Country fact sheet

Overview of national waste prevention programmes in Europe

The Netherlands

October 2016

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European Environment Agency

European Environment Agency

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.

THE NETHERLANDS FACT SHEET

Source: Eurostat

GDP
EUR 663 billion (4.7 % of EU-28 total in 2014)

Per person GDP
EUR 35 900 (in purchasing power standard)
(131 % of EU-28 average per person in 2014)

Use of materials
173 million tonnes DMC (2.6 % of EU-28 total in 2014)
10.3 tonnes DMC/person (79 % of EU-28 average per person in 2014)
Resource productivity 3.68 EUR/kg (186 % of EU-28 average in 2014)

Structure of the economy
Agriculture: 2.8 %
Industry: 22.3 %
Services: 74.8 % (2014 est.)

Surface area
41 500 square kilometres (0.9 % of EU-28 total)

Population
16.9 million (3.3 % of EU-28 total)

Waste prevention programme

1.	Coverage	National
2	Type of programme	Separate programme
3.	Title of programme and link to programme	Afvalpreventieprogramma Nederland (Waste Prevention Program Netherlands) http://www.vang-hha.nl/ketensluiting/@148486/nederland-2013/
4.	Duration of programme	2014–present
5.	Languages	Dutch
6.	Contact person	Hans Spiegeler, hans.spiegeler@minienm.nl
7.	Waste prevention objectives of the programme	The objective is a shift towards a circular economy handling natural resources as efficiently as possible and ensuring the lowest possible environmental impact. A circular economy entails (pp. 8–9): • optimal use of resources; • no waste, no emissions; • sustainable resource use. Three forms of practical action are proposed (p. 10): • better design (less material usage, less harmful substances, more recycled material, longer life); • less waste in the production phase (less material usage/material loss, less harmful substances, closed material cycles); • conscious consuming (increase awareness of prevention by informing consumers and encouraging careful choices, less waste and more reuse).
8.	The means used to break the link between economic growth and the environmental impacts associated with the generation of waste	**Are the measures/means specifically mentioned in the waste prevention programme?** Yes. Specific responsible measures are described that contributed to observable relative decoupling until 2000 and absolute decoupling from 2000, with an increase in gross domestic product (GDP) and a decrease in waste production (p. 6). The following combination of factors is cited in the waste prevention programme: • government policy; • technological developments; • more efficient production; • cost of disposal etc. These factors cannot be considered separately; there is indeed a government policy specifically aimed at waste prevention, but there are also policies that has contributed to the development of new techniques and more efficient production. In addition, the increase in the cost of disposal is also partly the result of government policy (p. 7).

9.	Sectors covered	• Agriculture; • mining, raw material processing; • construction and infrastructure; • manufacturing; • sale, retail, transport; • households; • private service activities/hospitality; • public services. The waste prevention programme covers not only the waste management sector but all sectors, designers and service providers, governments and individuals. Strictly speaking, all economic sectors and stakeholders are included in the prevention programme (p. 9).
10.	Prevention of waste types	• Food/organic; • construction and demolition waste; • hazardous waste; • household/municipal waste; • paper; • packaging; • waste electrical and electronic equipment /batteries; • manufacturing waste; • bulky waste; • other. The waste prevention programme covers materials used throughout the entire economy (p. 9). It focuses on waste streams that score highly on waste quantities, environmental impact of the entire chain and environmental pressure during the waste phase: construction and demolition waste, food waste, textile and carpet waste, metallic waste, paper and cardboard waste, wood waste and plastic waste (p. 11).
11.	Quantitative targets	• The national waste management plan states that total waste generation in 2015 must be no greater than 68 Mt, and that in 2021 it must be no greater than 73 Mt (p. 12). • Food waste: the Dutch goal is a 20 % reduction in food waste between 2009 and 2015. To achieve this objective, the amount of waste generated needed to be reduced by between 276 kt and 522 kt (between 17 kg and 31 kg per capita) (p. 13). • Textile waste: by the end of 2015, the amount of textile waste discarded as residual waste should be 50 % less than in 2011.
12.	Measures on quantitative prevention	The waste letter ‘More value from waste’ sets out a series of measures intended to contribute to a reduction in waste-related environmental impacts. No specific target is mentioned, but the ambition is to reduce the total amount of waste through the following actions: Consumer information: • deployment of (new) media to highlight the usefulness and necessity of waste prevention to citizens. Less waste (p. 12): • include the prevention programme in the national waste management plan; • reduce the use of plastic bags on the basis of voluntary agreements; • perform an analysis of the environmental impact of plastic wrappers for magazines and explore alternatives;

- discontinue unnecessary use of plastic wrappers and if possible replace them with alternatives;
- implement several so-called chain projects.

The waste prevention programme itself sets out the following activities:

Activities for better design (p. 12)

- Encouraging eco applications in the Netherlands: consultation with stakeholders to determine how circular design can be used in business.
- Supporting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in applying ecodesign: developing business tools for the proper application of ecodesign for product improvement (e.g. the positioning of ecodesign in environmental management systems).
- Ecodesign knowledge platform: enabling businesses to access knowledge on a more permanent basis.
- Material efficiency through a European methodology for ecodesign: further research in line with the EU Ecodesign Directive to accelerate European decision-making on the broader application of the Directive.
- Labelling commodities: providing information about the composition of products.

Activities for wasting less (p. 15)

- Removing barriers: structural examination of regulations that hinder quick and easy processing of waste.
- Minimising waste production in industry: various methods for process optimisation.
- Environmental companies: proper environmental management in companies, so that the number of companies with ISO 14001 certification continues to grow.

Activities for conscious consumption (p. 16)

- Provision of information on conscious choices.
- Less waste in the consumption phase: information about the potential for longer use of products.
- Formulation of a strategy to influence consumer behaviour.
- Repair, distribution and sale of products: reinforcement of the infrastructure for reuse, for optimal capture of goods and to improve their performance.
- Arrangements with the retail sector for an increase in the supply of sustainable products.
- New business models, hiring and leasing: collection and promotion of positive experiences.

Activities concerning prioritised waste streams

Construction and demolition waste (p. 16)

- Greater efforts to reduce the amount of waste generated through the implementation of environmental performance calculation.
- Promoting methods for sustainable construction; more standardisation.
- Reuse of construction materials.

Food waste (p. 17)

- Reducing and optimising residual waste by promoting transparency, raising awareness, eliminating confusion about ‘best before’ dates, supporting leaders, European cooperation and more efficient production in developing countries.

Textile and carpets (p. 17)

- Less waste through encouraging separate collection and increased reuse.

Metals (p. 17)

- Implementation of roadmap measures such as lighter products, limiting melt losses and improved separation techniques.
- Analysis of specific barriers in the process of licensing facilities that recycle metal products.
- Sustainability chain: examination of whether or not the commodity chain can be designed sustainably through criteria for upstream mining and conversion.

Paper and cardboard (p. 18)

- Work on the use of alternative raw materials; closing cycles; construction of a bio-based economy; and sustainable products.
- Less printing: encouraging government and consumers to reduce unnecessary printer usage.
- Graphical companies discussing sustainable issues together: examining how they can be scaled up and strengthened on the basis of a more structural nature.
- Less advertising: efficiency improvements in the paper advertising industry and replacement of paper with digital media.

Packaging (p. 18)

- Examination of small-scale initiatives.
- Development of a framework contract for a packaging sustainability agenda.

Electrical appliances (p. 18)

- Examination of the possibilities for life extension through repair.
- Reusing products: examination of the development of an assessment system for 'sustainable collectors'.

Hazardous waste (options to be considered) (p. 19)

- Preventing the commingling of non-hazardous and hazardous waste during demolition.
- Using water to rinse the tanks of vessels in ports.
- Process chemistry.
- Examination of options to be employed in the future.

Activities in the sphere of financial instruments (p. 19)

- Diftar (differentiated tariffs) for households.
- Diftar for businesses.
- 'Accelerated depreciation of environmental investments' (VAMIL) and 'Environmental investments' (MIA).
- Tax incentives for the sustainable use of raw materials.

13.	Measures on qualitative prevention	Most measures described in the waste prevention programme relate to quantitative prevention measures. However, a few measures concern qualitative issues: *Textile and carpets (p. 17)* • Technological improvements: reducing the use of chemicals, making the cycle more environmentally friendly and extending service life. *Hazardous waste; options to be considered (p. 19)* • Introducing environmentally friendly batteries for vehicles. • Improved investigation of asbestos in demolition waste. • Limiting the use of creosote-treated wood.
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)	1. Include the prevention programme in the national waste management plan (p. 12). 1. Formulation of a strategy to influence consumer behaviour (p. 12). 1. Development of a framework contract for a packaging sustainability agenda (p. 18). 2. Perform an analysis of the environmental impact of plastic wrappers for magazines and explore alternatives (p. 12). 2. Material efficiency through a European methodology for ecodesign: further research within the EU Ecodesign Directive to accelerate European decision-making on the broader application of the Directive (p. 12). 2. Textiles: technological improvements — reducing use of chemicals, making the cycle more environmentally friendly and extending service life (p. 17). 4. Supporting SMEs in applying ecodesign: developing business tools for the proper application of ecodesign for product improvement (e.g. the positioning of ecodesign in environmental management systems) (p. 12). 5. Encouraging eco applications in the Netherlands consultation with stakeholders to determine how circular design can be used in business (p. 12). 5. Ecodesign knowledge platform: enabling businesses to access knowledge on a more permanent basis (p. 12). 7. Minimising waste production in industry: various methods for process optimisation (p. 15). 7. Greater efforts to reduce the amount of waste generated through the implementation of environmental performance calculation (p. 16). 7. Implementation of roadmap measures such as lighter products, limiting melt losses and improving separation techniques (p. 17). 9. Reducing the use of plastic bags on the basis of voluntary agreements (p. 12). 10. Environmental companies: proper environmental management in companies, so that the number of companies with ISO 14001 certification continues to grow (p. 15). 11. Diftar for households and businesses (p. 19). 11. VAMIL and MIA (p. 19). 11. Tax incentives for the sustainable use of raw materials (p. 19). 12. Deployment of (new) media to highlight the usefulness and necessity of waste prevention to citizens (p. 12). 12. Less waste in the consumption phase: information about the potential for longer use of products (p. 16). 12. Reducing and optimising residual food waste by promoting transparency, raising awareness, eliminating confusion about ‘best before’ dates (p. 17). 13. Labelling commodities: providing information about the composition of products (p. 12). 14. Arrangements with the retail sector for an increase in the supply of sustainable products (p. 16). 16. Promoting methods for sustainable construction, more standardisation, reuse of construction materials (p. 16).

		16. Less textile waste through encouraging separate collection and increased reuse (p. 17). 16. Reusing electrical appliances: examination of the development of an assessment system for 'sustainable collectors' (p. 18). 16. Repair, distribution and sale of products: reinforcement of the infrastructure for reuse, for optimal capture of goods and to improve their performance (p. 16).
15.	Other prevention measures not covered by Annex IV	• Removing barriers: structural examination of regulations that hinder quick and easy processing of waste (p. 15). • New business models, hiring and leasing: collection and promotion of positive experiences (p. 16). • Analysis of specific barriers in the process of licensing facilities that recycle metal products (p. 18). • Paper and cardboard: work on the use of alternative raw materials; closing cycles; construction of a bio-based economy; and sustainable products (p. 18). • Less advertising: efficiency improvements in the paper advertising industry and replacement of paper with digital media (p. 18).
16.	Indicators proposed	**Does the programme define indicators for waste prevention?** Yes. Progress on the implementation of three quantified objectives of the national waste management plan serves as an indicator. These objectives are: • overall reduction of waste; • reduction of food waste; • reduction in the amount of textiles discarded. Therefore, the following types of data are collected: • quantitative data (numbers); • qualitative data (the implementation of actions or amendments to regulations). Experience shows that it is not always possible to monitor all goals and activities. In order to determine what should and should not be monitored and/or translated into specific indicators, four criteria were identified: • Is information available or not? • Is the expectation that such information will continue to be available in the future? • Is the indicator valid for measuring and recording prevention or not? • Are there any known disturbing factors, and is a proper interpretation possible on the basis of the available data? (p. 20)
17.	Evaluation and monitoring of the programme	**Is the programme evaluated (midterm, etc.)?** Yes. The programme is monitored annually in conjunction with the monitoring of the national waste management plan (LAP), described as 'regular'. The results are then reported in numbers in the progress report of the LAP. Monitoring is linked to the principles set out in the LAP. In accordance with these principles, data are systematically and continually collected, processed and presented. This includes the following types of data (p. 20): • quantitative data (numbers); • qualitative data (the implementation of actions or amendments to regulations).

		The prevention plan has three quantified objectives that will be monitored as follows: • The overall goal for waste prevention set in the LAP is a maximum of 68 Mt of waste generation by 2015 and of 73 Mt by 2021. The LAP monitors the progress of this goal annually and compares it with the trend in GDP. • The Dutch goal with regard to food waste is a reduction of 20 % in food waste between 2009 and 2015. In 2009, Wageningen University provided a reliable picture of the amount of food waste in the Netherlands. In the spring of 2013, the mid-term report of the Food Waste Monitor was published. Establishing a uniform definition of food waste at European level will be a good step towards making an effective comparison. • The target within the Green Deal 'Collection of textiles' is a reduction of 50 % in the amount of textiles discarded as residual household waste between 2011 and the end of 2015. These data will be available at the end of 2016. For each of the targets 'better design', 'less waste' and 'conscious consumption' and each of the priority waste streams, specific activities to ultimately achieve waste prevention have been introduced. Monitoring will take place at activity level, and a matrix will be drawn up showing the progress of the implementation (p. 20).
18.	Target groups	Target groups are not specifically mentioned. The waste prevention programme states that it will extend to all sectors, designers and service providers, governments and individuals (p. 9).
19.	Involvement of stakeholders	**Does the waste prevention programme describe the involvement of stakeholders in the development of the programme?** Yes. The waste prevention programme mentions that the prevention programme was prepared in consultation with various stakeholders. The process was supported by consultants CE Delft and CREM, and by Rijkswaterstaat (p. 22). **Does the waste prevention programme describe the involvement of stakeholders in the implementation of the programme?** No information. However, information about the involvement of stakeholders in the implementation of the programme is, if available, given alongside the description of the measure (e.g. with regard to support for enterprises in applying ecodesign, arrangements with the retail sector for an increase in the supply of sustainable products, etc.)
20.	Other comments	**Are the costs/savings of waste prevention measures stated in the programme?** No information.