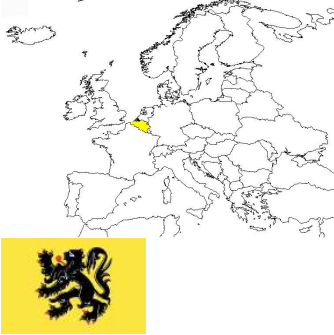


Kringloop Reuse Centres (Flanders)

	Region	Flanders
	Type of prevention measure	Promotion of Reuse and Repair
	Geographical level of implementation	Regional
	Target	Consumers
	Date of implementation	1992
	Type of waste	Household Waste

Flanders has implemented a Reuse Centre system to prevent waste by facilitating the resale of discarded products. Apart from its environmental objective, Kringloop Reuse Centres also assume an important social function.

Context

The system of Reuse Centres originated in the Netherlands and was imported to Flanders in the early 1990s. Reuse is the second priority in Flemish waste policy, following prevention. Kringloop Reuse Centres collect, sort, repair and resell discarded products, extending the useful lives of a wide range of products. Types of goods include clothing, appliances, furniture, kitchenware, books, records, and bicycles.



Objective

In addition to protecting the environment by reusing discarded goods, Kringloop Reuse Centres assume employment and social functions as well. Most Kringloop Reuse Centres employees have had difficulty finding regular employment: the Reuse Centres provide a stable income and on the job training, and offer those with limited means the opportunity to buy low priced goods.

The quantitative objective of the initiative, furthermore, is to achieve an annual reuse volume of 5 kg per inhabitant in the long term.

Means

The system implemented to facilitate the reuse of goods includes several means for the collection of goods:

- Pick-up at home (including a free, scheduled house clear-out service for those moving to new properties)
- Delivery to a Reuse Centre
- Delivery to a municipal waste collection point

The collected goods are then sorted (into saleable and non-saleable items), thoroughly checked, repaired or refurbished, and finally sold in one of the twelve regional stores. For several products (washing machines, dryers, dishwashers, for example), the purchaser receives a 6 month warranty.



Results

In 2008, the total collection of reusable goods reached 47,218 tonnes, a ten percent increase on 2007. The quantity of actual reuse per capita per year increased in tandem by ten percent, to 3.68 kg in 2008.

Further Information

Vlaamse Kringloopcentra: <http://kringloop.net>
Kringloop Holland: www.kringloopholland.nl