

# Overview of national waste prevention programmes in Europe



**UK — Wales** 

October 2016

Photo: © DrAfter123



# Waste prevention programme

This **country 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.

## UNITED KINGDOM, WALES FACT SHEET



Source: Eurostat

### GDP

EUR 2 254 billion (16.2 % of EU-28 total in 2014)

### Per person GDP

EUR 29 900 (in purchasing power standard)  
(109 % of EU-28 average per person in 2014)

### Use of materials

563 million tonnes DMC (8.5 % of EU-28 total in 2014)  
8.7 tonnes DMC/person (67 % of EU-28 average per person in 2014)  
Resource productivity 3.49 EUR/kg (176 % of EU-28 average in 2014)

### Structure of the economy

Agriculture: 0.6 %  
Industry: 20.6 %  
Services: 78.8 % (2014 est.)

### Surface area

248 500 square kilometres (5.6 % of EU-28 total)

### Population

64.6 million (12.7 % of EU-28 total)

## Waste prevention programme

1.	Coverage	Regional
2.	Type of programme	Separate programme
3.	Title of programme and link to programme	<p>The programme supports the overarching waste strategy ‘Towards Zero Waste’: <a href="http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/epq/waste_recycling/zerowaste/?lang=en">http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/epq/waste_recycling/zerowaste/?lang=en</a></p> <p>The Waste Prevention Programme for Wales: <a href="http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/epq/waste_recycling/prevention/waste-prevention-programme/?lang=en">http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/epq/waste_recycling/prevention/waste-prevention-programme/?lang=en</a></p>
4.	Duration of programme	2013–2019
5.	Languages	English and Welsh
6.	Contact person	<p>Sarah Bonwick, <a href="mailto:sarah.bonwick1@wales.gsi.gov.uk">sarah.bonwick1@wales.gsi.gov.uk</a></p> <p>The Welsh Government, <a href="http://gov.wales/?lang=en">http://gov.wales/?lang=en</a></p>
7.	Waste prevention objectives of the programme	<p>The primary objective of the programme is to decouple economic growth from the environmental impacts of waste generation (p. 3).</p> <p>This overall aim will be supported by the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• helping householders and businesses to reduce their quantity of waste through reuse or the extension of the life span of products (p. iv);</li> <li>• reducing the proportion of harmful substances in materials and products (p. iv);</li> <li>• stimulating a culture of change towards a resource-efficient society, influencing behaviour through awareness raising, education and skills development (pp. 16–17).</li> <li>• helping businesses use resources more efficiently by promoting eco-design and the exchange of resources;</li> <li>• promoting new and alternative business models to improve producer responsibility and sustainable procurement (p. 37).</li> </ul>
8.	The means used to break the link between economic growth and the environmental impacts associated with the generation of waste	<p><b>Are the measures/means specifically mentioned in the waste prevention programme?</b></p> <p>Yes. The decoupling of economic growth from the environmental impacts of waste generation is explicitly mentioned as the primary objective of the programme (p. 3).</p> <p>The approach that the Welsh Government has taken is to use the absolute reduction targets for each major waste stream (household, commercial, industrial, and construction and demolition) (p. 4).</p>
9.	Sectors covered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction and infrastructure;</li> <li>• manufacturing;</li> <li>• sale, retail, transport;</li> <li>• households;</li> <li>• private service activities, hospitality;</li> <li>• public services.</li> </ul>

10.	Prevention of waste types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food/organic;</li> <li>• construction and demolition waste;</li> <li>• hazardous waste;</li> <li>• household/municipal waste;</li> <li>• paper;</li> <li>• packaging;</li> <li>• waste electrical and electronic equipment/batteries;</li> <li>• manufacturing waste;</li> <li>• bulky waste.</li> </ul>
11.	Quantitative targets	<p>The overarching target is a significant reduction in waste (27 %) by 2025 and, by 2050, a reduction of waste generation by 65 % compared with 2007 (p. 2). The specific targets are outlined below:</p> <p><i>Household waste</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a reduction of 1.2 % every year until 2050 based on the 2006/2007 baseline; this equates to 18 869 tonnes per annum of household waste (p. 14).</li> </ul> <p><i>Industrial waste</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a reduction of 1.4 % every year until 2050 based on the 2006/2007 baseline (p. 25).</li> </ul> <p><i>Commercial waste</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a reduction of 1.2 % every year until 2050 based on the 2006/2007 baseline (p. 25).</li> </ul> <p><i>Construction and demolition waste</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a reduction of 1.4 % every year until 2050 of waste treated off-site based on the 2006/2007 baseline (p. 44).</li> </ul>
12.	Measures on quantitative prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The development of a consumer and household engagement programme, and an enhanced waste prevention communication campaign. (p. 16).</li> <li>• The implementation of waste prevention measures to reduce the environmental impact across households, manufacturing and packaging. (pp. 32–37).</li> <li>• Promoting eco-innovation in manufacturing sectors (p. 39).</li> <li>• Introduction of a carrier bag charge (p. 38).</li> <li>• Supporting eco-design and sustainable products within the construction sector (p. 50).</li> <li>• Providing education and training to manufacturers and competent authorities (p. 50).</li> <li>• Supporting networking infrastructure to encourage the reuse of surplus materials (p. 52).</li> <li>• Encourage a wider range of sustainable design principles in building design and construction projects, including establishing waste management plans (pp. 48-49).</li> <li>• Embedding sustainable procurement in the public sector (p. 32).</li> </ul>

- 
- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 13. Measures on qualitative prevention | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Welsh Government will work with industry, process efficiency experts and Natural Resources Wales to reduce the proportion of harmful substances in materials and products (pp. iv and 32).</li> <li>• Promoting eco-innovation in manufacturing sectors (p. 39).</li> <li>• Supporting eco-design and sustainable products within the construction sector (p. 50).</li> <li>• Embedding sustainable procurement in the public sector (p. 32).</li> <li>• Working with retailers and wholesalers to reduce the environmental impact of products (p. 34).</li> </ul> |
|--|---|
- 

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 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) | <p>1. The Collaborative Change Programme (CCP) offers all local authorities in Wales an opportunity to benefit from additional support in order for them to develop and deliver a detailed business plan for their waste collection services (p. 19).</p> <p>1. Establishing site waste management plans within the construction and demolition sector aiming to minimise waste and increase recycling, diverting it from landfill (p. 49).</p> <p>4. The Welsh Government will seek to work with construction product manufacturers to identify eco-design solutions for issues related to production inefficiencies, the generation of legal waste and recyclability (p. 48).</p> <p>4. The Welsh Government will encourage designers/architects to design for the end of life of the building. This will ensure that the materials used in the construction of the building contain a high percentage of recycled content (helping to create a market for recycled materials and products) and that, throughout the life of the building, the materials can be either reused or recycled. The Welsh Government will work to raise awareness of the importance of designing for ‘end of life’ (p. 52).</p> <p>5. The Welsh Government will encourage the use of a range of sustainable development principles for construction projects, this will also include the transfer of learning and best practice from the civil engineering sector to the construction sector by raising awareness and promoting the use of the value engineering methodology and its associated tools (pp. 48-49).</p> <p>5. The Welsh Government will determine the feasibility of establishing a network of surplus centres for the redistribution of construction materials and products for community benefit (p. 52).</p> |
|---|---|
- 

5. The Welsh Government will work with permitted industry sectors, process efficiency experts and Natural Resources Wales to better understand the degree to which industry has optimised its processes. Hazardous waste will be included in this work. It will also review the regulator’s role in monitoring the performance of permitted industry. This work will form part of a waste evidence plan that is being developed to support policy development and delivery (p. 32).

8. The Welsh Government is working with the Accommodation and Food Service sector due to its economic importance in Wales to prevent food and packaging waste (p. 30).

8. The Welsh Government will seek to increase awareness about ‘designing out waste’ among clients, designers and architects and encourage them to utilise these principles at the beginning of a construction project (p. 49).

8. Increasing awareness about waste prevention within the construction sector through the development, with partners, of a number of guidance documents, including guidance for manufacturers to ensure that their products are handled appropriately to reduce the risk of damage/waste (p. 50).

8. The Welsh Government will investigate the viability of introducing 80:20 % ordering scheme in Wales to minimise wastage as a result of over-ordering by builders (p. 51).

9. The Welsh Government programme in the Accommodation and Food Services Sector is the WRAP led Hospitality and Food Service Agreement (HaFS) the objective of which is to prevent food and packaging waste arising. Welsh Government will focus on working with large signatories of HaFS agreement where

---

significant results can be achieved. This activity will focus on one-to-one tailored support that will embed the targets within business plans and develop good practice, which can be shared with other organisations (p. 30).

9. The Welsh Government intends to continue activities within the Courtauld Commitment, a voluntary agreement between the UK governments and the British retail grocery and manufacturing sectors, managed by WRAP (the Waste and Resources Action Programme). In Courtauld Commitment 3 (2013-2015), different targets are set out for households, manufacturing and packaging waste (p. 34).

11. Household financial incentives will be explored in the medium term, especially in respect of rewards (p. 18).

11. The Welsh Government will continue with the carrier bag charge (p. 38).

12. Consumer campaigns will focus on the following waste prevention work streams: food, clothing, shoes, electronic equipment, longer product life times, junk mail, home composting, real (i.e. reusable) nappies, reuse and repair, and hazardous household waste (pp. 16-17).

14. Promoting the use and understanding of eco-labels (p. 17).

14. Value Wales have developed a toolkit of training and resources for public sector organisations, such as the Sustainable Procurement Assessment Framework (SPAF), and they will continue to work closely with these organisations and the National Procurement Service for Wales (once established) to raise awareness of the need for a more sustainable approach to public procurement (p. 33).

The Welsh Government will build on this work to ensure that all public sector organisations in Wales are in a position to introduce resource efficiency and waste prevention clauses into their contracts, and will lead by examples in its own procurement activities (p. 33).

15. The Welsh Government has assessed options for increasing reuse by preparing for the reuse and repair of household, business, and construction and demolition products currently entering the waste system. Detailed options have been developed for electrical items, furniture and clothing (p. 55).

15.	Other prevention measures not covered by Annex IV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aligning carbon reduction and waste prevention/minimisation activities (p. 45).</li> <li>• Providing all 22 Welsh local authorities with information about how to compost at home for dissemination to their residents (p. 17).</li> </ul>
-----	---	---

16.	Indicators proposed	<p><b>Does the programme define indicators for waste prevention?</b></p> <p>Yes. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the total amount of waste produced by sector (household, commerce, industry, construction and demolition) (pp. 19, 40 and 54);</li> <li>• the amount of waste produced by sectors (except households) per unit of GVA (pp. 40 and 54).</li> </ul>
-----	---------------------	--

17.	Evaluation and monitoring of the programme	<p><b>Is the programme evaluated (midterm, etc.)?</b></p> <p>No. Individual projects relating to waste prevention and reuse, as well as specific indicators, will be monitored and evaluated separately through the programme, and progress will be reported annually (pp. 20, 40 and 41).</p>
-----	--	--

18.	Target groups	<p>The Welsh waste prevention programme addresses a wide group of actors along the value chain, starting from manufacturers and including retailers and wholesalers, individual and business consumers, and those involved in the waste management and collecting system.</p>
-----	---------------	---

19. Involvement of stakeholders	<p><b>Does the waste prevention programme describe the involvement of stakeholders in the development of the programme?</b></p> <p>Yes. A series of engagement workshops were held in parallel with the public consultations (p. 9).</p> <p>A steering group of key stakeholders was involved in shaping the programme.</p> <p><b>Does the waste prevention programme describe the involvement of stakeholders in the implementation of the programme?</b></p> <p>Yes. In various measures, the further involvement of public and private stakeholders are mentioned.</p>
20. Other comments	<p><b>Are the costs/savings of waste prevention measures stated in the programme?</b></p> <p>Yes. Following costs and information are included in the programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the costs of food waste to householders and industry;</li> <li>• the costs of textiles and electrical items;</li> <li>• the potential economic benefits of waste prevention;</li> <li>• low cost changes in manufacturing to deliver benefits in relation to waste prevention;</li> <li>• waste prevention at the retailer stage in the life cycle for products;</li> <li>• the cost of construction waste;</li> <li>• the potential resale value of products discarded by households (p. i, iii, 14, 24, 29, 33, 44).</li> </ul> <p>A post-adoption statement on the programme can be seen here: <a href="http://gov.wales/docs/desh/publications/131203waste-prevention-programme-post-adoption-statement-en.pdf">http://gov.wales/docs/desh/publications/131203waste-prevention-programme-post-adoption-statement-en.pdf</a></p> <p>The waste strategy 'Towards Zero Waste' can be seen here: <a href="http://gov.wales/docs/desh/publications/100621wastetowardszeroen.pdf">http://gov.wales/docs/desh/publications/100621wastetowardszeroen.pdf</a></p>