

# Defence wins sustainability award for 'PET bottle clothing' navy

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Yesterday, the Ministry of Defence won the KoopWijsPrijzen 2020 with the Tropenkleding project. The central government prize is awarded annually for the most progressive project in the field of socially responsible procurement.



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In the Tropical Clothing project, clothing for the Royal Netherlands Navy is partly made from PET bottles. This concerns, for example, all zippers, yarn and buttons. Recycled waste from the oceans is also returned to the navy kits.

The project is an initiative of the purchasing department of the KPU company, the unit that deals with clothing and equipment within the Ministry of Defence.

## **Most public votes**

The Ministry of Defence received the most public votes and was therefore preferred over projects of the other 2 finalists: the municipalities of Leiden and Noordenveld. Project buyer Kelly Meyer of the KPU company received the award digitally yesterday.

"Winning this award is a great appreciation for the way we are able to add sustainability to our products," she said. "This project shows that this method can be applied by anyone. There is no doubt that there is no turning back; we are on our way to even more impact."

## **No restrictions**

When tendering for the project, the Ministry of Defence had not given any restrictions to the market in terms of sustainability. The choice of the KPU company ultimately fell on Integrated Sports, which not only wanted to use a lot of recycled material, but also managed to make the production site as energy-neutral as possible.

The KoopWijsPrijs is organized every year by PIANOo. This centre is part of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy and has the task of professionalising procurement and tendering with all governments.