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Introduction

RPP's reach continued to expand in 2024, now covering 124 certified locations (+15) and 28.700 ha (+2.600 ha). A notable milestone was the successful certification of peat from the Weimeren nature development project, marking the first time peat from temporary projects has been certified. This opens the door for peat from temporary initiatives—such as nature development, water management, and infrastructure projects—to receive RPP certification, provided they meet the scheme's standards. Such peat is primarily used as casing soil in mushroom cultivation.

The year 2024 built on projects initiated in 2023, including the Dutch Covenant on reducing the Environmental Impact of Potting Soil and Substrates'. Ongoing efforts included exploring platforms to identify opportunities for contributions to large-scale restoration, enhancing understanding of after-use valuation, and developing improved guidelines for assessments of after-use plans.

About RPP

Board

Mr. Guus van Berckel - VPN - representing growing media production - treasurer
Mr. Bert von Seggern - GME (Growing Media Europe) – representing growing media production
Ms. Ilze Ozola - Latvia Peat Association – representing peat production
Mr. Tomi Koivula - GME (Growing Media Europe) - representing peat production - chair
Mr. Jüri-Ott Salm - ELF (Estonian Fund for Nature) – representing environmental NGO
Mr. Hans Schutten - Wetlands International- representing environmental NGO

Committee of Experts (CoE)

Ms. Silke Kumar - peat production
Ms. Sabine Jordan - peatland science
Mr. Bernd Hofer - legislation - technical aspects
Mr. Ron Bleijswijk – certification - chair
Mr. Nerijus Zableckis- environmental aspects- after-use

Secretariat

Mrs Maureen Kuenen – Executive Officer
Mr Hein Boon - Director RPP



Activities and outreach RPP

RPP continued to expand its reach and enhance its visibility throughout 2024

Presentations were given and discussions were held with numerous organisations or on events : IVG und Gütegemeinschaft Substrate für Pflanzen (GGs), , responding to articles in press, RHP Product group Peat, the Dutch Substrate Knowledge Day, IPM Essen, Merlin and Peatland Round Table, IPS, the German Branchen-Tag für Substrate, the Dutch Covenant, Horticultural week, and more.

While peat extraction areas cover only a small fraction of Europe’s peatlands, the sector contributes both emissions and valuable expertise in restoration. Through MERLIN, the industry can work on climate- and nature-friendly after-use of sites and wider landscape collaboration. RPP actively participates in the European MERLIN project and was selected as a test case to explore where nature-based solutions can enhance sustainability in the value chain. In 2024, the third Peat Extraction Roundtable brought together 24 experts from industry and NGOs to discuss a draft sector strategy for scaling up peatland restoration and related opportunities in the peat value chain. The finalized Peat Extraction Sector Strategy is expected in 2025. In addition, a cross-sectoral dialogue engaged stakeholders from agriculture, hydropower, insurance, navigation, and water supply and sanitation.

Meanwhile, guidelines have been developed under RPP scheme version 3.0 to improve the assessment of after-use plans. In parallel, RPP scheme version 4.0 is in development, including a decision tree to guide the optimal choice of after-use destinations.

Certification peat harvesting sites

This year, 15 new certifications were granted, and 8 certifications were regranted under RPP certification scheme version 3.0, reflecting that all companies met the scheme’s requirements for their locations. New certifications were awarded to:

24/110	Erdenwerk Wietinghausen GmbH & Co KG	Campemoor	Germany
24/111	Meiners GmbH & Co. KG	Hesterberg Feld 0+6	Germany
24/112	Van der Knaap Eesti OÜ	Määrastu	Estonia
24/113	Neova AB	Töttjamossen	Sweden
24/114	Saukas kūdra SIA	Saukas purvs	Latvia
24/115	MV Turvas OÜ	Piilasoo	Estonia
24/116	Compapeat SIA	Lutinanu purvs I	Latvia
24/117	Mullmäster AB	Boaryds udd	Sweden
24/118	Neova AB	Ebbarp mosse	Sweden
24/119	Neova AB	Storemosse Ebbarp	Sweden
24/120	Neova AB	Rögla och Ramnasjömosse	Sweden
24/121	Neova Oy	Rukoneva	Finland
24/122	Neova Oy	Säärineva	Finland
24/123	Prelvex AS	Prääma	Estonia
24/124	Prelvex AS	Retla	Estonia

Inspection peat harvesting sites

Inspections are carried out by four independent inspectors through both desk assessments and on-site visits, verifying compliance with the Principles and Criteria of the RPP certification scheme. Each assessment is validated by a second inspector as part of a cross-check process. Based on the inspection results, the inspector issues a recommendation for certification.

The certification process is then evaluated by the Secretariat under the responsibility of the Committee of Experts. Any uncertainties or objections are reviewed by the Committee of Experts and ultimately approved by the Board.

Chain of Custody

The Chain of Custody is based on a mass balance approach, which enables the practical and reliable trade of certified peat. Since peat is often shipped in bulk, sourced from multiple locations, and blended for quality purposes, mass balance provides a practical solution. At participating companies, the volumes of RPP-peat sold are administratively checked against the volumes of RPP-peat produced or sourced. [Full explanation of the Chain of Custody](#) is available on the RPP-website (2nd block).

Companies wishing to trade RPP-certified peat or use it in the production of growing media can join the RPP Chain of Custody under either Option 1 or Option 2. Participating companies are required to undergo an annual inspection of their data and records to verify the volumes of RPP-certified peat produced/sourced and sold. In 2024, two companies, Legro Latvia SIA and Floragard Vertriebs GmbH, were registered and added to the [list on the RPP website](#):

	Company	Label number	option	Info activity
1	Griendtsveen	RPP-16-0100	1	Producer
2	LENSLI	RPP-16-0103	2	Producer and User
3	Mokura	RPP-17-0106	1	Producer
4	Agaris	RPP-17-0107	2	Producer and User
5	Kudras Energija	RPP-17-0108	1	Producer
6	Nevema BV	RPP-17-0112	1	Producer and trade
7	Stender(Euflor)	RPP-17-0113	1	Producer and User
8	Kraver AS	RPP-17-0114	1	Producer
9	Bolpeat	RPP-18-0115	1	Trade
10	Compo	RPP-18-0117	2	Producer and User
11	Klasmann-Deilmann GmbH Geeste	RPP-18-0119	1	Producer and User
12	Nord Agri	RPP-20-0120	1	User
13	Hortimed	RPP-20-0121	1	User
14	Kekkilä BVB	RPP-20-0122	1	Producer and User
15	Kalloveen	RPP-20-0123	1	Trade
16	PokonNaturado	RPP-21-0124	1	User
17	Biolande	RPP-21-0125	1	User
18	ICA substrates	RPP-21-0126	1	User and trade
19	G&C materials	RPP-21-0127	1	Trade
20	Freepeat BV	RPP-22-0128	2	User
21	Meegaa substrates New BV	RPP-22-0129	2	User
22	Legro potgrondbedrijf BV	RPP-22-0130	2	User
23	Legro Mushroom Casing Solutions BV	RPP-22-0131	2	User
24	Jiffy Products International BV	RPP-23-0132	2	Producer and User
25	LEGRO Latvia SIA	RPP-23-0133	2	User
26	Floragard Vertriebs GmbH	RPP-23-0134	1	User

Inspection Chain of Custody

Chain of Custody inspections in 2024 were carried out by the RPP Secretariat, covering the volumes of 2023 through audits on location and/or online. No significant irregularities were found.

In 2024, the use of RPP-certified peat in growing media continued to rise. In the Netherlands, the share of certified peat increased from 70% in 2023 to 83% in 2024 (data provided by the VPN). In Germany, the share grew from 40% in 2023 to 49% in 2024 (data provided by IVG).

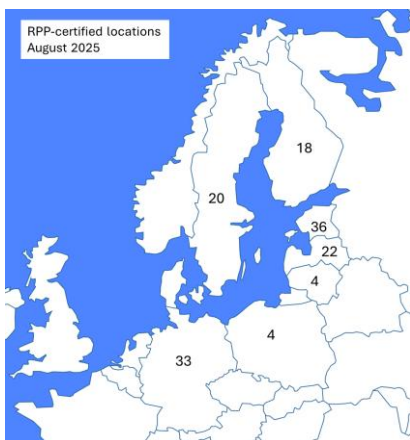
Financial results

RPP Financial results 2024		
Gains and losses Foundation RPP	Profit/Loss 2024	Profit/Loss 2023
<u>Income</u>		
Contribution and annual fees	168.160	124.553
Inspections & certification	69.170	74.282
Total:	237.330	198.835
<u>Expenses</u>		
Organisation & management	182.482	182.343
Certification	43.075	43.383
Total:	225.557	225.726
Result:	11.773	-26.891

audit financial statement by Blaak & Breederveld accountants Naaldwijk, NL

The loss in 2023 has been reversed to a positive result in 2024. The outlook is also positive due to an increasing number of certified locations, thus providing a solid foundation for RPP's future.

Outlook 2025



Applying RPP criteria delivers results that would not have been possible without certification. In 2025, this will be highlighted under the theme “10 Years of RPP.” Maximum impact is achieved when the largest possible area meets RPP criteria—onward to 60,000 ha!—and when RPP policy aligns with national strategies.

RPP is close to achieving mainstream status, both in total certified area and in coverage across major peat-producing countries. Achieving this status in 2025 will raise RPP’s recognition and impact, enabling it to strengthen collaboration with industry, NGOs, and policymakers.

In line with new EU regulations, including the Nature Restoration Law and LULUCF agreements, RPP is developing

a practical decision tree to guide after-use planning. By working together with these stakeholders, RPP aims to ensure this tool is feasible, widely accepted, and future-proof.