


Waste Prevention & Management Plan (Flanders)

	Region	Flanders
	Type of prevention measure	Basket of measures
	Geographical level of implementation	Regional
	Target	Consumers and Businesses
	Date of implementation	1994
	Type of waste	All Waste

Flanders' waste prevention plan has been active since 1981 and codified in legislation since 1994. A basket of measures is used to guide businesses, schools, designers and local authorities in waste prevention. This has halved unsorted waste and kept overall waste generation steady.

Context

Waste prevention in Flanders is managed by the Public Waste Agency of Flanders (OVAM), which places waste prevention as a core aim of waste policy. A holistic approach has been adopted, which attempts, by way of incentives for businesses, recommendations for local authorities, agreements with specific target groups, and legal obligations, to make consumers and businesses aware of waste prevention issues and oblige them to act.

Objective

The overall aim of waste prevention in Flanders is to reduce the amount of residual household waste per inhabitant per year to 150kg. This waste should then be incinerated for energy recovery. All other household waste should be prevented, reused or recycled.

Means

A number of initiatives have been implemented to reduce waste:

- MAMBO – an educational tool that calculates the financial burden of waste and works under the slogan of “Less waste, more revenue”
- ProductTest.be – an online product database to support green procurement policies
- Take-back obligations on a wide range of materials to foster producer responsibility
- Eco-Efficiency Scan – a tool for SMEs to assess their eco-efficiency and identify areas for improvement based on potential business savings

- Ecolizer – A tool for comparing the eco-impact of materials and processes to promote better eco-design



Results

Since 1995, the quantity of residual waste has been halved. Overall generation of waste has been approximately steady since 2000, while the amount landfilled has been reduced to near zero. The vast majority of waste is recycled or reused, and about one quarter is incinerated.

Further Information

OVAM website: www.ovam.be (English available)
 ProductTest: www.producttest.be
 MAMBO: www.ovam.be/jahia/Jahia/pid/101