ETC/SCP

European Environment Agency

2011 Survey of resource efficiency policies in EEA member and cooperating countries

COUNTRY PROFILE:

Netherlands

Country information on resource efficiency policies, instruments, objectives, targets and indicators, institutional setup and information needs

May 2011

This country profile is based on the information provided by Ilia Neudecker and Ilse Maas from the Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment, International Affairs Directorate. The information is current as of March 2011.

This country profile was prepared as part of the EEA-ETC/SCP 2011 survey of resource efficiency policies, which aims to collect, analyze and disseminate information about national experience in the development and implementation of resource efficiency policies in EEA member and collaborating countries. The work resulted in the following outcomes:

- **Short 'country profiles' (this document)** - self assessments prepared by countries, describing the current status of resource efficiency policies, including key strategies and action plans, policy objectives, instruments, targets and indicators used, institutional setup and information needs.
- **Summary report** - prepared by the EEA and ETC/SCP, the report reflects on trends, similarities and differences in policy responses, showcases selected policy initiatives from member countries and identifies information needs and knowledge gaps.
- A session on resource efficiency policies during the 2011 EIONET workshop to discuss further needs and to facilitate information sharing and experience exchange among EIONET members.

More information about resource efficiency policies, including an analytical report "Resource efficiency in Europe" and thirty one country profiles, can be found at:

http://www.eea.europa.eu/resource-efficiency

1. Resource use in Netherlands – facts and figures

1.1 General facts and figures about the country

Source: https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html

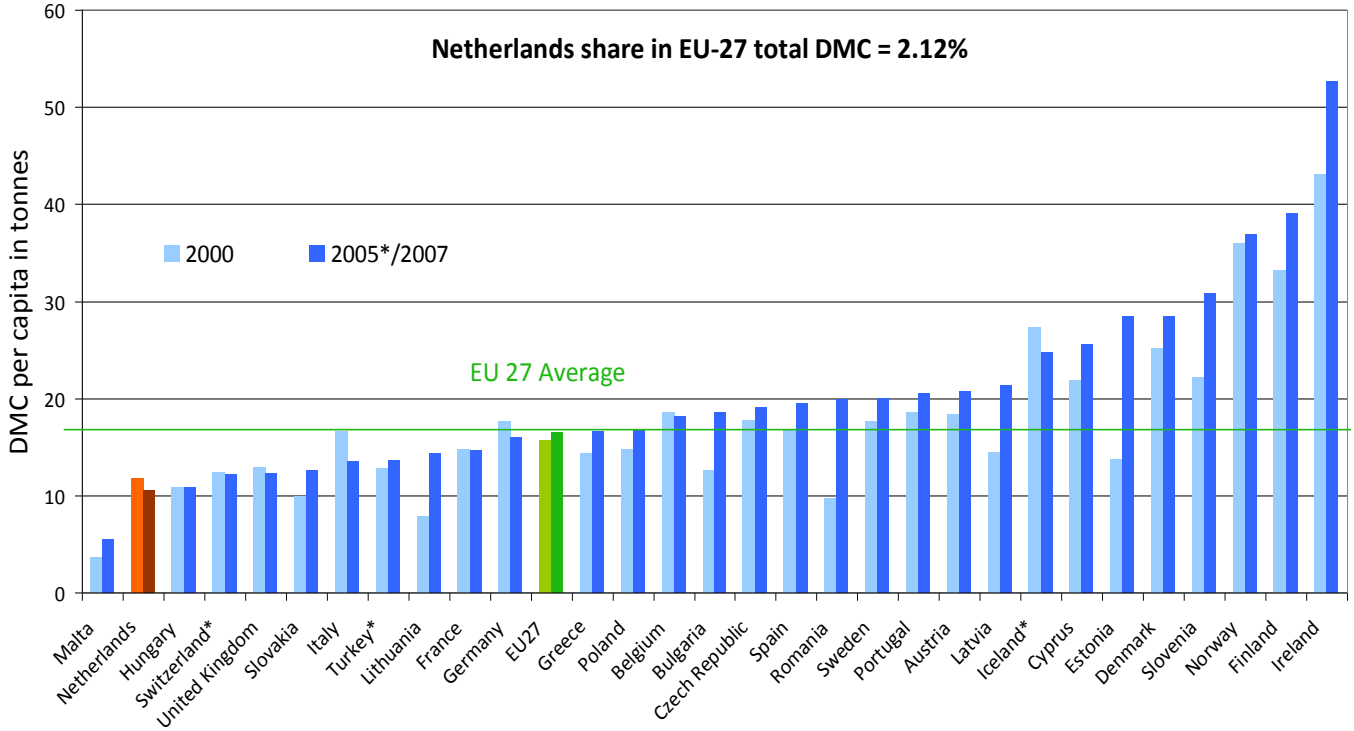
Population (projected inhabitants for 2010) [1]	16,574,989
➢ Percent of total EEA-32	2.825%
Surface area (km^2) [2]	41,543
➢ Percent of total EEA-32	0.732%
GDP at market prices – Purchasing Power Standard – Current Prices (Million Euro, 2009) [3]	508,276.7
➢ Percent of total EEA-32 (minus Liechtenstein)	3.9%
GDP per capita in Purchasing Power Standards (PPS) [4] EU27=100 (2009)	131
Urban population (rate of pop., 2009) [5]	82.4%
Main economic sectors and their share in total GDP (2009 est.) [2]	
Agriculture	2.6%
Industry	24.9%
Services	72.4%
EU accession date [6]	Founding member 1.1.1958

Additional relevant background information on Netherlands (and on 37 other EEA member and cooperating countries) can be found at the SOER2010 website: http://www.eea.europa.eu/soer/countries/nl

Factsheet on national waste policies for Netherlands is available at: http://scp.eionet.europa.eu/facts/factsheets_waste/2009_edition/factsheet?country=NL

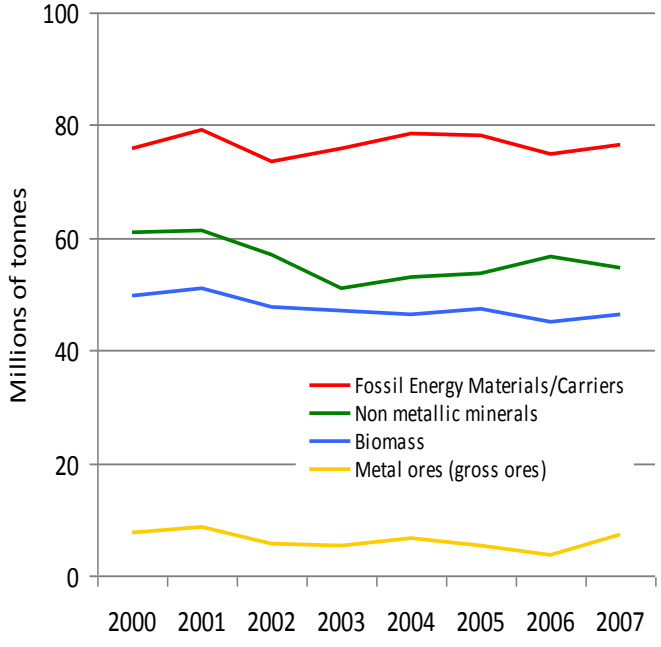
1.2 Facts and figures on resource efficiency for Netherlands

Use of resources per capita 2000 and 2007 [tonnes DMC/capita]



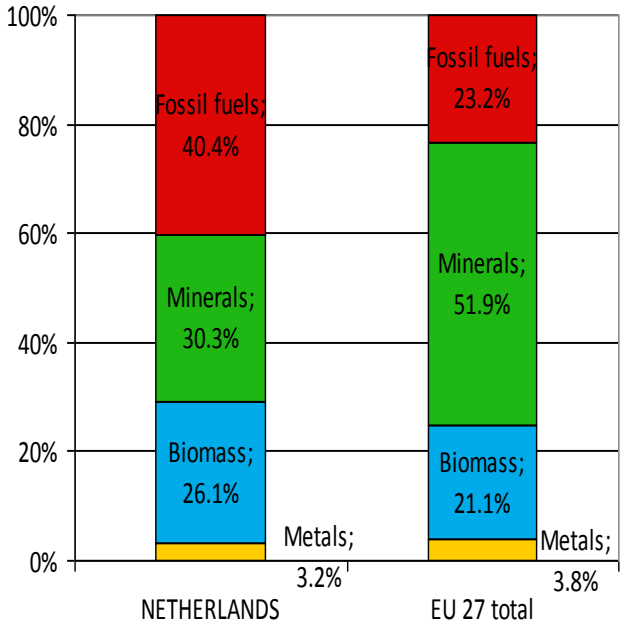
Source: Eurostat, OECD and Total Economy Database [7] * = For these countries data is for 2000 and 2005.

Domestic Material Consumption by category over time, Netherlands



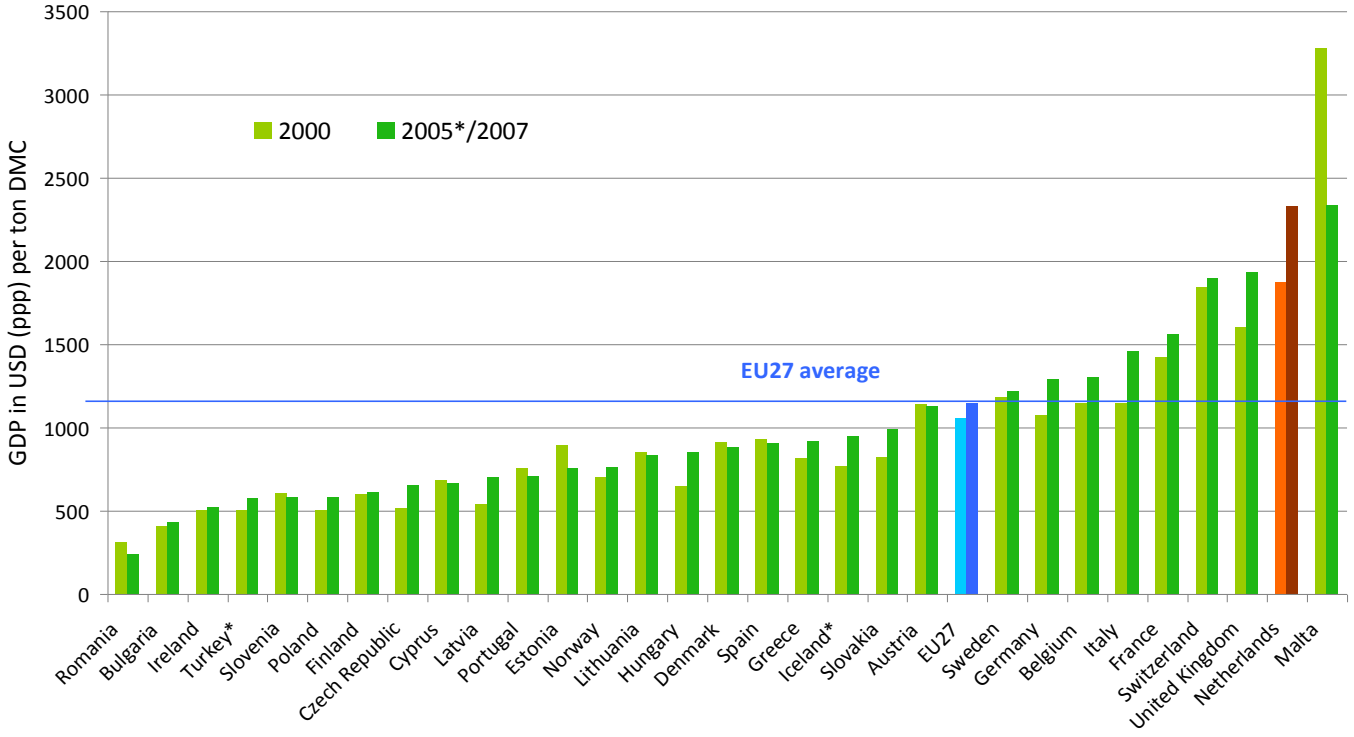
Source: Eurostat [8]

Breakdown of DMC by type of materials (2007)



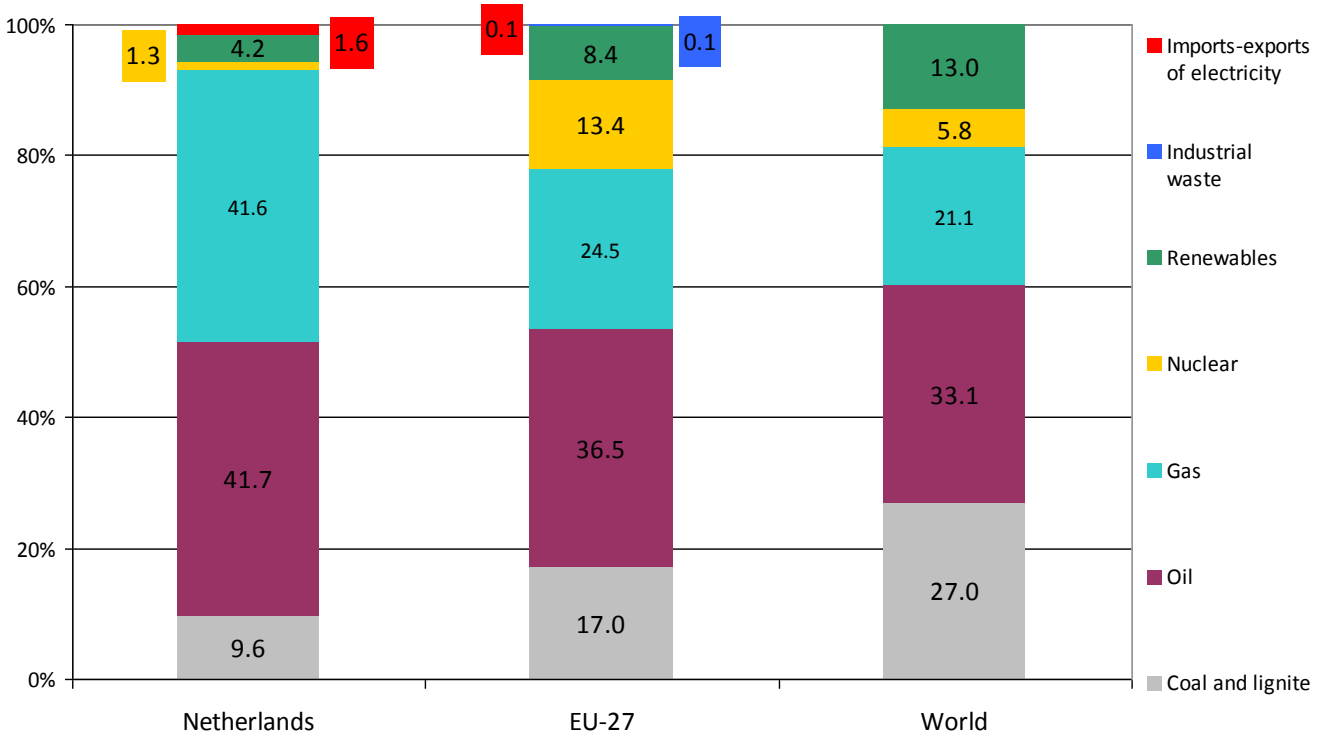
Source: Eurostat [8]

Material productivity 2000 and 2007 [USD ppp/ton DMC]



Source: The Conference Board, Total Economy Database, Eurostat [9]
* = For these countries data is for 2000 and 2005.

Primary energy consumption



Source: Eurostat [10]

2. Evolution and main drivers for the development of resource efficiency policies

With awareness that environment policy in The Netherlands is already in place and urgent national environmental problems are solved, focus has moved to global challenges, like the economic crisis, the food crisis, climate change and biodiversity loss, which are strongly interlinked. Within this context, the main driver is the challenge to feed 9 billion people in 2050, together with the responsibility for dealing with the environmental impacts.

Security of supply and access to resources is an important factor, just as ecological sustainability is (and social sustainability). As we see it, ecological sustainability is a condition for sustainable supply.

The analysis has been known for many years. Our National Environmental Policy Plans (NMP and consecutive updates, dated between 1989 and 2001) already showed the global challenges and interlinkages, but this did not lead directly to policy on resources.

3. Overall Policy Approach for Resource Efficiency

In 2010, the Netherlands drew up a **National Programme on Natural Resources**. This is not a strategy or an action plan, however, but an overview of existing policies in different fields that contribute to a sustainable management and use of natural resources. These are:

- Policy programme Biodiversity Works!
- Policy agenda Sustainable Food Systems
- Government's approach to Sustainable Development
- Sustainable Trade Initiative
- Sustainable Procurement
- Sustainable Timber policy
- Biofuels policy
- Project Scarcity in a world in transition
- Statement on International CSR
- From waste policy to life-cycle management
- International initiatives on SCP and SMM

Policies in separate sectors (e.g. industrial sectors (chemical industry, electronics etc. etc.) and agriculture) and/or environmental aspects are already far-reaching but need integration and stronger cohesion.

An integrated strategic policy on resources is under discussion. This includes aspects of scarcity, for biotic as well as a-biotic resources, from a global perspective and including trade.

4. Strategies or action plans to improve resource efficiency for individual economic sectors, products or product groups

See the policies mentioned above identified as part of the National Programme on Natural Resources.

The Netherlands has had policies in place for the last decade on energy-efficiency (for industry, housing), water efficiency (especially for agricultural use), waste and recycling. We consider these useful classical environmental policies, but also consider a transition to integrated resource-efficient policies necessary. An approach based on the whole life-cycle should be taken. This means not only looking at impacts within our national boundaries, but also the worldwide impact (footprint). These policies are under development and should have a focus not only on scarce materials, but also on biotic resources and the impact on land-use, marine resources and biodiversity loss. When looking at the environmental impact from an LCA-point of view, a large palette of environmental aspects is taken into account, of which the most important three are: land use (as an indicator for biodiversity loss), CO2 and toxicity. As the global perspective is imperative, the next step should be not just European but global cooperation, for instance on sustainable trade.

A new industrial policy is currently being developed. Plans for 9 “top sectors” are being elaborated in the coming months by the sectors (high level groups) themselves. Sustainable use of resources by, and sustainable access to resources for, those industrial sectors should be part of the plans. Which resources should be seen as a priority is not something that will be dictated to the sectors.

5. Individual types of resources identified as priority for national or sector-specific resource efficiency policies

The National Programme on Natural Resources proposes that the Netherlands at least takes responsibility for the pressures put on ecosystems worldwide by its use of natural resources. The Netherlands has a major impact on ecosystems in other countries and international waters through its commercial and fishing activities. In line with NEPP-4 and the life-cycle approach, the Netherlands intends to accept responsibility for all materials entering or passing through the Netherlands (direct material input, DMI), including those subsequently re-exported, either unprocessed or in products. Obviously the Netherlands is not exclusively responsible for these flows. It is a link in the chain from extraction to the end users. The point is that the Netherlands will join with its partners both upstream (often developing countries) and downstream (often EU member states) in taking action to ensure that the entire life cycle is sustainable.

A first step towards making this more concrete is the study done by CE in Delft on priority resources. This study identifies the following resources and materials used in the Dutch economy as having the highest environmental impacts:

- Oil seeds (including oil and processing waste), soybeans
- Meat and dairy
- Cocoa (including chocolate products)
- Fish
- Timber, paper
- Cotton
- Transport fuels
- Steel, copper, aluminium, zinc
- Energy carriers for electricity production
- Chemical product chains (organic, inorganic, agro-chemicals)
- Cereals
- Concrete
- Potatoes

The Dutch government has not yet taken position in the setting of priorities based on this recent study.

Source: http://www.ce.nl/publicatie/nederland_importland/1118

Of course this would not be the first steps in making specific resource chains more sustainable. There has been policy action on sustainable wood and on several commodities like soy, palm oil, cacao etc. for years. And there is the Chain Approach Programme, the first results of which are reported in the brochure “Getting Ahead with a Successful Chain Approach”.

6. Strategic objectives, targets and indicators on resource efficiency

The starting point is that on a global scale, in 2050, food and shelter for 9 billion people will have to be realised. The general objective is the integral reduction of the environmental impact of this production throughout the whole value chain.

A methodology to measure and valuate the sustainability of this production is still under development. In the meantime, The Netherlands government together with business partners is working towards making public procurement 100% sustainable (GPP-criteria for approx 40 product groups); at achieving sustainable cocoa (100% in 2025), timber (50% in 2011), soy and palmoil (100% in 2015); and for specific material chains, achieving up to 20% environmental gain (to be measured through LCA).

7. The institutional setup for the development and implementation of resource efficiency policies

Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation (EL&I) is responsible for Competition Policy, Industrial Policy, Trade policy, Raw Materials, Energy, Agro-industry, Sustainable Food, Biodiversity.

Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment (IenM) is responsible for Resource efficiency, Sustainable Materials Management, Sustainable Production and Consumption, Sustainable Procurement, Climate Change Policy.

Ministry of Foreign affairs (BZ) is responsible for Human Rights, Development Policy, and Coordination.

These Ministries cooperate on the topic of resources on different levels. The lead varies with the focal point: resource efficiency from a sustainable point of view is led by IenM. EL&I is in the lead with regard to the security of supply. Because of all the interlinkages involved with resource efficiency, the only option is to work together.

Developing integral strategic policy on resources is a common endeavour of these ministries, and working groups are in place to enable efficient cooperation at all levels.

Furthermore, cooperation with business organisations is seen as a priority by the present government, especially in the areas mentioned here.

8. Selected policy instruments or initiatives on resource efficiency presented in more detail

More and more, we are aware that classical environmental policy does not address the large problems. Insufficient attention has been given to the shifting of burdens from one environmental problem to another, or to other generations or other global regions. We would like to highlight the initiatives that are based on an integral analysis of environmental impacts, including those in other countries. See, for example, the brochure on the Dutch chain approach and the study of CE Delft.

In our non-paper, finished just before Christmas 2010, we outlined our views on resource efficiency and the direction the Commission's Roadmap should take in our opinion. In this paper we state that "*The Netherlands would like to see a clear and limited list of priority resources in the Roadmap, based on economic and environmental urgencies, as well as on an assessment of the areas where the EU can make a difference. In our opinion there are four priority groups of resources that should be taken into consideration: a) food / feed/ fibre / timber, b) marine living resources, c) energy, d) "critical" raw materials (i.e. metals). "*

Other initiatives:

- Life-cycle approach,
- Co-operation with industry on Sustainable Food systems,
- Co-operation with industry on Sustainable trade (http://www.dutchsustainabletrade.com/en/about-idh).

9. Topics of interest and information needs for follow up work

- Market-based instruments
- Institutional set-ups
- Sustainable trade

10. References

10.1 Facts and figures about the country

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[6] European Commission 2008
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[11] Total Economy Database, IFF Database. WI Database, Eurostat, OECD, IEA Database
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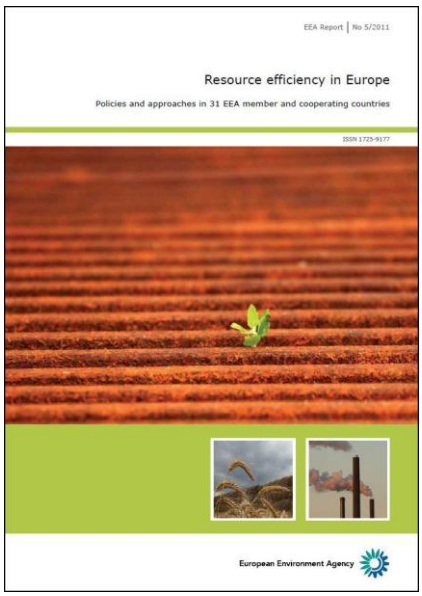

Resource efficiency in Europe

Policies and approaches in 31 EEA member and cooperating countries

Further information about resource efficiency policies, including the analytical report and thirty-one detailed country profiles, are available on the EEA website:

http://www.eea.europa.eu/resource-efficiency

Selected examples of resource efficiency policies, instruments or targets presented in the thirty one detailed country profiles