

Flanders' implementation plan for household waste and comparable industrial waste 2016-2022

Waste Prevention Legislation

UITVOERINGSPLAN HUISHOUELIJK AFVAL EN GELIJKAARDIG BEDRIJFSAFVAL - ENGLISH VERSION

In September 2016, the Flemish Government approved the implementation plan proposed by OVAM - the public waste agency - for the 2016-2020 period. The plan complements the previous one and aims at going beyond waste management to a focus on waste prevention and reuse through local reduction targets and a quota to be achieved by 2022.

FLANDERS

The Flemish region constitutes one of the three regions in Belgium.

Level: Regional (Flemish region of Belgium)

Population: 6.6 million inhabitants

Density: 484/km²

Key characteristic: High separate collection rate

WASTE PREVENTION IN FLANDERS

Although Flanders is one of the best regions in Europe regarding waste management, with high collection rates waste generation remains relatively high with over 500 kg of waste produced per capita per year. In that sense, the focus is now on going beyond waste management towards better prevention measures.

THE LAW'S OBJECTIVES

Following and replacing the previous waste management plan, the new steps proposed by the Flemish public waste agency and approved by the Flemish government have the objective to move beyond waste management to effectively prevent waste. As Flanders is already one of the best European performing territories in terms of waste management, this plan has concrete waste reduction ambitions, through increased reuse targets, waste reduction targets for industrial waste, and tailor-made residual waste targets for municipalities across Flanders.



WHAT DOES IT CONTAIN EXACTLY?

- Establishment of **residual waste targets to be achieved by municipalities in 2022**. These targets are adapted to the socio-economic context (see table on the right) and are primarily indicated - but will become binding if the targets are positively evaluated by municipalities.
- A **cap on waste generation levels**. As in 2014, the waste generation level was 522kg/inh, the level for 2022 cannot exceed 502kg/inh so as to maintain and reduce the generation levels.
- A **reuse quota of 7kg/inh** is to be achieved in 2022 to go beyond the previous target of 5kg/inh which was achieved. This target has to be achieved through the accredited reuse centers.
- A **15% industrial waste reduction target** to be achieved in 2022 in comparison to the 2013 levels.

Type of municipality cluster	Targets
In the suburbs.	116 kg/inh
Rural or urbanized rural municipalities with strong economic growth.	122 kg/inh
Urbanized rural municipalities with industrial activity and demographic growth.	125 kg/inh
Less urbanized municipalities with demographic decline. Small agricultural municipalities.	129 kg/inh
In rural areas. Rural and agricultural municipalities with industrial activity. Medium sized cities.	139 kg/inh
Significantly rural municipalities with high ageing in the population.	144 kg/inh
Highly urbanized municipalities with low incomes. Cities and metropolitan municipalities with industrial activity. Metropolitan municipalities with tertiary activity.	147 kg/inh
Residential suburbia with high income.	158 kg/inh
Regional cities.	151 kg/inh
Large and regional cities.	197 kg/inh
Coastal municipalities.	258 kg/inh

LINK TO THE EU LEGISLATION

[Directive 2008/98/EC on waste \(Waste Framework Directive\)](#)



Tailor-made residual waste targets for municipalities



15% industrial waste reduction target



Reuse quota of 7kg per inhabitant

For more good practices, check the [Zero Waste Europe website](#) or the [European Environmental Bureau brief on the economic incentives to reduce waste](#).

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Zero Waste Europe is the European network of communities, local leaders, experts, and change agents working towards the elimination of waste in our society. We advocate for sustainable systems and the redesign of our relationship with resources, to accelerate a just transition towards zero waste for the benefit of people and planet.



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