

# Welcome to: Riverlands

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Riverlands: A region full of promise



TREASURE

**Interreg**  
North Sea



Co-funded by  
the European Union



FRISSE  BLIKKEN

# Serious Game

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*A game designed to spread awareness against plastic pollution in the water.*

This game has been designed by Noria, co-founded by the European Commission.

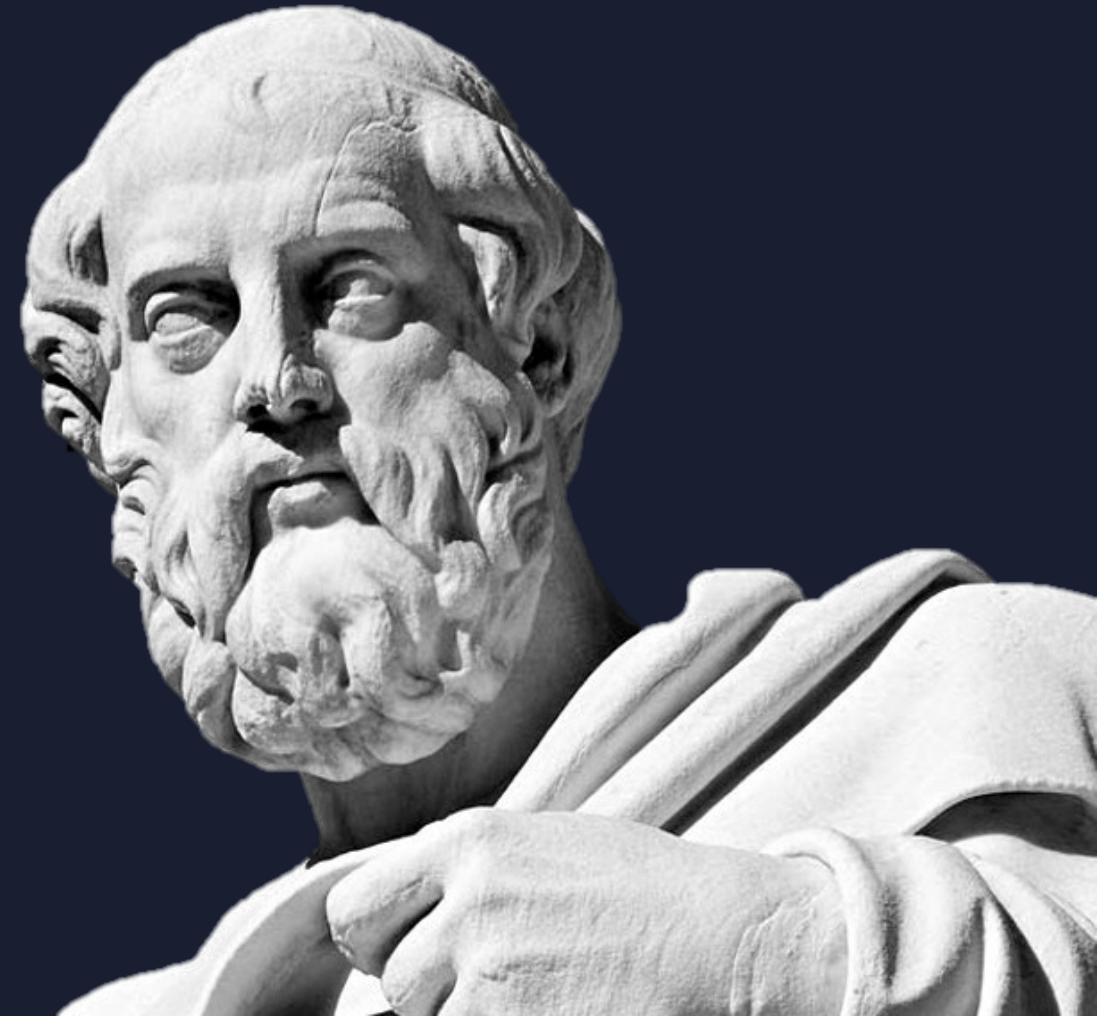
The content of this game can only be used for educational purposes and is strictly prohibited for commercial purposes.

Please reach out at [info@noria.earth](mailto:info@noria.earth) for any inquiries



*“You can discover more about a person in an hour of play  
than in a year of conversation”*

- Plato



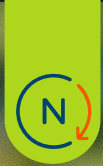




# Game Rules



Embrace the chaos!



# Welcome to: Riverlands



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## How to win?!

- Every role has two key values. Make sure these values are as high as possible by the end of the game.
- Your final score is the sum of these two values minus the amount of plastic in your region and in the sea.

### Example:

- Shipping access is 10 and Water level is 8 = 18 points
- the amount of plastic in the sea is 9, and in your waters 6 = 15 points
- Total is 3 points





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# Introduction

*Introduce yourself in your new role: who are you and what do you want to achieve?*



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# What happens per round

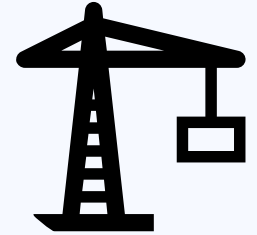
- Each round consists of 3 turns.
- Each player can do one action per turn.
- We play a total of 5 rounds.
- Each round, plastic moves and new plastic enters the board.
- Each round you earn money (standard + from investments).

## Playing structure

- PAYOUT
- PLASTIC ENTERS THE WATER
- SCENARIO
- PLAY 3 TURNS
- REMOVE PLASTIC
- MOVE PLASTICS

## MAKE AN INVESTMENT

Pay and place an investment on an available spot

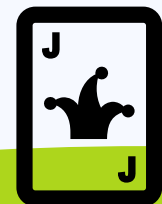


## DRAW A CARD

Draw a card of your choice

## PLAY A CARD

Play a card of your choice





## LET'S TALK RESULTS!

### Summit

- How is it going?
- Do we like the results so far?
- Do we want to introduce new winning conditions?





**And the winner is...**



# Reflectie

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## What happened?

- What happened?
- What was the goal of the game?
- What were the three biggest challenges?
- List 3 actions/behaviors that helped you in the game.
- List 3 actions/behaviors that did not help.





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## Time for a Reflection

- What influence did the different roles have on the game?
- What was the best way to remove plastic?
- How important was cooperation?
- How does this game relate to the real world?
- What lessons can you apply in real life?



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## Time for action

- Time for Action
- Choose a partner from your network who is also affected by the plastic problem but works in a different institution. What could you two do together to tackle the plastic issue? What needs does this partner have that you can meet? What can you offer this partner in cooperation? Draft a creative message to reach out and schedule a meeting. How can you inspire or activate the partner around this issue? Send the message!





# The Gaming Cards

<b>ACTION</b> Floating debris screen at bridge 	<b>ACTION</b> School education campaign 	<b>ACTION</b> Temporary closure of recreation area 	<b>ACTION</b> Cleanup action 	<b>ACTION</b> Optimize lock operations 	<b>ACTION</b> Upgrade pumping station capacity 	<b>ACTION</b> flushing the city canals 	<b>ACTION</b> Create green roofs for water buffering 	<b>ACTION</b> Build emergency water storage basins 	<b>ACTION</b> Maintain water level  <small>(Zet gemidd. open. plastic stroom door naar volgende vak)</small>	<b>RESEARCH</b> Social Media Behavior Research  <small>Reduce plastic by -1 for every prevention card you have played.</small>	<b>RESEARCH</b> Prevention Campaign Impact Study  <small>Reduce plastic by -1 for every prevention card you have played.</small>	<b>RESEARCH</b> Urban water storage 	
<b>ACTION</b> SUP cleanup 	<b>ACTION</b> Free trash bag giveaway campaign 	<b>ACTION</b> Big city festival by the water 	<b>ACTION</b> Remove plastic from reeds 	<b>ACTION</b> Stricter discharge monitoring 	<b>ACTION</b> Intensive water purification 	<b>ACTION</b> Washing machine filters now remove micro plastic 	<b>ACTION</b> Create recreational wetlands 	<b>ACTION</b> Improve sewage overflow management 	<b>ACTION</b> Improve waterway signage and signals 	<b>RESEARCH</b> Study on plastic impact on flora/fauna 	<b>RESEARCH</b> Pilot project on urban rainwater retention performance 	<b>RESEARCH</b> Study on plastic impact on flora/fauna 	
<b>ACTION</b> Ban on single-use plastic 	<b>ACTION</b> Dredging of channels 	<b>ACTION</b> Issue more boating permits 	<b>ACTION</b> Cut reeds 	<b>ACTION</b> Restore eco-friendly riverbanks 	<b>ACTION</b> Remove obstacles from waterways 	<b>ACTION</b> BBQ spots along the water 	<b>ACTION</b> Plant aquatic vegetation 	<b>ACTION</b> Install water level sensors 	<b>ACTION</b> Speed limit on waterway 	<b>RESEARCH</b> Citizen sensors deployed in pilot projects 	<b>RESEARCH</b> Improvement of capture system  <small>One-time effect for all catching systems</small>	<b>RESEARCH</b> Emergency plastic removal operation 	
<b>PREVENTION</b> Launch school awareness campaign	<b>PREVENTION</b> Engage influencers to promote anti-littering	<b>PREVENTION</b> No cigarette butts on the street campaign	<b>PREVENTION</b> Develop company waste reduction agreements	<b>PREVENTION</b> Local ban on single-use plastic straws	<b>PREVENTION</b> Install anti-litter signage at hotspots	<b>PREVENTION</b> Introduce deposit scheme for coffee cups	<b>PREVENTION</b> Impose plastic reduction requirements for festivals	<b>PREVENTION</b> Initiate street sweeper pilot program	<b>PREVENTION</b> Launch proactive street cleaning program	<b>PREVENTION</b> Distribute reusable shopping bags in neighborhoods	<b>RESEARCH</b> Study of sustainable deck design  <small>One-time effect for all marinas and ports</small>	<b>RESEARCH</b> Adjust waterway traffic routes 	<b>RESEARCH</b> Feasibility study for automated river cleaning 
<b>PREVENTION</b> Install street drain filters	<b>PREVENTION</b> Include waste reduction clauses in construction contracts	<b>PREVENTION</b> Remove broken public bins	<b>PREVENTION</b> Provide reusable water bottles at schools	<b>PREVENTION</b> Install microplastic filters in washing machines	<b>PREVENTION</b> Require closed containers at construction sites	<b>PREVENTION</b> Encourage zero-waste community events	<b>PREVENTION</b> Enable community litter reporting	<b>PREVENTION</b> Public challenge to reduce plastic packaging	<b>PREVENTION</b> Replace plastic confetti with eco alternatives	<b>RESEARCH</b> Install additional water quality sensors 	<b>RESEARCH</b> Wastewater treatment plant improvements  <small>One-time effect for all built wastewater treatment plants</small>	<b>RESEARCH</b> Study on plastic hotspots 	
<b>PREVENTION</b> Ban single-use plastics at events	<b>PREVENTION</b> Promote plastic-free terraces	<b>PREVENTION</b> Provide company training on wastewater management	<b>PREVENTION</b> Mandatory recycling stations at marinas	<b>PREVENTION</b> Launch plastic-free shopping campaign	<b>PREVENTION</b> Add more public waste bins	<b>PREVENTION</b> Promote refill stations for household cleaning products	<b>PREVENTION</b> Deposit system for plastic bottles	<b>PREVENTION</b> Introduce local packaging-free grocery days	<b>PREVENTION</b> Launch plastic-free school lunch programs	<b>RESEARCH</b> Local engagement campaign 	<b>RESEARCH</b> Study on behavior of recreationists & waste 	<b>RESEARCH</b> Residential area improvements  <small>One-time effect for all built residential areas</small>	
<b>RESEARCH</b> Survey local residents 	<b>RESEARCH</b> OSPAR analysis shows source of waste 	<b>RESEARCH</b> Pilot of smart litter collection systems 	<b>RESEARCH</b> Microplastic measurement launched 	<b>RESEARCH</b> GIS visualizes waste movement 	<b>RESEARCH</b> Insight into plastic at overflows 	<b>RESEARCH</b> Study on new fish migration pathways 	<b>RESEARCH</b> Test with AI camera detection 	<b>RESEARCH</b> Feasibility study for canal widening 	<b>RESEARCH</b> Feasibility study for smart litter collection systems 				

## RIVERMASTER

As River Master, you manage the main waterways of Riverlands. You are responsible for safe ship navigation and for ensuring balanced water levels to prevent flooding and maintain water supply. You keep the major rivers safe for everyone.



You win if the KPIs for Shipping Access and Water Level are as high as possible.

Per round: +1

### SPECIAL:

When drawing research cards, you may draw 4 and keep 2.

## WATER WARDEN

As Water Warden, you are responsible for water quality. You manage wastewater treatment plants and the lock system of Riverlands. You ensure clean water and stable water levels in the smaller waterways of the region.



You win if the KPIs for Water Quality and Water Level are as high as possible.

Per round: +1 -1

### SPECIAL:

You may remove 1 plastic from your waters each turn.

## CITY PIONEER

As City Pioneers, you look after the citizens of Riverlands. You manage the lively village of Cirkheldam, a beautiful town with big city ambitions and iconic canals. Your goal is to keep the canals clean enough for swimming.



You win if the KPIs for Citizen Satisfaction and Water Quality are as high as possible.

Per round: +1

### SPECIAL:

When drawing prevention cards, you may immediately draw 2 instead of 1.

## REGION EXPLORER

As Region Explorer, you strive to make this area one of the best in the country. You ensure people can live and work here with joy and economic prosperity. Shipping Access is critical to the region, and you safeguard it.



You win if the KPIs for Shipping Access and Citizen Satisfaction are as high as possible.

Per round: +2

### SPECIAL:

You manage a larger budget, so you earn +2 coins per round.

# GAME PLAY

PAYOUT → PLASTIC ENTERS THE WATER → SCENARIO



INVESTMENT

DRAW A CARD

PLAY A CARD

REMOVE PLASTIC → MOVE PLASTICS

	Cost	Per round	KPI
Catching system small		-1	+1
Catching system large		-2	+2
Residential area		+1  +1	+3  -2
Marina		+1  +2	+2  +3
Industrial port		+2  +2	+1  +3
Pumping station		+1  +1	+1  +1  +2
Dike reinforcement			+1  +1  +1
Lock		+1  +1	+1  +2  +2
Recreational area		+1	+3  -2
Extra bridge		+1  +1	+2  -1
WWTP		+1	+3
River diversion			-3  +3  +3
Underwater dam			-1  -2  +1

Catching System Small Remove 1 plastic per round -1	Catching System Large Remove 2 plastic per round -2	Residential Area Gain 1 coin per round and +1 plastic enters water per round +1  +1	Marina Gain 1 coin per round and +2 plastic enters water per round +1  +2	Industrial Harbor Gain 2 coins per round and +2 plastic enters water per round +2  -2	Pumping Station +1 plastic enters water per round +1
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Dike Reinforcement No effect	Lock Gain 1 coin per round and +1 plastic enters water per round +1  +1	Recreational Area +1 plastic enters water per round +1	Extra Bridge Gain 1 coin per round and +1 plastic enters water per round +1	Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Gain 1 coin per round +1	River Diversion No effect	Underwater Dam No effect
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### SCENARIO

**Plastic from upstream neighbors**  
Large amounts of plastic are flowing in from neighboring countries. Unfortunately, you have no control over this.

### EFFECT

Plastic +3 at all inflow locations of other rivers.

### SCENARIO

**Tires cause excessive microplastics**  
Roadside water bodies receive microplastics due to tire wear.

### EFFECT

Plastic +1 at (all) waterways adjacent to roads.

### SCENARIO

**Major marathon event**  
The annual Freewaterland marathon takes place, crossing both rural and urban areas.

### EFFECT

Plastic +1 along the route of the marathon.

### SCENARIO

**Cargo ship accident**  
A ship accidentally dumps plastic cargo into the water.

### EFFECT

Plastic +3 at all water areas adjacent to industrial ports.

### SCENARIO

**Plastic monitoring uncertainty**  
Improved monitoring techniques reveal that much more plastic passes through the system than previously estimated. The actual plastic levels are significantly higher.

### EFFECT

Everywhere there is plastic: add +1 extra plastic.

### SCENARIO

**Reed cutting operation**  
Reeds are cut to improve navigation, but this also releases large amounts of microplastic.

### EFFECT

Plastic +1 in all green and red areas.

### SCENARIO

**Heavy rainfall**  
Due to heavy rainfall, the pumping station is activated and water is diverted quickly.

### EFFECT

Plastic flows through the pumping station and all plastic moves 2 steps downstream.