



Flanders
State of
the Art

Measures to avoid waste at Flemish events

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OVAM (Public Waste Agency of Flanders)

December 11th 2025

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Agenda

- ▶ Legislation
 - Reusable containers
 - Waste collection
- ▶ Results
 - Impact on the market
 - Supply by local authorities & intermunicipal companies
- ▶ Challenges
- ▶ Support by the Flemish government
- ▶ Good practices and their results
 - Lokerse feesten
 - Sfinks



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A. LEGISLATION

1 Legislation Europe – Belgium - regions

LEVEL			
Europe 		Single Use Plastics Directive (SUP) Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR)	
Belgium - federal 		Royal Decree (KB): 5 July 2024 - restrict the release of certain disposable products on the market: - o Market ban on disposable plastic cups & non-compostable plates & cutlery - increase the recycled content of certain products	
Belgium - regions		Flanders  VLAREMA	Wallonia  Decr.W. 9 maart 2023 B.W.Reg. 18 juli 2019
		Brussels  BRUDALEX	



2 Legislation Flanders - Definition

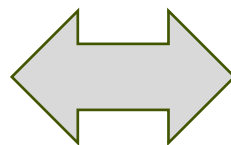
Event

A one-time or periodic occurrence in the field of art, culture, sports, festivities, or popular entertainment. The event is publicly announced and is open to everyone, with or without a fee. It takes place at a specific time and is temporary. The location can be on public or private property. The event can take place either outdoors or indoor.



2 Legislation Flanders

by a public institution



by a non-public organisation

Event organised by the (local) government

Legislation on reusable cateringmaterial for drinks and prepared food is applicable



As well applicable on (local) government's own operations

Event not organised by the government

Legislation on reusable cateringmaterial for drinks is applicable

= fairs

= Event of an educational institution



2 Legislation Flanders - drinks

✓ For events not organised by a local authority or Flemish government: until 31 December 2029





2 Legislation Flanders - drinks

- ✓ For Flemish governments and local authorities: since 1 January 2020
- ✓ For ALL Flemish events: from 1 January 2030





2 Legislation Flanders – prepared food

✓ For local authorities and Flemish government: since 1 January 2022

Soup = prepared food



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2 Legislation Flanders

!! Only serving to the end user:

- Behind the bar big PET bottles can be poured out and collected for recycling

!! Regardless of:

- Mode of serving: free or for paid
- Type of end user: visitors, crew or artists / athletes
- Area: artists –or crew area, audience area, camping, first aid, ...



2 Legislation Flanders – waste collection

There is a mandatory selective waste collection at Flemish events, both frontstage and backstage





2 Legislation Flanders – waste collection

- 24 waste flows for selective collection (when they occur)
- Sorting at the source is mandatory -> high-quality recycling

<u>Most common fractions</u>	Frontstage	Backstage
Residual waste	✓	✓
PMD	✓	✓
Kitchenwaste and food scraps	controled zones	✓
Glass	as needed	✓
Paper and cardboard	as needed	✓
Animal and vegetal oils	-	✓
Foils	-	✓
Wood	-	✓
Metals	-	✓
....	-	✓



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B. RESULTS



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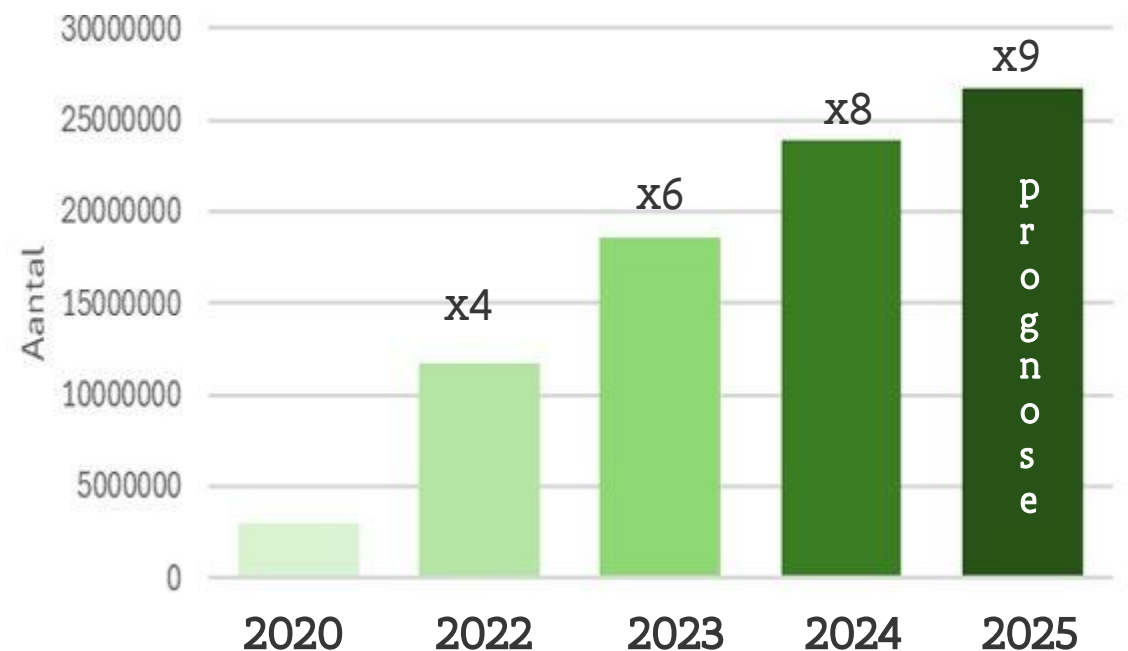
1 Impact on the market

Evolution of the rental offer for cups

Source: survey OVAM

► Evolution offer 9 professional suppliers in Flanders

→ Estimation of increase of stock of reusable cups on private market since the legislation



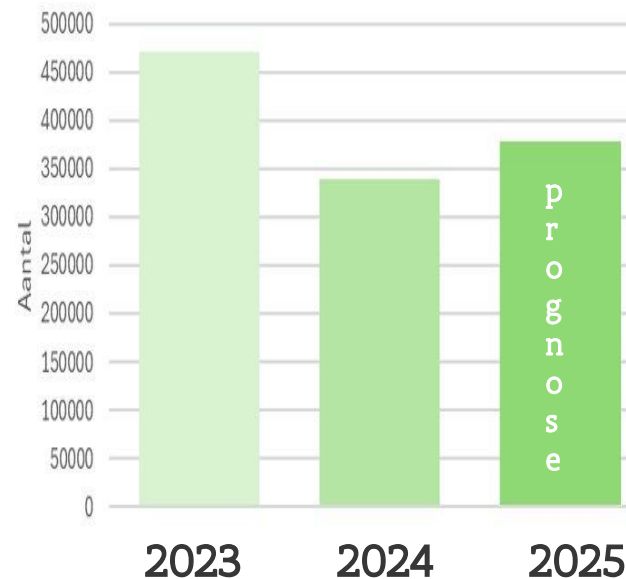
► Almost all brands of beer, spirits & some soft drinks produce own cups which are part of sponsorship deals.

Evolution of the rental offer for cutlery & tableware

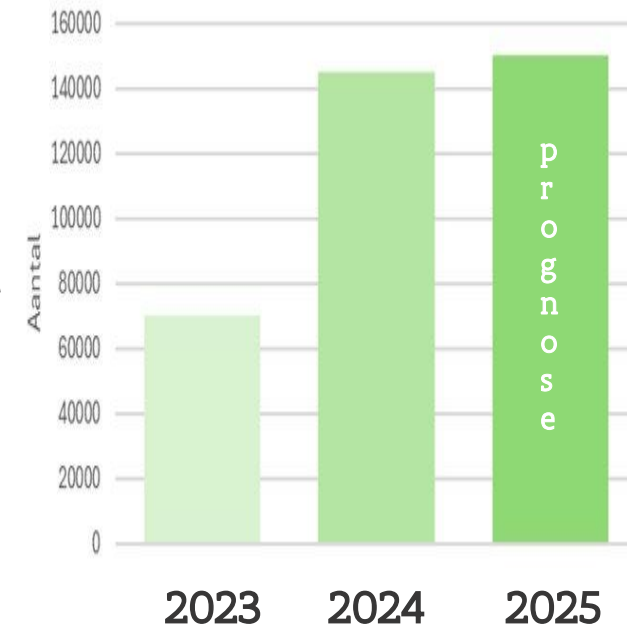
Source: survey OVAM

► Evolution offer 5 professional suppliers in Flanders

→ Estimation of stock of reusable cutlery on private market since the legislation



→ Estimation of stock of reusable tableware on private market since the legislation



→ The legislation seems to ensure investment security for cups and tableware: supply follows demand.

Dishwashing facilities

Source: survey OVAM

- ▶ **Industrial dish washing facilities operating for Flanders:**
 - +- 12 locations
 - +70% capacity in 2024 vs. 2022
- ▶ **2024: increase intermediate washing by mobile/ professional dishwashing & by hand**
 - Saves rental of cups
 - Increase of return cycli



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Collection systems

Source: survey OVAM



► Suppliers :

- Number and types of return systems increase
- 2024: 10 companies offering (digital) solutions for return systems
- New in 2025: cups with QR-code or RFID-chips

► Deposit system: +90% of collection

- No deposit system: < 90% to 70% and less

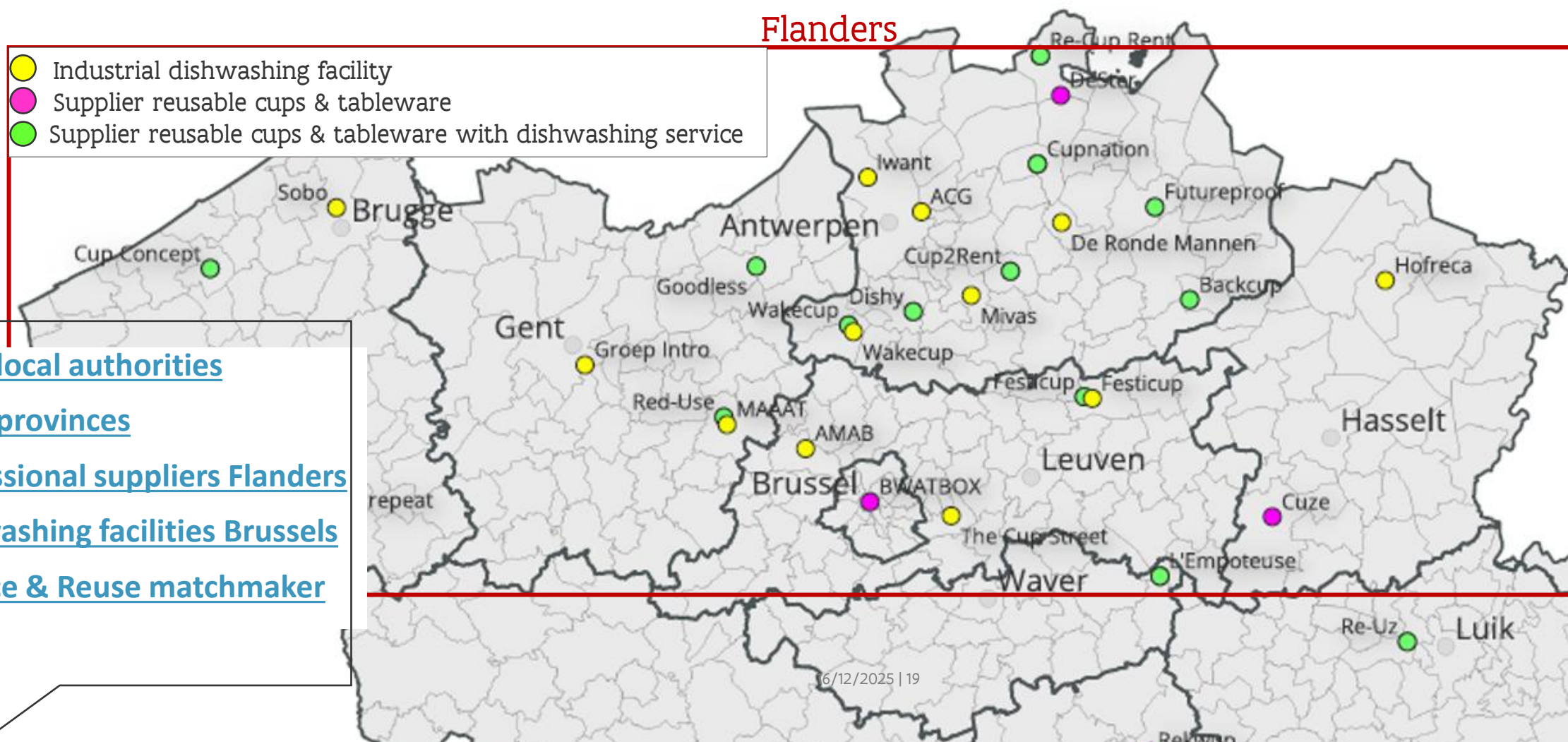
Measures for a better return (cumulative):

- deposit
- return at: bars + separate collection points + donation points
- clear signage & communication to visitors + all participating drink vendors & crew

Geography of suppliers

Source: survey OVAM in the autumn of 2023

► industrial dishwashing facilities, suppliers of reusable cups and tableware



- ?
- [Offer local authorities](#)
 - [Offer provinces](#)
 - [Professional suppliers Flanders](#)
 - [Dishwashing facilities Brussels](#)
 - [Reduce & Reuse matchmaker](#)



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2 Supply by local authorities & intermunicipal companies

Cups by local authorities

Source: Online Waste Survey

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Local authorities (of 300) with own reusable cups	138	181	193	224	173	181
Total cups	673 588	862 113	1 060 204	1 457 645	1 534 878	1 666 783

Implementation
legislation

60%
of Flemish local authorities

**Almost
doubled**
since 2020

- **Many combine stock of own cups for small events with:**
 - framework/individual agreements
 - renting/borrowing from a sponsor or others

Cutlery & tableware by local authorities

Source: Online Waste Survey

- ▶ Less ownership than cups: (smaller amounts, less used, more difficult to wash)

TABLEWARE	2022	2023	2024
Local authorities (of 300) with own reusable tableware	26	29	38
Total pieces	18 925	25 695	38 645

Implementation
legislation

CUTERLY	2022	2023	2024
Local authorities (of 300) with own reusable cutlery	23	21	26
Total pieces	21 898	28 642	31 576

Implementation
legislation

- ▶ **Many combine with:**
 - framework/individual agreements
 - renting/borrowing from another party

Cups & washing by intermunicipal companies

Source: Online Waste Survey

- ▶ **20 of 27 waste intermunicipal companies have a rental offer of reusable cups:**
 - 15 own their own cups
 - 10 offer rental through a framework agreement with a professional supplier or through collaboration with an external partner such as a thrift store
- ▶ **12 waste intermunicipal companies offer a dish washing solution themselves, 8 others outsource it through an external partner**



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C. CHALLENGES

Challenges

- ▶ **Mass running events:**

- Until 2024: exemption by Flemish government
- Good practices in Paris and Brussels

- ▶ **PET bottles & cans: ban from 1 Jan 2025 postponed to 2030**

- Resistance from event & beverage sector
- Market not adapted

- ▶ **Extra costs**

- More staff needed
- Purchase or rent reusable containers needed

- ▶ **Efficient return systems**

- RFID en QR-systems are efficient, but expensive. Not suitable for every event.



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**D SUPPORT BY THE
FLEMISH GOVERNMENT**

Support by the Flemish Government

- ▶ Flemish research:
 - [Update studie drink-en eetgerei op evenementen \(BE;2020\)](#), [Studie drink- en eetgerei op evenementen \(BE;2017\)](#)
 - summary: [Herbruikbare bekertjes: een goed idee \(vlaanderen.be\)](#)
- ▶ Press releases OVAM
- ▶ Podcast: [June 2024: reusables at events in Flanders](#)
- ▶ Evaluation: [Evaluation evolution of reusables at events in Flanders \(2023\)](#)
- ▶ Annual Conference since 2023 [on reusables at events](#)
- ▶ Communication [campaign](#) & kit for organizers
- ▶ Guidance of events of local authorities with financial support
- ▶ Guest lectures at colleges
- ▶ GroenEventScan: a scan to help the organizer of an event to make sustainable choices
- ▶ Website support for organizers & municipalities:
 - Practical: [Aan de slag met de wetgeving cateringmateriaal \(vlaanderen.be\)](#)
 - Decision tree [events](#)
 - Decision tree [own operation government](#)
 - How to control? (for local police & local controllers): [Handhaving op de wetgeving cateringmateriaal \(vlaanderen.be\)](#)
 - FAQ on the Flemish legislation



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E. GOOD PRACTICES

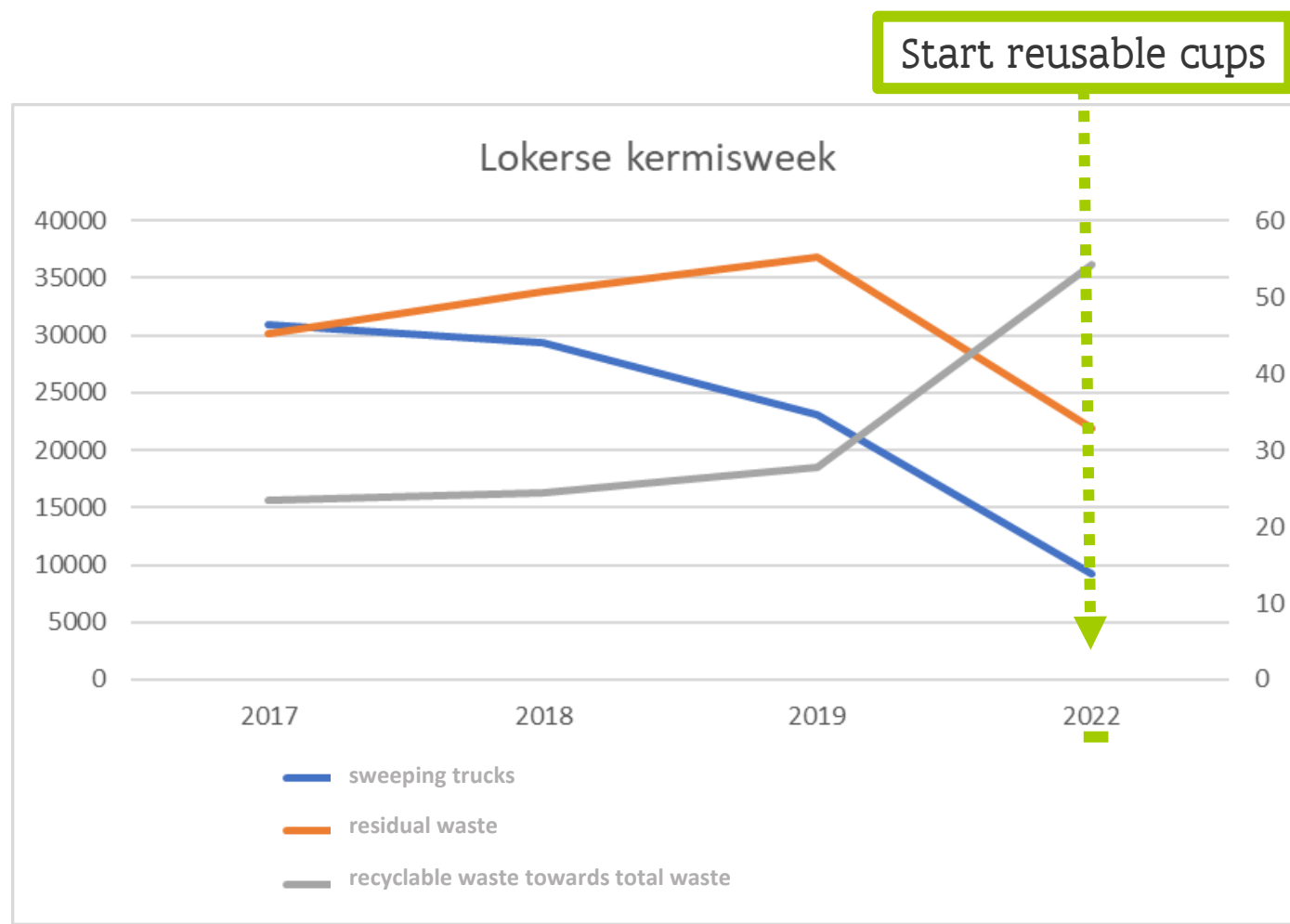
Good Practice – Lokerse Feesten

- More than 700 containers from 10 to 1100l back & front
- 2024: 5000 hot drinks cups, 450 000 drinks cups and 50 000 cocktail cups avoided
- Ecoteoam of 40 persons



Waste: – 60% residual waste and - 40% sweeping waste open urban event

► Example: Open Urban Event – Lokerse & Fonnefeesten



► Sweeping trucks: - 60% in comparison to 2019

► Residual waste: -40% in comparison to 2019

Especially decrease in residual and sweeping waste

Meanwhile, in 2024, the amount of waste has been halved since the focus on reusable materials and more than 50% of the waste can be recycled.

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MORGEN MOOIER

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Good Practice – Sfinks Mundial (Boom)

► Examples: Sfinks Mundial Festival 2024 (spring edition)

- #visitors: 30.000, 1 day
- Deposit system: 0,50 euro/item
- Waste: 2024: -56% waste/visitor in comparison to 2018
- Return%: 96,65% cups ; 96% tableware
- Waste: 3.350 kg of which 68% recyclable
- Sweeping hours: almost no waste on the field → minimum amount of time needed



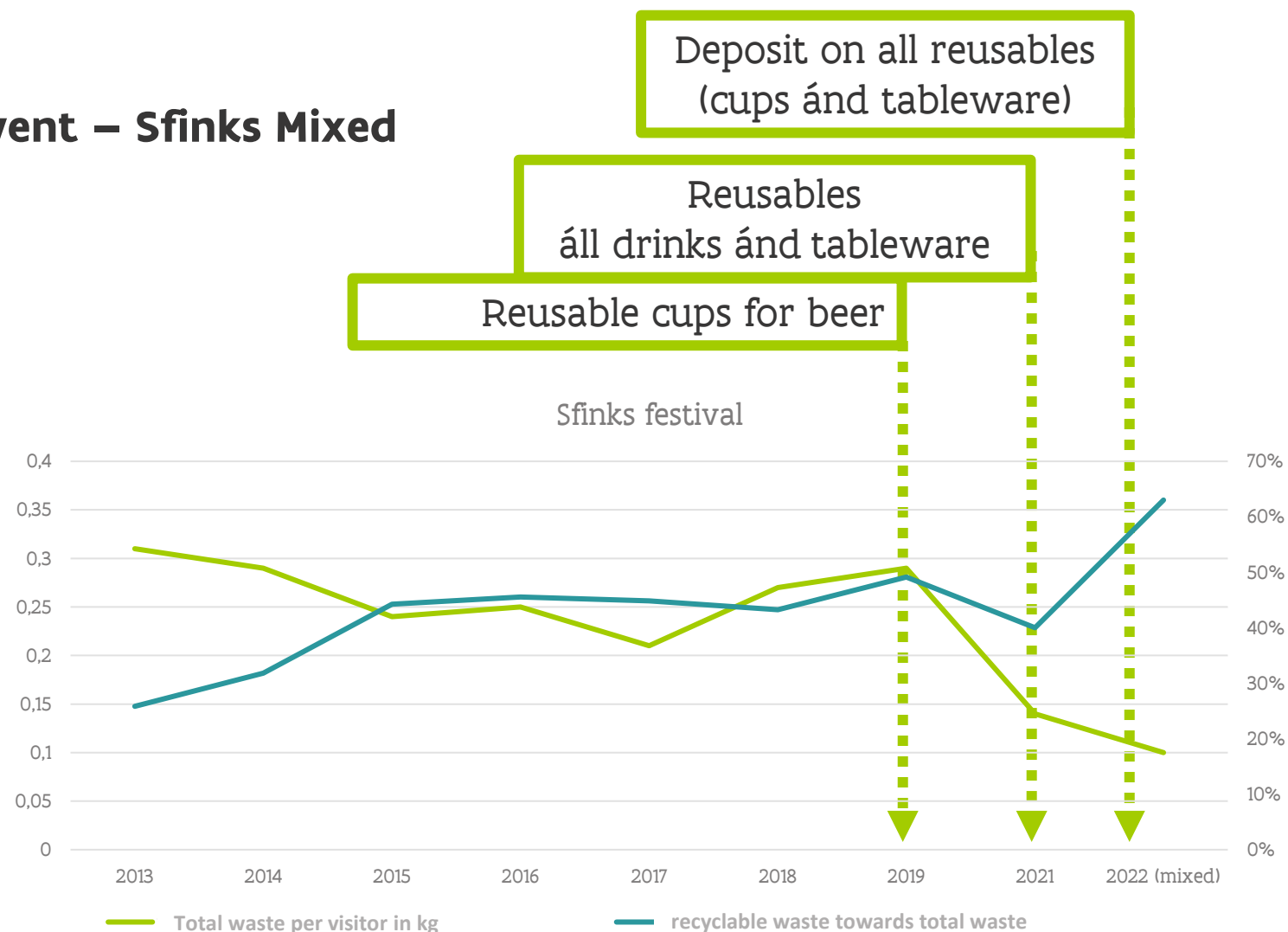
Waste: until – 63%/visitor closed door event

► Example: Closed Door Event – Sfinks Mixed

→ 4 days

→ #visitors: 25.000/day

- 2021: (no deposit)
 - Waste per visitor:
-48% vs. 2018
- 2022: (with deposit)
 - Waste per visitor:
-63% vs. 2018



Questions?

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