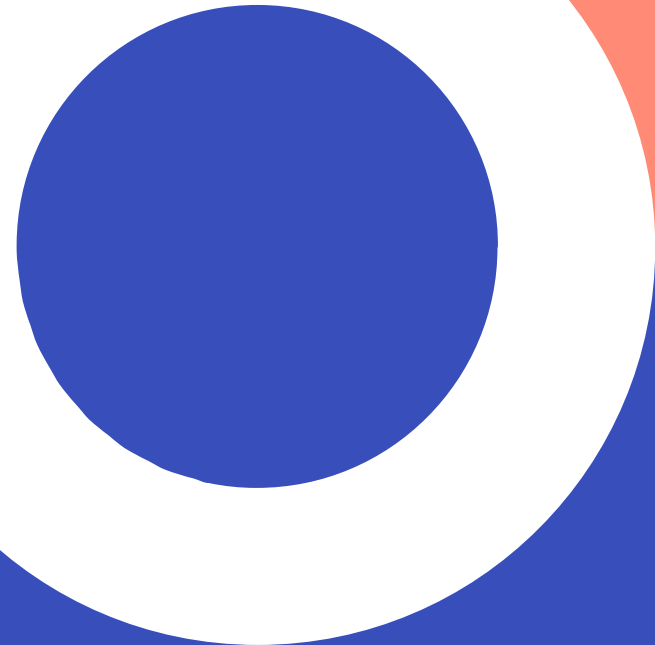


# Valoo

**2025 Annual Activity Report**



# 2025 Annual Activity Report



Fig.1 Illustration: Mitchell & Keppler textularia.com

**VaLoo, the Network for Circular Sanitation in Switzerland, was founded on the 19th November 2021 on World Toilet Day. VaLoo brings together engaged actors collaborating to promote and facilitate the implementation of resource-oriented sanitation systems in Switzerland.**

## Content table

Introduction	3
Save The Date	3
2025 in Numbers	4
Association	5
Board	5
Strategy Recap	5
Success Stories	6
Advancing on the Mission	6
Impact Projects	7
Events	8
International Collaboration	8
Outlook	9
Media & Publication	9
Financial Report	10
Support/Impressum	11

# Introduction

2025 marked a year of strong engagement. The call to rethink water management approaches has grown louder, and recognition of resource-oriented sanitation solutions championed by VaLoo's members has increased across media coverage, scientific research, and political debates.

At the same time, we continue to face major challenges: substantial reinvestments in "linear" wastewater infrastructure, delayed phosphorus recovery, critically assessed nitrogen recovery, and growing water scarcity as a result of climate change. Resource-oriented sanitation systems can provide a valuable complement to existing approaches—yet a clear regulatory framework is lacking. This is precisely where VaLoo is taking action.

VaLoo's impact projects (p. 7), driven by its members and partners, help strengthen dialogue with cantons and authorities and are generating growing interest among architects and farmers. VaLoo seeks to advance the debate through practice, convinced that real change begins by demonstrating the concrete feasibility of circular solutions. Thanks to its international network, VaLoo is also active at the European Union level and showcases inspiring practices implemented in neighboring countries.

For nearly five years, we at VaLoo have been planting seeds – in 2026, we will see the first seedlings emerge.

For any questions or suggestions, please contact us at: [info@va-loo.ch](mailto:info@va-loo.ch)

## Save The Date

Events planned in 2026:

- 27.03. – VaLoo Member Assembly and visit to La Bistoquette
- 24–26.04. – NetSan network meeting at the Ökodorf Sieben Linden
- 9.05. – Zurich Move the Date Festival at JosyAreal
- 7–9.05. – Fess'tival celebrating the 20th anniversary of RAE (Ecological Sanitation Network)
- 30/31.05. – 10 years of Vuna & open house at the Winteregghütte
- 5.07. – Open garden day: nature-oriented garden with compact planted filter Phytotiny, Am Wald 3, Magglingen/Macolin
- 18.09. – Event at the Schüür, Kirchdorf
- 13/14.09. – Alpine Toilet Outing by Eawag / Vuna
- 19.11. – World Toilet Day & VaLoo celebrates its 5th anniversary
- Zurich Stammtisch meetings: 30.04., 28.05., 23.06., 25.08. (additional dates to follow)
- Aneco Open Days: 24.04, 19.06, 9.10

All events are regularly published and updated on our website under [News](#).

We are grateful to all our 2025 sponsors and partners – your support makes this work possible.

We're also pleased to have welcomed new members into the VaLoo community this year.

If you feel inspired by what you read and would like to get involved, don't hesitate to reach out.

Enjoy the report!



Picture: The Circular Toilet, ClimaNow 2025 Winner 2<sup>nd</sup> place

# 2025 in Numbers

## Members & Partners

77 Members (+12)  
6 Association  
2 Universities  
18 Partners

## Volunteer Hours

> 850



## Successful Funding Requests

6/6 funding proposals supported for activities in 2025 and 2026-28

## Events

1 Member Assembly,  
3 seminars, 8 guided tours, 1 international congress

## Projects

3 impact projects finalized, see page 7

## Working Groups

3 - advocacy, knowledge&awarness, international collaboration

## Newsletters

## Community Updates

10

## Consultation

4 participations in national and international consultations

## LinkedIn

42 Posts

## Awards

2 award for the Circular Toilet at ClimaNow Spotlight

## Strategy recap

In 2025, VaLoo's main objectives included capitalizing on our impact projects to effectively advocate for circular sanitation, secure funds for future activities, including the continuation of two impact projects, and fostering knowledge sharing within the network and with our sister networks, RAE and NetSan.

With over 850 hours of volunteer work logged in 2025, roles taken by volunteers are essential in the achievements, which are detailed throughout this activity report. In addition to the volunteer work, both Louise Carpentier and Salomé Brozman were employed, ensuring essential functions of VaLoo, but also taking part in key advocacy activities and ensuring future funding.



Picture: Member Assembly, 2025



Picture: Strategic Meeting, December 2025

## Board

The board of directors was made up of Bastian Etter, Dorothee Spuhler, Jonas Linder, Kayla Coppens, Philipp Markus, Philippe Reymond, and Reto Wey. The board, along with the working group pilots Michel Richman and Ivo Guilherme, met once per month to coordinate activities. In addition, two half day workshops were planned, one in June and the other in December, to evaluate our successes and make short term strategies for our next steps.

# Success Stories

Change requires proof that make circular sanitation visible, tangible, and real. In 2025, 4 milestones marked our progress from concept to concrete.

- **Five case studies, three languages.** We finalized and published a set of five case studies documenting real circular sanitation installations across Switzerland, available in German, French and English on our website. These are practical references for architects, planners and municipalities. They are a great addition to the newly published circular sanitation toolbox of Eawag.
- **Schindlergut: urine becomes fertilizer, in public.** Together with the City of Zürich and Ogmo, we inaugurated a public toilet at Schindlergut that harvests urine and converts it into fertilizer on-site. 30 participants joined the inauguration of what is a genuine first: nutrient recovery integrated into everyday public infrastructure in a Swiss city. This is the kind of visible, civic-scale implementation that allows every user to experience resource-oriented sanitation and helps to spread awareness. Recap video [here](#)
- **The Circular Toilet: from prize to lighthouse.** A spontaneous collaboration between VaLoo, Ogmo and Kompotoi produced one of the year's most tangible wins. Our Circular Toilet – combining novel nutrient harvesting with a barrier-free design – won second place and the audience award at the Climanow Spotlight. The prize money, together with a pioneering municipality that wants to invest in a barrier-free toilet, will fund the installation of our first lighthouse project. Scalable from touristic sites to urban hotspots, it will serve as a living demonstration of what circular sanitation can look like at the community level.
- **Closing water cycles:** On September 17, in collaboration with the construction and housing cooperative NENA1, we organized the event “Closing water cycles” at L200 in Zurich. The program included presentations by experts on water cycles and their practical applications in construction, followed by a discussion with an audience of representatives from world of architecture, all accompanied by a musical aperitif. It was a wonderful evening that served as a reminder that sustainable water use is not an option, but an essential condition for healthy and environmentally friendly living in our neighborhoods—and that cooperatives have a pioneering role to play.

# Advancing on the Mission

Changing the regulatory and governance framework doesn't happen overnight – but is built step-by-step. In 2025, VaLoo's advocacy group maintained an active presence at the intersection of practice and policy, ensuring that real-world circular sanitation experience feed directly into the legislative conversations.

The group tracked three processes:

- the Tuosto Motion on water reuse, which is to be discussed by the two Federal Chambers
- the upcoming revision of the Water Protection Act
- the ongoing translation from the new Environmental Protection Act with 2 revisions of the waste ordinance in 2025.

In parallel, VaLoo's Impact Projects strengthen the dialogue with cantonal authorities, and stakeholders from architecture and agriculture are also showing growing interest in resource-oriented sanitation.



Photo: ClimaNow Winners



Photo: VaLoo case studies

# VaLoo Impact Projects

Real change begins by demonstrating the concrete feasibility of circular solutions!



Photo: Daniel Locher

## VIP 1

The demand for water-saving dry toilets is growing, though a missing legal status of the separately collected human excreta and originally missing regulatory pathways for fertilizers, make such toilets miss their full impact.

A closing event was hosted at Kunz Composting in Uster with over 40 participants, featuring input from research, project outputs and legal aspects. The full documentation is available online.

The follow-up project, supported by Green City Zürich, investigated closing nutrient loops on a city level and answered questions around logistics, quality and permits. It also allowed to intensify exchange with agricultural stakeholders and start preparing the first Swiss fertilizer permit request for a solid fertilizer with human excreta.

Building up capacity!



## VIP 2



As part of the VaLoo impact project, “The first intercantonal workshop regrouping cantonal water and environment offices from Geneva, Vaud, Jura, and Fribourg, took place on November 10th, 2025. The theme: hurdles and opportunities to circular sanitation.

As the participants expressed a strong desire to meet regularly, VaLoo will facilitate more exchanges in 2026 and onwards

## VIP 3

Greywater—relatively clean wastewater from baths, sinks, washing machines, and kitchen appliances—typically ends up in linear sanitation systems, yet it has potential for local reuse.

The ZHAW project “Greywater Reuse” addressed this challenge, demonstrating that decentralized greywater recycling is technically feasible but still insufficiently integrated into the Swiss regulatory framework. Widespread adoption will require clarifying legal ambiguities and fostering interdisciplinary collaboration among federal authorities, cantons, and industry stakeholders. The project’s recommendations can guide discussions and inform future regulatory frameworks.



Photo: Circular sanitation installation, la Bistoquette

## Events

In 2025, VaLoo co-organized a diverse program of events reaching more than 500 participants— from architects and housing cooperatives to the general public – each chosen to show that circular sanitation is not a distant ideal but a present-day possibility.

**Closing water loops from an architectural perspective:** VaLoo & Architekturbüro Merett for a dedicated seminar on urban water cycles

**Guided walk through city's sanitation history:** VaLoo & Historiker Martin Illi for a guided walk through Zurich tracing the city's sanitation history from the medieval Schiisgruob to modern urban drainage.

**A walk through architectural heritage in Kirchdorf:** VaLoo & Stalldrang Schüür

**Guided tour of Thunersee Waste Water Treatment Plant:** Guided tour of one of Switzerland's most modern wastewater treatment plants

**Open day at Neugut Waste Water Treatment Plant in Dübendorf** - 200 visitors



Please get in touch if you are interested in co-organising an event related to circular sanitation systems.



## International Collaboration

In November 2025, the International working group by VaLoo, RAE and NetSan organized the 2nd European Circular-Sanitation Congress, a 5 days offline event close to Paris, gathering 80 participants from 16 countries.

Results and intensified exchanges were graphically recorded and collaborative processes such as advocacy initiated.

In parallel the group enabled translations of key documents and supported the initiation of a new Spanish network.



Photo: European Circular Sanitation Congress co-organized by VaLoo



In 2026, we will further sharpen our focus: enabling the implementation of circular sanitation by facilitating regulatory processes through constructive collaboration with associations and authorities. We will strengthen the capacities of our office in line with our project development, engage proactively in political debates on water protection and reuse in Switzerland and at the European level, expand and activate our network through targeted events, and translate project results into clear, shareable outputs that create impact.

## Media & Publication

Circular sanitation technologies and opportunities to overcome challenges our centralized system face were broadcasted in many media, either linked to VaLoo but not only.

- 01.2025 – Bioterra : Nichts geht verloren - [link](#)
- 02.2025 – P2GreenN / LEESU : Note on resource oriented sanitation – [link](#)
- 22.04.2025 – Tagesanzeiger : Start-up lässt Bäume auf Kot und Urin wachsen - [link](#)
- 04.2025 – RSR La Première, Émission Vacarme : Caca 2/5 – L'or brun – [link](#)
- 05.2025 – Terre et Nature : Ce biologiste vaudois met la nature en boîte pour assainir les eaux usées – [link](#)
- 20.05.2025 – Les Echos : L'urine, enjeu majeur pour l'agriculture et l'environnement - [link](#)
- 03.06.2025 – OnePlanetLab : VaLoo – [link](#)
- 04.07.2025 – Aqua & Gas : Wiederverwendung von Wasser – auch in der Schweiz. Knabl et al. - [link](#)
- 2025 – Aqua & Gas, 105(1) : Lauber, C., Ulrich, L., & Udert, K. – Abwasserbehandlung auf Berghütten. Ein neuer Ansatz zur Leistungsbeurteilung. pp. 52–56
- 2025 – VUR 2025–5, Vereinigung für Umweltrecht : Gewässerschutz unter Druck – [link](#)
- 2025 – SATW Technology Outlook : Phosphorrecycling – [link](#)
- 09.2025 – Journal of Environmental Management : [link](#)
- 26.10.2025 – Wohnen : Wertvolles aus dem Klo
- 11.2025 – Uniterre Magazin : Unser wertvolles Ab-Wasser
- 2025 – Compost Magazine : Vom Klo zum Kompost
- 03.12.2025 – Sonntagsblick, Green Circle : Ausgezeichnete Ideen für eine bessere Zukunft – [link](#)
- 11.12.2025 – Die Volkswirtschaft : Grosser Investitionsbedarf beim Abwassersystem - [link](#)



# Financial Report

The 2025 financial statements were audited by ATO Treuhand. The 2025 financial statements and balance sheet were approved at the annual meeting in March 2026.

Financial Report for the Fiscal Year January 1, 2025–December 31, 2025		Balance	
<b>Income statement</b>		<b>Assets</b>	
<b>Revenue</b>	<b>CHF</b>	<b>CHF</b>	
Project revenue	248'036	<b>Current assets</b>	
Membership	9'710	Cash and cash equivalents	161'696
Donations	3'237	Receivables	24'422
Events and workshops	4'625	Other current receivables	9'641
Revenue deductions	-3	Accured assets	1'436
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>265'605</b>	<b>Total assets</b>	<b>197'194</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		<b>Liabilities</b>	
<b>Project expenses</b>		<b>Current liabilities</b>	
Coaching	2'262	Accounts payable	8'018
Fundraising	20'113	Other accounts payable	15'665
Impact Projects + Legal advice	65'492	Deferred income	107'032
WG international	10'230	Current provisions	50'000
WG Knowledge & Awareness	617	<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>180'716</b>
Events	3'612	<b>Equity</b>	
Roadshow	3'193	Association assets	13'511
<b>Total project expenses</b>	<b>106'167</b>	Earnings	2'967
<b>Personnel expenses</b>		<b>Total equity</b>	<b>16'478</b>
Salaries	119'911	<b>Total balance</b>	<b>197'194</b>
Social security	16'289		
Other personnel expenses	2'361		
<b>Total personnel expenses</b>	<b>138'561</b>		
<b>Operating expenses</b>			
Rent, Property Insurance	5'807		
Office supplies, accounting, audit	5'457		
Member assembly, board meetings	2'199		
IT expenses	3'086		
Promotional (advertising, travel, memberships & networking)	3'168		
Financial income	-70		
<b>Total operating expenses</b>	<b>19'647</b>		
Non-operating income	-1'736		
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>264'375</b>		
<b>Total revenue</b>			
<b>Total revenue</b>	267'341		
<b>Total expenses</b>	264'375		
<b>Annual profit</b>	<b>2'967</b>		

# Thanks to

VaLoo would not be possible without the generous support of foundations and partners. After almost five years of collaboration with our launch partner, the Migros Pioneer Fund, we would like to express our gratitude for their trust and for enabling VaLoo's development.

In 2025, we were able to secure new collaborations and funding. We would like to especially thank Fondation du Progrès Humain, the Leenaards Foundation, Grün Stadt Zürich, SATW and Clima Now for their support.

We are particularly pleased to have secured KlimUp funding from the City of Zurich – a program supporting start-ups and non-profit organizations focused on climate protection and the circular economy. This support allows us to continue advancing our vision in the coming years.

On top of that, we would like to thank the Stopp Klimakrise Foundation for their donation to VaLoo.

Impressum: The annual report or activity report of VaLoo, the circular sanitation network Switzerland, goes to members, partners, supporters and parties interested in VaLoo. It is published annually in spring since 2023. PUBLISHER Verein VaLoo, c/o Ateliergemeinschaft Binz12, Binzstrasse 12 – 8045 Zürich – Schweiz/Suisse/Svizzera, info@va-loo.ch. TEXT Bastian, Dirk, Ivo, Jojo, Kayla, Louise, Marius, Michel, Philipp, Philippe, Camille EDITOR Louise, Salomé, Camille DESIGN TRANSLATION Camille, Bastian



## Supported by



Fondation  
Charles Léopold Mayer  
Pour le progrès humain



## °Clima Now



## VaLoo's collaboration partners

