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# SUSTAINABILITY IN HEALTHCARE

VinylPlus® Med brings together hospitals, adult day care centers, waste management companies, recyclers, and the PVC industry to recycle discarded single-use PVC medical devices, with the aim to accelerate sustainability in healthcare across Europe.



PVC is the most used plastic in life-saving disposable medical devices, including oxygen and anaesthetic masks, tubing, IV and dialysis bags. Many of these devices can be recycled.

COVID-19 has highlighted the crucial role played by single-use plastic medical devices in the prevention and control of infection in hospitals. The surge in need of such disposable items has shed light on the challenges of properly managing and discarding them after use. Properly sorting and recycling the non-infectious plastic waste can significantly reduce the environmental impact of hospitals and their operational cost.

Across the hospitals network, the high-quality PVC waste of various departments is collected and recycled. Some hospitals plan to work with adult day care centers to sort the waste. The waste has not been in contact with infectious patients and is free of substances of concern.

## From medical tubing to hospital wall covering



The high quality, colorless medical PVC waste collected at VinylPlus® Med hospitals can be turned into a wide range of useful products used in the healthcare sector. An example is vinyl wall covering, which can incorporate regrind PVC obtained through an environmentally benign process. Vinyl

wall covering is hygienic, dimensionally stable and resistant to chemicals. Due to its durability and shock-absorbent properties, vinyl is ideal for walls which have to be protected from collisions with beds and other types of hospital equipment. Vinyl also helps to create a holistic architectural design expression.

## A growing network

Interest for VinylPlus® Med is growing in the Belgian healthcare community. 10 hospitals are currently taking part of the PVC recycling programme and 35+ are on the waiting list to join.

## VinylPlus® Med partners



The project partners with Raff Plastics as the recycler and Renewi as the waste management company. All Belgian VinylPlus® Med partners are located within a radius of 200 km, to minimise transport distances and thus mitigate carbon footprint.

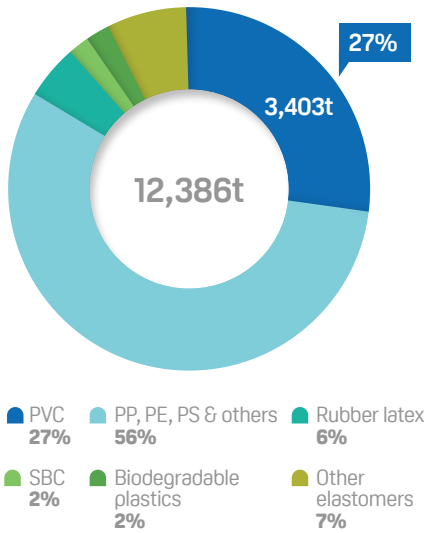
For additional information:  
[vinylplusmed.eu](http://vinylplusmed.eu)

VinylPlus® Med contact:  
Vincent Stone, Project Leader  
[vincent.stone@vinylplus.eu](mailto:vincent.stone@vinylplus.eu)

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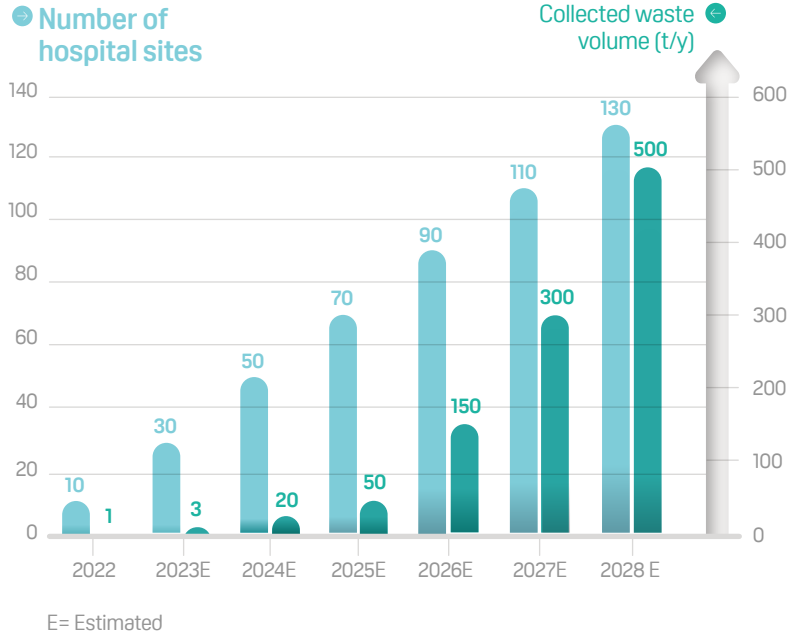
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## Medical devices in Belgium – PVC vs other polymers

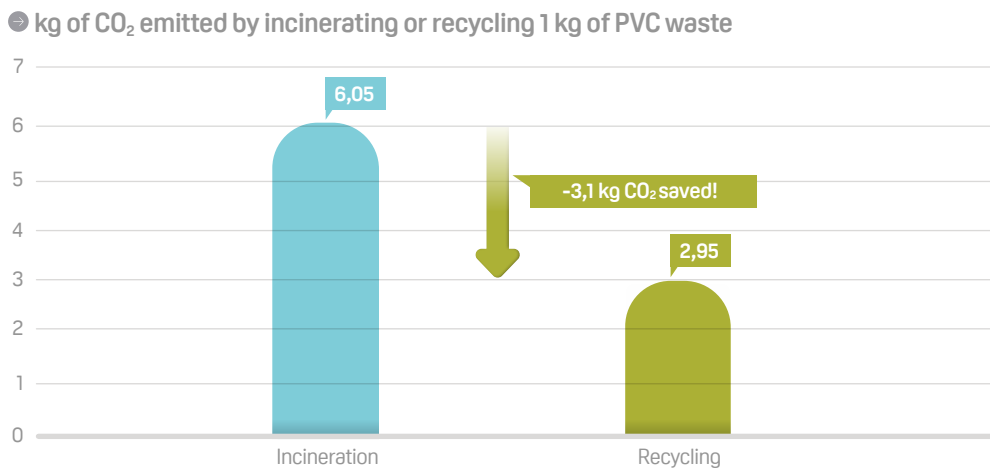


Source: Europe Medical Polymer Market Report, Global Market Insights, 2021

## VinylPlus® Med Growth



## Recycling: Environmental Benefits



Source: F. Vadas, D. Nguyen-Ngoc, Mechanical recycling versus incineration of PVC waste, Greenhouse gas emissions, PE International GmbH, 2009

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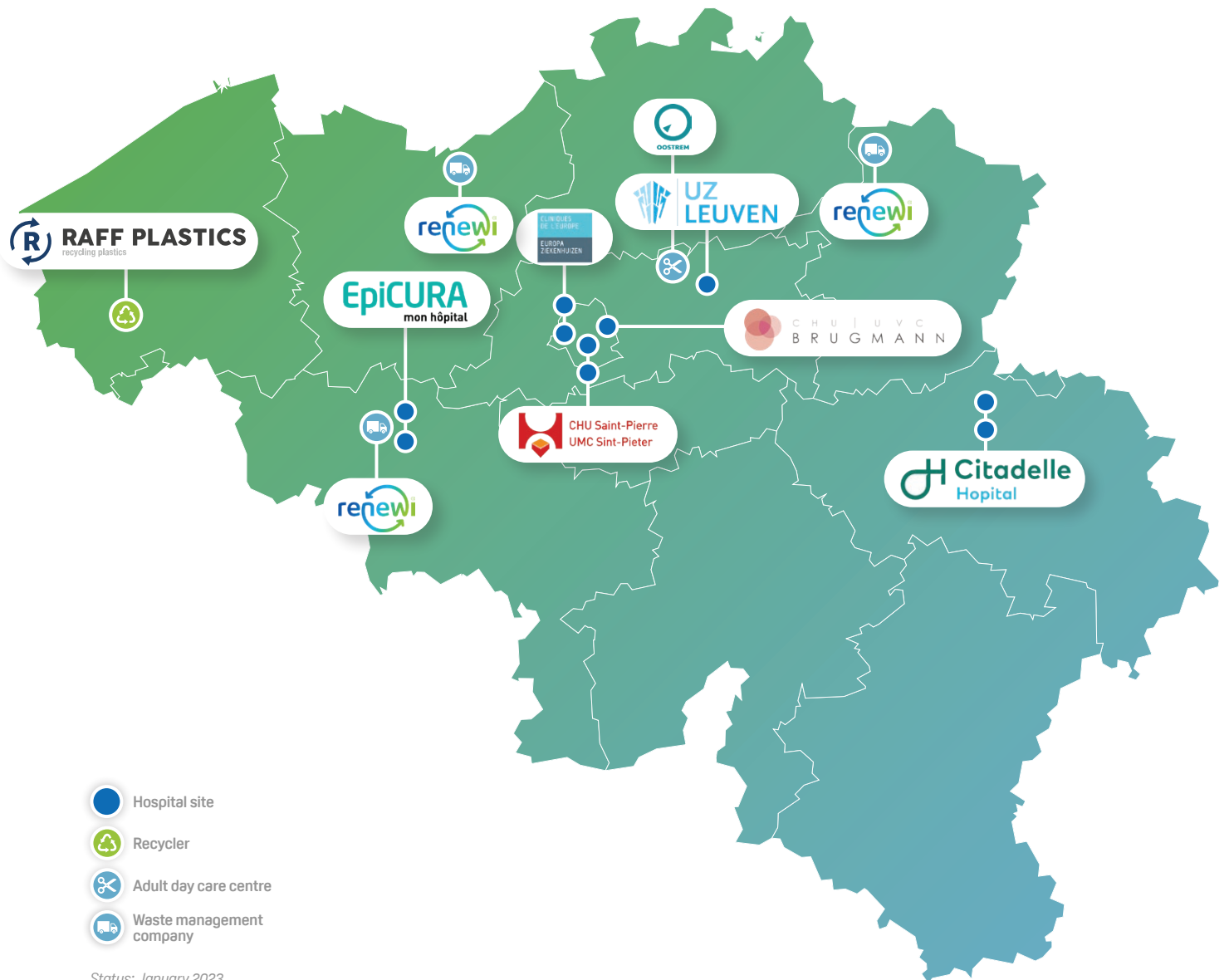
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## Where are our VinylPlus® Med Partners and Hospitals?



Status: January 2023

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