

Overview of national waste prevention programmes in Europe



Belgium — Flanders

October 2016



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Waste prevention programme

This **region fact sheet** was produced in the context of reviewing national and regional waste prevention programmes across Europe. The [Waste Framework Directive](#) (Directive 2008/98/EC), Article 29, requires that Member States adopt their **waste prevention programmes** by 12 December 2013. Article 30(2) of the Directive invites the European Environment Agency (EEA) to carry out an annual review of progress in the completion and implementation of the programmes. Within the waste hierarchy, the overarching principle behind EU and national waste policies, waste prevention is considered the most desirable option.

BELGIUM, FLANDERS REGION FACT SHEET

	<p>GDP EUR 401 billion (2.9 % of EU-28 total in 2014)</p> <p>Per person GDP EUR 32 500 (in purchasing power standard) (119 % of EU-28 average per person in 2014)</p>
	<p>Use of materials 160 million tonnes DMC (2.4 % of EU-28 total in 2014) 14.3 tonnes DMC/person (109 % of EU-28 average per person in 2014) Resource productivity 2.36 EUR/kg (119 % of EU-28 average in 2014)</p> <p>Structure of the economy Agriculture: 0.8 % Industry: 21.1 % Services: 78.1 % (2014 est.)</p>
<p><i>Source: Eurostat</i></p>	<p>Surface area 30 500 square kilometres (0.7 % of EU-28 total)</p> <p>Population 11.2 million (2.2 % of EU-28 total)</p>

Waste prevention programme

1.	Coverage	Regional Name of region: Flanders
2	Type of programme	Part of waste management plan Part of other environmental policy programmes Flanders does not have a separate waste prevention plan. The policy in Flanders is in transition, with a shift taking place from a waste policy (focusing on environmentally sound management of waste) to a sustainable materials management policy (focusing on closing material cycles and bringing about a circular production and consumption model; that is, changing people's mindset on waste). In this model, prevention is not only about waste prevention, it is also about preventing the use of primary materials, and therefore it is an integral part of the whole materials' circle. Prevention considered in this way is firmly integrated into several policy documents and programmes.
3	Title of programme and link to programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Framework legislation on the management of material cycles and waste (the Waste and Materials Decree) and its implementing regulation Vlarema (both came into force on 1 June 2012). They cover the management of waste with a specific focus on sustainable materials management (SMM), considering the chain of materials used for a service or product as a whole. The material hierarchy is embedded in this legislation, with prevention as the first step. https://navigator.emis.vito.be/mijn-navigator?woId=41707• Cooperation agreement on packaging waste, whereby the three regions of Belgium (Flanders, Wallonia and the Brussels-Capital Region) agreed to prevent and manage all packaging waste on Belgian territory (incorporated into Belgian law). http://www.ivcie.be/admin/upload/page/file/516.pdf• Flanders materials programme (VMP): the Government of Flanders, with OVAM (the Public Waste Agency of Flanders) as an important partner, established the VMP to work with stakeholders from all parts of society to find solutions for waste and materials management, including waste prevention. A multi-stakeholder approach is taken to transitioning towards SMM in a green economy, implementing the Europe 2020 strategy and the flagship initiative for a resource-efficient Europe. VMP has a scientific pillar (Summa), an experimental pillar (PlanC) and an 'action' pillar, and is responsible for a number of specific projects on relevant themes. http://www.vlaandereninactie.be/en/topics/materials-management-sustainable-materials-management <p><i>Other relevant programmes, strategies or initiatives in place (or in development)</i></p> <p>https://navigator.emis.vito.be/mijn-navigator?woId=41707</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Environmentally responsible household waste management plan (UMBHA 2008-2014; currently under revision), which manages household waste. http://www.ovam.be/sites/default/files/2014_UMBHA-geconsolideerd-DEF.pdf

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevention programme for sustainable materials management in the building sector (2014–2020): this programme aims to improve the attention for materials in the building sector by 2020, by minimizing the use of virgin materials, using the right materials and the right techniques, reducing the use of dangerous substances, reduce the design footprint and building modular and flexible. Several extended producer responsibility (EPR) schemes are in place, for example for batteries, car batteries, electric and electronic equipment, vehicles, tyres, oil, flashlights and solar panels. Producers must take responsibility in the areas of waste and waste prevention. These schemes place the responsibility for collection and processing in the waste phase in the hands of those who market the product. Manufacturers can meet their obligations through an individual waste prevention and waste management plan or jointly with a manufacturers' organisation in an environmental policy agreement (MBO (milieubeleidsvereenkomst) or EPR schemes). Ecodesign tools such as the Ecolizer, the OVAM-SIS-toolkit (see http://www.ecodesignlink.be/en) and Eco-Efficiency Scan (which helps companies to improve their eco-efficiency).
4.	Duration of programme	No information.
5.	Languages	Dutch.
6.	Contact person	Enquiries should be directed to: info@ovam.be or OVAM, Stationsstraat 110, 2800 Mechelen, Belgium
7.	Waste prevention objectives of the programme	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The objective of the Waste and Materials Decree is to take measures to establish material cycles whereby: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> public health and the environment are protected against harmful impacts from production and waste management; the exhaustion of renewable and non-renewable resources, waste of materials and energy in general and the harmful impacts of material use and consumption are prevented. <p>The Decree aims to establish measures taking into account the whole life cycle of a product or service and to implement the material hierarchy priorities, encouraging waste prevention and more efficient and less environmentally harmful use and consumption of materials in the first place.</p> The first objective of the cooperation agreement on packaging waste is to prevent and reduce the production and harmfulness of packaging waste (as required by the Directive on Packaging and Packaging Waste (94/62/EC)). The prevention programme for sustainable material management in the building sector has five objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> use as little raw material as possible in construction; use the right materials in the right place with the right building technologies; use no dangerous substances in construction products; design should enable reuse of materials; make buildings as adaptable as possible.

8.	The means used to break the link between economic growth and the environmental impacts associated with the generation of waste	<p>Are the measures/means specifically mentioned in the waste prevention programme?</p> <p>No.</p>
9.	Sectors covered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture; • construction and infrastructure; • manufacturing; • sale, retail, transport; • households; • private service activities/hospitality; • public services.
10.	Prevention of waste types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food/organic; • construction and demolition waste; • hazardous waste; • household/municipal waste; • paper; • packaging; • waste electrical and electronic equipment /batteries; • manufacturing waste; • bulky waste.
11.	Quantitative targets	<p>The environmentally responsible household waste management plan (currently under revision) sets specific targets for waste prevention:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 560 kg or less of municipal waste production per inhabitant; • an average of 2 % yearly prevented waste (dry fraction); • 25 % of skilled people to compost at home; • 6 active compost masters per 10 000 inhabitants; • 5 kg per inhabitant per year of reusable goods collected and resold.
12.	Measures on quantitative prevention	See point 13.

13. Measures on qualitative prevention

Measure 1

Vlarema: landfill ban and plans for total incineration capacity in Flanders.

Measure 2

Waste and Materials Decree: tax on landfilling and incineration.

Measure 3

Vlarema: obligatory separate collection and Pay As You Throw schemes.

Measure 4

Introduction of (extended) producer responsibility schemes. All EPR schemes include mandatory measures; they involve all types of products and their design, and they target the relevant industrial stakeholders.

In all current EPR schemes in Flanders, the stakeholders involved are obliged to submit yearly reports on their initiatives to prevent waste (e.g. through product reuse, prevention initiatives and efforts to extend the lifespan of products put on the market or to improve quality of the products).

Measure 5

All EPR schemes include awareness-raising campaigns to encourage producers to create as little waste as possible, include through prevention, better product quality and extending the lifespan of products.

Measure 6

A network of 118 reuse and repair centres, also called resale shops, have been established and subsidised in order to give products a second life.

Measure 7

The prevention program for sustainable materials management in the building sector provides for the development of a method to calculate the materials footprint of a building and a tool for architects and producers of building materials to help them minimize the environmental footprint of building materials. The potential of a 'material standard' for buildings will be explored.

Measure 8

The prevention program for sustainable materials management in the building sector provides for awareness-raising campaigns on 'design for change' and a set of guidelines for flexible design of buildings.

Measure 9

OVAM's Ecodesign.link (<http://www.ecodesignlink.be/en/>) is a forum for all those who are active in the field of sustainable product innovation. It brings together the OVAM instruments in a visible and accessible way and it aims to position OVAM as a partner for all actors in making the life cycle of products more sustainable. The three core objectives are:

- information and awareness-raising;
- carrying out innovative projects and pilot projects;
- building a network through collaborative partnerships.

Voluntary measures, such as the use of the SIS toolkit and Ecolizer, involve all types of products and their design, and target the relevant stakeholders.

Measure 10

Information, awareness-raising and communication strategies are incorporated into the various waste management plans (e.g. the environmentally responsible household waste management plan).

14.	Prevention measures covered as referred to in Directive 2008/98, Annex IV: Examples of waste prevention measures referred to in Article 29 (1–16)	See point 13, measures 5, 6, 8 and 9.
15.	Other prevention measures not covered by Annex IV	An action plan on biomass residues, which addresses prevention, separate collection and recycling, will be approved in the near future.
16.	Indicators proposed	Does the programme define indicators for waste prevention? Yes (see point 11).
17.	Evaluation and monitoring of the programme	Is the programme evaluated (midterm, etc.)? Yes. All current prevention programmes, strategies and initiatives are continuously monitored and evaluated as part of the legislative process.
18.	Target groups	See points 9 and 10.
19.	Involvement of stakeholders	Does the waste prevention programme describe the involvement of stakeholders in the development of the programme? Yes. See above. Stakeholders are involved in all legislative processes. Does the waste prevention programme describe the involvement of stakeholders in the implementation of the programme? Yes. See above. Stakeholders are involved in all legislative processes.
20.	Other comments	Are the costs/savings of waste prevention measures stated in the programme? No information.