessary means for continuous improvement and promotes a working atmosphere of cooperation and consultation.

When selecting its contractors, ANL Packaging will take into account their safety and health policy and performance.

ANL Packaging undertakes to assess and adjust its policy at regular intervals in order to achieve the set objectives.





### ANL run

The yearly running competition in Wellen, the home of ANL Belgium, has named its short distance option the 'ANL Run' thanks to our longstanding financial sponsorship. Every year a team of ANL workers competes in the race.

### Creating a community

Respect and devotion are some of the core values of ANL Packaging. To keep employees informed about the latest highlights and company news, communication screens are in place throughout the factory. We also have a magazine which is issued every three months called 'ANL Live'. Every employee can submit an article they'd like to publish in the magazine. It is distributed across all production sites of the ANL group. However a recent survey taken among all ANL employees across our three factories revealed a need for an even greater information flow about the company's strategy and more employee involvement. The ANL management team has acknowledged this request and (together with the marketing department) a new campaign within the company culture is born: Samen+Sterker (Stronger+ Together). First of all a presentation on the company performance and strategy will be given twice per year by our CEO at each of the production sites. Following are several sit down moments of small groups of employees with the CEO for an even greater intimate communication. Employees are able to discuss freely about ideas, issues and anything that might be on their minds. Furthermore posterboards have been placed throughout the facilities on all sites to remind our employees

of the core values of ANL Packaging. Values are a source of inspiration and motivation and we believe a company can only blossom when all of its employees have been immersed with its core values.

Essential to a good and pleasant working environment is the sense of belonging. ANL was founded as a small family company and it tries to keep that family feeling alive amongst its employees. Various teambuilding activities are organized throughout the year and among different departments. Also every three years one of the biggest trade fairs for plastic materials is held in Germany, the 'K-Messe'. ANL Packaging organizes a day trip to the fair to which all employees are invited, free of charge. It is an excellent opportunity to learn about the novelties in the plastic industry. Some employees also organize sportive activities, like a fishing competition or a motorcycling tour, for which the company bears the costs.

ANL aims to empower its employees through evaluation and training. Our HR department has put together evaluation forms for new employees, which are regularly evaluated.

A yearly evaluation take place for all employees. During these moments employees are encouraged by their managers to provide feedback, ideas and indicate possible areas for improvement. Furthermore ANL also offers the possibility for training. Every year a training budget is determined, which is available to everyone. Employees can search for and propose courses themselves or they can indicate that they'd like to deepen their knowledge of a certain field to the HR department, which will then search for an appropriate training for the employee.

One of the core values of ANL is respect, respect for each other, respect for rules & agreements and respect for our company. As such we refrain from all forms of discrimination based on a person's race, gender, age, nationality, marital status, ethnic origin, religion, sexual orientation, membership in trade unions or other worker organizations or political affiliation. Instead we focus on hiring, promoting and providing other benefits or conditions of employment based on a person's performance and ability to do the job.



### Giving back to the community

'De Warmste Week' (The Warmest Week) is a very popular initiative of Studio Brussel, a well-known Flemish radio station. Every year around Christmas they motivate people to set-up fund-raising activities for a charity of their choice. Every year ANL employees participate with various initiatives across the factory. The ANL management doubles the collected amount and the total proceeds are donated to a cancer research facility.

Furthermore, ANL support various local associations and clubs with donations in currencies as well as goods.

**ENSEMBLE +FORTS** **SAMEN+ STERKER** **RAZEM+ SILNIEJSI**





## Innovation & high quality products

Whether we are producing our standard range trays or tailor-made, highly innovative trays on customer request, for food or non-food usage, a high quality product is always our greatest priority. Since 1994 all our production sites have been ISO9001 certified. Today the ISO9001 norm remains the international reference when it comes to quality management systems. Being ISO certified, we have described, measured and analyzed all of our processes and we continuously improve them based on the results. To this end we use a process-oriented approach called the PDCA cycle:

- **Plan:** we examine our processes and set out a plan with practical goals to improve them
- **Do:** we deploy the planned improvements
- **Check:** we measure the results and compare them with the original situation
- **Act:** we adjust the plan based on the findings of the previous step and start the circle again

ISO certification is valid for 3 years. However an audit by a third party certification institution is performed on a yearly basis. Furthermore we organize internal audits of all our internal

processes. The number of times each process is subject to an internal audit depends on its level of contribution to the quality of our products, e.g. our financial process will only be audited once per year, while our production process is subject to an internal audit several times per year.

At ANL Packaging we believe that it's our responsibility as a producer of food packaging to make sure consumers never have to worry about the food they serve their families. Not just because it is the law – but more importantly because it's the right thing to do. Since 2006 we are BRC/IoP certified. This is an international Food Safety Management System standard which prescribes quality, safety and operational criteria to ensure that manufacturers fulfil their legal obligations and provide protection for the end consumer. It is recognised by the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI). Each of our three productions sites is subject to a yearly audit.

Today single use plastic is a hot topic in society and it has been a central point of much criticism. As a company operating in the plastic industry we can ofcourse not ignore this fact. Instead we actively engage in trying to face the existing issues and to make a contribution in a positive way. First of all we are member of following organisations:

- **Pack4Food** is a consortium of flemish researchcenters & 36 companies that tries to stimulate innovation in foodpackaging. They support a lot of researchprojects in the domain of food preservation, packaging materials...

- **Green Plasturgie**, a French organisation that unites plastic/bioplastic & composite producers and processing companies to highlight the positive initiatives & actions taken by these companies.

- **Circular Plastic Alliance**, a multi-stakeholder platform, with the aim to boost recycling of plastics in the EU. The Circular Plastics Alliance wants to ensure that by 2025 at least 10 million tonnes of recycled plastics are used to make products and packaging in Europe each year.

- Belgian Biopackaging aims to create a network of Belgian as well as international entities which compostabel and biodegradable materials, with an emphasis on their renewable sourcing. Furthermore they promote these products with governments, distributors, users and every other significant player on the market. And last they set up awareness raising campaigns regarding these products.

- **Thermoformer**, a French association, more precisely an interprofessional network of thermoforming companies,

resource suppliers, toolmaking companies, knowledge and training centers. Their aim : the development and valorisation of the thermoforming and its uses and to share best-practices and know-how.

- **Plastalliance**, the French union of the plastics and composites industry, which amongst other things provides support for plastic recycling and bioplastics.

- **Catalisti**, the spearhead cluster for the chemical and plastics industry in Flanders. They provide resources and successful synergies with other cutting-edge companies and research institutes to valorise development and growth opportunities, retain competitiveness in sustainable products and processes, as well as secure a robust international reach.

- **Essenscia**, the Belgian sector federation of the chemical industry and life sciences. Their role is to offer member companies a tailor-made service with expertise and advice on sector-specific themes.

We also adhere to the EupC voluntary commitment, who's main goal is to achieve a recycling rate of 50% for all plastics waste in Europe by 2040.





Besides that we interact with various companies and institutions to make a positive impact to this turbulent industry we find ourselves in:

- **Fostplus**, a company that promotes, coordinates and finances the collection, sorting and recycling of the household waste in Belgium.
- **Go 4 circle**, the Belgian Federation of the waste and recycling industry.
- **Plarebel**, a non-profit organisation that promotes the recycling of all plastic waste. It mainly acts as an expertise centre for FOST Plus with regard to the organisation of the collection and sorting, the recycling technologies, the material specifications, etc. for the different types of household plastic packaging waste.
- **Paprec**, a french independent recycling business with 210 sites and more than 12 000 000 tonnes of waste treated and recycled.
- **Suez**, a global expert in the water and waste sectors, who helps cities and industries in the circular economy to preserve, optimize and secure resources.
- **Citeo**, a French company which works to reduce the environmental impact of household and paper waste by transforming them into renewable resources.

ANL packaging takes part in several research projects. The Flanders Industry Innovation Moonshot is an ambitious industrial innovation programme. Flemish universities, research institutes and industries join forces to develop breakthrough technologies by 2040 to create new climate-friendly processes and products. This project has 4 thematic research trajectories, ANL takes part in 2 of them: biobased chemistry and circularity of carbon in materials. The ultimate goal is to make the Flemish industry carbon circular and low in CO2 by 2050.

**GLOPACK** is short for “Granting society with low environmental impact innovative packaging”. The purpose of the project is to facilitate innovative and eco-efficient food packaging for both the consumer and the companies. Different prototypes for innovative and eco-efficient packaging will be developed and presented on a trial basis to the market in order to study the market opportunities. The project is focusing on three food packaging areas:

1. **biodegradable materials made from agro-food residues**
2. **active packaging to improve food preservation and shelf life without additives**
3. **RFID enabled wireless food spoilage indicators linked to food date labels.**



We also participated in a Roadmap study entitled ‘Food Packaging of the Future’. This study was conducted by various institutions related to the packaging industry working together. Their aim is to lay down a more cross sectoral strategy to tackle the challenges the packaging industry is facing and will face in the years to come.

Another project we participate in is the Tetra BIO-FUN project in collaboration with two flemish universities. This two year research project on widening the functionalities of recently developed compostable biomaterials by clustering characteristics such as sealperformance, gas barrier...

Furthermore we engage in developping new and innovative packaging solutions that require less or naturally resourced raw materials.

Our Piramyd® Packaging is an inhouse designed packaging concept, which allows a premium presentation of the product in a sturdy and easy to open/close packaging. It consists of a cardboard base and a crystal clear RPET lid. This hybrid packaging is easy to recycle as it consists of 50% plastics and 50% cardboard which can be perfectly seperated.

Peelpaq® is a reclosable sealtray that offers a lidfunction without having an extra element. The double rim sealing creates the lid during the production process. Thanks to its reclosable lid, freshness of the product is prolonged. There is also a significant reduction of plastic used (25%), since Peelpaq® isn’t a hinged lid container. Furthermore this results in up to 40% reduction in weight (transport), components (stock) and handling.

Visiopaq® is a MAP system, a Modified Atmosphere Pack. These packagings are made out of monomaterial and are sealed with a paper ring. It prolongs the shelf life of the packed food with several days.





# Environmental responsibility

The world we live in today is faced with many challenges when it comes to the environment. Depletion of natural resources, pollution of our land and oceans, global warming... Companies play an important role in this matter because they work on a much larger scale than an individual and thus can generate a much bigger impact. The environment is very important for the preservation of this world. And efforts need to be taken to facilitate nature. At

ANL Packaging we have identified three key areas we focus on when it comes to our sustainability efforts.

We aim to reduce our water & energy consumption.

We focus on increasing the use of sustainable materials as raw material by increasing the use of recycled material as well as considering alternative, biologically sourced materials. This way we want to contribute to a circular economy.

We continuously aim to optimize our logistical processes which in return lowers CO2 emissions.



## Operations Clean Sweep®

Operation Clean Sweep® is an international program designed to prevent resin pellet, flake, and powder loss and help keep this material out of the marine environment. ANL Packaging is a proud partner of the OCS program and as such has pledged to:

- prevent pellet, flake and powder loss
- contain spills
- cleanup swiftly and effectively
- dispose of pellets, flakes and powder appropriately



## Water & Energy consumption

Fresh water is a luxury in much of the world. According to the U.N., only about 2.5 percent of the water on the planet is fresh – and with our world population on pace to reach 9 billion by 2050, protecting our water resources is more important than ever.

Across our three production sites, most of our efforts are focused on the production facility in Wellen, Belgium. As this is the oldest one, here lie the greatest potential for improvement. In 2018 we constructed a new production plant at our site in Cahors. Special attention was paid to eco-efficient measures. In Poland the possibilities are very limited as the building is rented.

In the production process of ANL Packaging water is primarily used for cooling purposes. Over the years we have made 2 big investments to reduce our water consumption drastically. In 2012 a first drop was realized by replacing water cooled cooling machinery with air cooled machinery. In 2018 ANL Packaging made another big investment by replacing the last open cooled systems with a closed loop water circuit. This allows the water to be recycled many times throughout the system. With a prognoses made for 2020, we will have reduced our water consumption with 85% in 10 years time!

Structurally reducing its energy consumption has become part of ANL's policy. Since 2015 we have been working with the Flemish government and consultants to work up an energy management agreement. In this collaboration we analyze to identify various measures which can lead to a reduction in



## New production facility at Cahors, ANL France

An energy efficient, free cooling system for the production plant.

No extra energy consumption for heating purposes as this is done using heating from the compressors.

Fully automated warehouse which enables optimal handling, transport and reduces the risk of damaging.

Closed water circuit and sanitation facilities are equipped with automatic shut off faucets.

Phonic insulation was introduced to reduce sound level from 95 to 82 decibels.



energy consumption. We then select the ones who have the most impact, all the while keeping in mind budgetary matters.

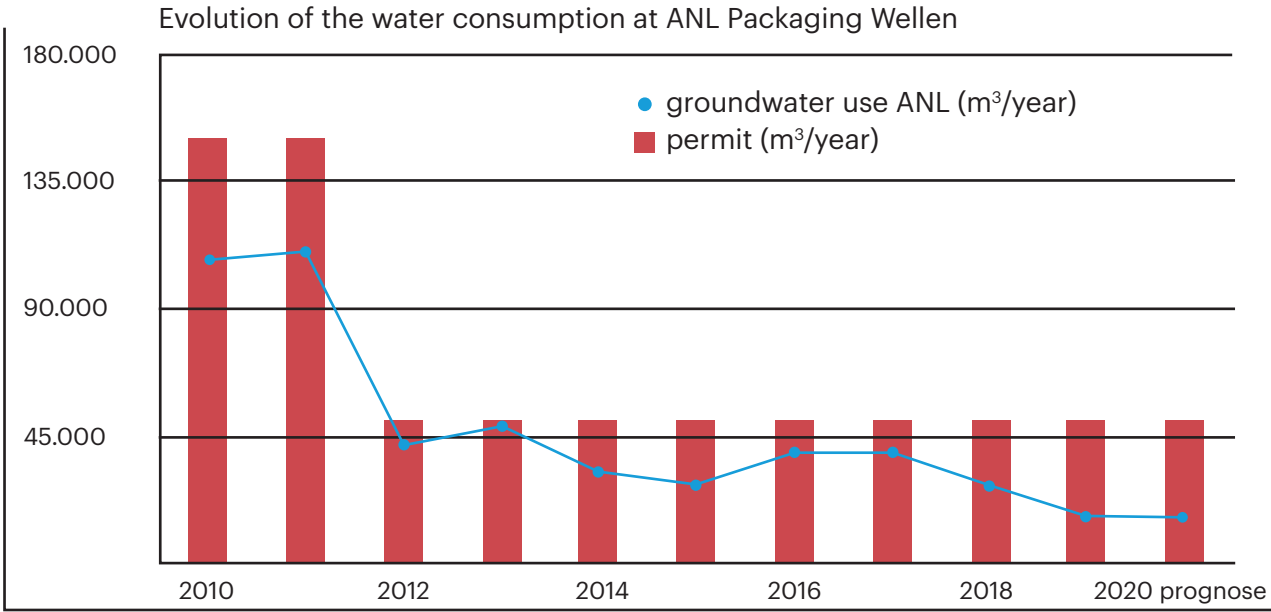
In a first agreement, the formal framework was put into place: setting out a policy and appointing an energy coordinator. Furthermore we initiated a first series of measures to reduce energy consumption and by consequence CO2 emissions. Thanks to these actions our emissions have dropped with an estimated 302 tons CO2 per year.

In 2019 a new agreement was made up and in the meantime has been approved by our CEO. Among the planned measures are the insulation of the piping system of the cooling machinery, relighting with energy efficient LED lighting of several production buildings, reducing the production hours on old(er), high-energy consuming production machinery and mend-

ing of compressed air leaks and maintenance through regular check-ups.

With these measures we'll be able to reduce our CO2 emissions with an estimated 614 tons per year. In addition we'll be studying some more measures, like working with heated reach trucks, which could save up to an additional 387 tons of CO2 per year.

Currently the allocation of energy consumption among the different production departments is mostly based on production data and working hours. Clearly there is a need for a more permanent form of measuring through electronic equipment. This is why the implementation of energy monitoring systems have been added to the planned measures. Furthermore an 'energyteam' will be created and we'll use infrared technology to identify thermal losses.



Solar energy

In 2011 we installed 3020 solar panels on the roof of our productions site in Wellen. The green energy produced by these panels stands for 2.8% of the total energy consumption of the Wellen production site. In the 8 years the panels have been operational we have saved 2.285,56 tons of CO2 emissions.



### Optimizing logistical processes

ANL works consciously toward a more sustainable logistical process. Various initiatives throughout the company’s value chain help reduce the number of trucks on the road, which in turn lowers CO2 emissions. Most importantly it is a core aspect of the ANL strategy. As we strive to become the packaging reference in Europe, we have opted to construct factories in our target markets, instead of expanding production facilities at our site in Belgium. In 1991 ANL France was founded in Cahors, which is the biggest sales market for ANL. In 2010 we chose Dabrowa, Poland as base for the newest ANL production plant. And only recently we engaged in a commercial collaboration with Faroplast, a factory located in San Mariano, Italy.

This dispersion across the different regions of Europe allow us to minimize our truck load to 1 truck of foil and 20 trucks of finished product from the closest factory to the customer.

In 2018 our new, high-tech factory was constructed at the Cahors production site. The old building right next to it, has been repurposed as a warehouse. Where in the past we had to revert to off-site warehousing, we can now directly ship our products from our production site at Cahors to our regional customers. This eliminates one truck of transport per day!

In 2015 we purchased a Solid State Polycondensation Unit for the recycling of our PET flakes. The quality of PET material decreases each time it is processed. In the past we used to ship off our recycled material to companies who could upgrade it for us. Thanks to the SSP Unit, we are now able to perform this process in house which in turn results in a huge saving on logistic behalf, since we no longer ship these flakes off. This process has been EFSA approved so food safety is never compromised.

Even though the SSP is located in Belgium, the recycled material from our other factories is also processed there. You might think this would call for extra transport, meaning extra trucks

on the road and inevitably more CO2 emissions. Yet this is not the case. Transportation of moulds and foil between our production sites are inevitable as the production of moulds is solely housed at the Belgian site and it also holds the greatest fleet of extruders, thus producing the greatest quantity of foil. However instead of trucks returning without load back to Belgium, they bring back the recycled material from France and Poland so it can be further processed in Belgium. So no empty trucks on the road!

Another key activity we engage in to reduce transport, happens during the development process of our products. Thanks to our years of know-how, we design our products in a way that stacking properties are optimized. This in return results in an optimal use of our truck’s cargo space. The number of trucks needed to get the final product from production site to our client is thus minimized.

Whether we develop packaging on customer demand or new innovative in house models, we always strive to develop products using the least amount of raw material, all the while watching closely over high quality and performance standards. In general this strategy has lead to a drop in average packaging weight of 20% over the past 10 years, which in turn is beneficial for transport.

A specific example is our in-house developed Peelpaq® packaging concept. It has an easy reclosable lid, which is made from sealing foil. This offers huge advantages in logistics as opposed to a classic tray-lid combination: 30 % less plastic used results in a drop in weight and off course less cargo space is required.



Recently we have introduced a new waste management system. We have put in place different colored boxes to collect the different kinds of waste. This enables a better separation of the various waste streams which can then be properly disposed of and in turn be recycled to a maximum extent. All ANL colleagues are informed about this new system through the communications screens in the factory.

### Sustainable materials

Packaging has a very “ungreen” image, today more than ever as high importance is placed on climate issues. Consumers often think of packaging as being redundant and are not aware of the different roles packaging plays, which makes it indispensable. First of all it is an essential item in the logistical chain as it protects the goods it contains and helps in maintaining its freshness. As such it also prolongs the shelf life of products which in turn helps to combat against food waste. Moreover packaging is essential to allow branding purposes and it carries important information for consumers. And finally, packaging facilitates the use of the product it contains. With these characteristics in mind, it’s unthinkable to banish packaging as a whole. Instead we must actively engage in innovation and work towards a more sustainable packaging industry. ANL Packaging takes several initiatives to this end, with emphasis on using recycled materials and ensuring the recyclability of our packaging.

To make sure our products can be recycled in a proper manner, we prefer to use monomaterials as much as possible while limiting the use of additives. One additive in particular has turned out to be problematic when it comes to recycling. Carbon is used as a base for coloring agents for dark colored plastic materials like black and brown. However during the sorting process of plastic waste, it impairs proper detection by NIR installations. Result: these dark colored plastics are not recognized and end up in the incinerator instead of being recycled.

ANL has developed a range of ‘carbon detect colors’, which allows proper recycling all the while maintaining a dark color. These products have been tested elaborately at the manufacturers of the recycling machines using NIR technology. These tests have been performed following the standard procedure developed by COTREP, the center of resources and expertise on household plastic packaging recyclability in France. Our NIR detectable plastic packaging, in PP as well as PET, have successfully passed these tests and have been certified by COTREP, which means they can be recycled and processed by companies such as CITEO to give them a second life. You can find our certificates at <https://www.cotrep.fr/etude-technique/#studies>.

Depletion of natural resources is one of the key climate issues discussed today. The answer to this problem can be found in a more circular approach to our modern day economy. In this model the traditional approach ‘make-use-expose’ is replaced by a circular model in which used materials are recovered, recycled and then re-used to produce new products. As plastic material has the ability to be recycled almost endlessly, it serves as an ideal material for a circular economy, which can put an end to the waste pollution of our environment.

The production method which ANL uses, thermoforming, creates a residual flow of material during production. This ma-





terial can be recovered and re-used and is called post-industrial waste. ANL Packaging has been recycling and reusing its own industrially produced waste since 1977! By mixing our own recycled material with virgin material we can use more of the recycled materials.

Recently ANL has decided to strengthen its commitment to a circular economy even more. As of June 2019 we have largely switched over to RPET, a film made from internally recycled material (Post Industrial Waste, PIW), as well as externally recycled material (Post Consumer Waste, PCW). Thanks to our SSP installation, which is able to increase the RPET's toughness and at the same time remove any chemical impurities that might be present, we can guarantee food safe RPET. Since the launch of our RPET film we have already processed about 4500 tons of scrap material into new plastic packaging, a number we hope to see grow exponentially in the years to come.

The new kid in town is surely bioplastic. However this concept can refer to several kinds of different materials: biodegradable plastic, biobased plastic or plastic material

which is both biobased and biodegradable at the same time. At the moment European legislation doesn't give any preference to using these materials for various reasons: it will require separate waste collection to avoid contamination of the traditional waste streams; the production costs (in terms of resources) are still very high, and so on. A lot of research is needed to explore the opportunities of these new materials. ANL Packaging actively engages in testing with these materials and contributing to their development thanks to its collaboration in various research projects (cfr. p 12). We have put in place a Circular Plastics Team which is responsible to stay up to date on new developments in the plastic industry. This way we can guarantee the appropriate support and guidance for our customers on the subject of bioplastics, and moreover in the world of plastic itself.

At ANL Packaging we have a clear engagement towards the future: we want to develop and distribute packaging that meets the requirements and expectations of a sustainable future.



**LOTAPIS Project**

In France ANL participates in a research project called Lotapis. Together with a multidisciplinary group of participants, amongst which research institutions and universities, we're designing a bio-degradable packaging based on newly developed raw materials.

This packaging aims to battle the 2 major enemies of the bee, the Asian hornet and the Varoa destructor mite, by developing new means which target both of these enemies and avoids leaving packaging material in the environment. This product will be promoted amongst amateur as well as professional beekeepers. The role of ANL consists in producing the packaging of this new and innovative solution.





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