

# Overview of national waste prevention programmes in Europe



## Belgium — Brussels

October 2016

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# Waste prevention programme

This **regional 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, BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION FACT SHEET

	<p><b>GDP</b> EUR 401 billion (2.9 % of EU-28 total in 2014)</p>
	<p><b>Per person GDP</b> EUR 32 500 (in purchasing power standard) (119 % of EU-28 average per person in 2014)</p>
	<p><b>Use of materials</b> 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><b>Structure of the economy</b> Agriculture: 0.8 % Industry: 21.1 % Services: 78.1 % (2014 est.)</p>
	<p><b>Surface area</b> 30 500 square kilometres (0.7 % of EU-28 total)</p>
	<p><b>Population</b> 11.2 million (2.2 % of EU-28 total)</p>

Source: Eurostat

## Waste prevention programme

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1.	Coverage	Regional Name of region: Brussels-Capital Region
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2.	Type of programme	Part of waste management plan
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3.	Title of programme and link to programme	Plan de prévention et de gestion des déchets: <a href="http://documentation.bruxellesenvironnement.be/documents/Plandechets_2010_FR.PDF">http://documentation.bruxellesenvironnement.be/documents/Plandechets_2010_FR.PDF</a> Plan voor de preventie en het beheer van afvalstoffen: <a href="http://documentatie.leefmilieubrussel.be/documents/AfvalPlan_2010_NL.PDF">http://documentatie.leefmilieubrussel.be/documents/AfvalPlan_2010_NL.PDF</a> Chapters 4, 5 and 6 describe prevention and management measures for household waste, business and public sector waste, and industrial waste, respectively.
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4.	Duration of programme	Adopted in 2010; to continue indefinitely.
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5.	Languages	French, Dutch
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6.	Contact person	Céline Schaar, <a href="mailto:cshaar@environment.irisnet.be">cshaar@environment.irisnet.be</a>  Brussels Environment (BE) (Environment administration of the Brussels Region)
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7.	Waste prevention objectives of the programme	With the introduction of the concept of dematerialisation, the plan emphasises the close link between our lifestyles and the preservation of natural resources through waste prevention. It identifies as primary objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• setting out the relationship between lifestyles and the quantities of resources consumed, and drawing attention to wastage;</li><li>• promoting waste-free products and recycled products;</li><li>• making best use of new information and communication technologies (ICT) by studying their potential and helping people to use them well.</li></ul>
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8.	The means used to break the link between economic growth and the environmental impacts associated with the generation of waste	<b>Are the measures/means specifically mentioned in the waste prevention programme?</b> No. The concept of dematerialisation is mentioned (p. 9).
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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>
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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> <li>• other: all solid waste produced in the Brussels Capital Region.</li> </ul>
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11.	Quantitative targets	<p>The plan includes waste prevention targets to be achieved by 2013 and 2020. Only the 2020 targets, which are set out below, will be discussed here.</p> <p>Reduce annual waste generation (compared with the 2005 baseline):</p> <p><i>Households</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce food waste by 5 kg per inhabitant each year.</li> <li>• Reduce paper waste by 7 kg per inhabitant each year.</li> <li>• Reduce household packaging waste by 10 kg per inhabitant each year.</li> <li>• Reduce the consumption of gadgets by at least 2 kg per inhabitant per year and reduce waste from disposable nappies by 1 kg per inhabitant each year.</li> <li>• Reduce garden waste by 12 kg per inhabitant each year.</li> <li>• Selectively collect and return 6 kg per inhabitant of reusable items to the market each year.</li> </ul> <p><i>Business</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce paper waste by 30 kg per worker each year.</li> <li>• Reduce food waste by 6 kg per worker each year.</li> <li>• Reduce packaging waste by 1 kg per worker each year.</li> </ul> <p><i>Schools</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce paper waste by 2.5 kg per student each year.</li> <li>• Reduce packaging waste, and in particular drinking carton waste, by 1 kg per student each year.</li> <li>• Reduce food waste by 3 kg per student each year.</li> </ul>

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12. Measures on quantitative prevention      Of the 145 measures in the plan, 46 relate to prevention (measures 1–5, 7–14, 16–20, 23–33, 35, 62–74, 138–139, 143 and 145).

Examples include:

*Food waste (p. 12)*

- Studying the possibility of launching broad-based, large-scale activities to minimise household waste (awareness-raising and information campaigns; organising of training courses, such as cooking courses; exchanges of culinary know-how).
- Seeking to take part in interregional or international collaborative projects aiming to develop energy labelling of food products.

*Paper waste (pp. 12–13)*

- Developing activities to minimise paper waste through communication in general, for example by enabling people to refuse printed telephone books or through initiatives to reduce home printing.
- Organising activities to promote the ‘anti-junk mail’ sticker.

*Superfluous packaging (p. 13)*

- Evaluating the results of its activities to combat disposable bags in small businesses and will examine the possibilities for further reducing, or even eliminating, the distribution of these items at this level.
- Conducting research to evaluate the over-packaging phenomenon in business and taking action to highlight examples of bad practice in this regard, for example through displays contrasting a shopping trolley full of over-packaged products with one containing non-over-packaged products.

*Gadgets (p. 15)*

- Collecting statistical information and develop awareness-raising campaigns on the effects of consumer goods.
- Developing activities to stimulate thinking about the place of advertising in society, to encourage people to question the consumer/disposable society.
- Studying and drawing attention to problems related to the life expectancy and reparability of products on the market.

*Organic waste (p. 16)*

- Developing information on preventing garden waste. This information will, in particular, be included in the training undergone by master composters.

*Construction and demolition waste (p. 38)*

- Promoting renovation rather than new construction.
- Encouraging the design of flexible spaces, anticipating changes related to the occupancy of the building and to the needs of the new occupants.
- Encouraging better choices of materials in terms of their potential for selective demolition and reuse.

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13. Measures on qualitative prevention      Qualitative prevention to reduce the amount of hazardous waste produced (measure 31): with the aim of reducing the hazardousness of certain wastes at source, identifying products that generate hazardous waste, such as batteries, paints and pesticides, as high priorities for research, and for the provision and promotion of alternatives in shops.

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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>2. The necessary studies will be commissioned to identify materials and techniques that inhibit disassembly, reuse and recycling of construction materials, in order to propose alternatives (p. 36).</p> <p>8. In the framework of the ‘ecodynamic company’ label, meetings will be organised to exchange good practices, so that companies can learn from each other (p. 36). Awareness-raising campaigns for SMEs on proper management and prevention of hazardous waste are to be developed.</p> <p>12. Brussels Environment (BE) will develop a communication strategy to create recurring campaigns of varying scope on household waste prevention (p. 10).</p> <p>14. To encourage voluntary commitment of businesses (shops, hotels, restaurants and cafes), an ‘ecodynamic company’ label will be developed. This label should take into account the environmental management of the business, but also the products it sells to consumers (p. 30).</p> <p>16. The management of bulky waste collected door-to-door and at waste reception centres will be studied, in order to evaluate the reusable waste fractions by material types and identify priorities for action (p. 20).</p>
15. Other prevention measures not covered by Annex IV	None.
16. Indicators proposed	<p><b>Does the programme define indicators for waste prevention?</b></p> <p>Brussels Environment (BE) will work on establishing specific indicators with regard to waste prevention.</p>
17. Evaluation and monitoring of the programme	<p><b>Is the programme evaluated (midterm, etc.)?</b></p> <p>At least every second year, Brussels Environment (BE) will report on the progress of the plan to the Environmental Council, as well as to the Economic and Social Council.</p>
18. Target groups	The plan targets the general public and professionals.
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>No information.</p> <p><b>Does the waste prevention programme describe the involvement of stakeholders in the implementation of the programme?</b></p> <p>Yes. Brussels Environment (BE) will collaborate with municipalities, neighbourhood associations and local participants in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• developing partnerships to relay messages (tailored to suit local needs) or to undertake specific activities;</li> <li>• seeking requests for proposals for relevant projects.</li> </ul>
20. Other comments	<p><b>Cost of waste prevention measures. Are the costs/savings of waste prevention measures stated in the programme?</b></p> <p>Appendix 1 of the plan sets out the budget for 2010–2013 (4 years). Household waste prevention: EUR 5.45 million. Total waste prevention: EUR 10.49 million.</p>