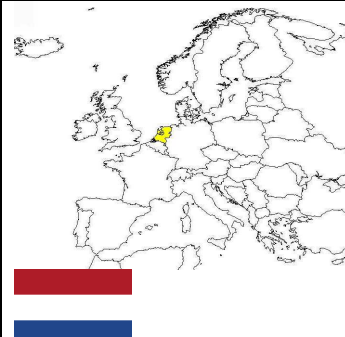


Carbon Tax on Packaging (Netherlands)

	Country	The Netherlands
	Type of prevention measure	Tax
	Geographical level of implementation	National
	Target	Businesses
	Date of implementation	2007
	Type of waste	Packaging

The Netherlands instituted a Waste Fund in 2007, financed by a carbon tax on packaging. The Waste Fund helps to pay for the separate collection of household packaging waste, while the tax encourages businesses to move towards the national recycling target: 42% of plastic packaging recycled by 2012.

Context

The Netherlands actively addresses recycling and waste prevention through its Nation Waste Management Plan 2009-2021. The limitation of growth in waste generation is a key objective of the plan. The waste prevention strategy includes provisions for reducing the environmental pressures of product chains, cradle to cradle thinking, sustainable procurement and producer responsibility.

Objective

The overall objective of the carbon-based packaging tax is to meet national targets to recycle 32% of plastic packaging by 2009, 38% by 2010 and increasing to 42% by 2012. This is in line with the targets set for the Netherlands in order to fulfil the EU Packaging Directive.

Means

The tax is levied against packaging material (excluding logistics tools such as pallets, trolleys or large crates). It was introduced in January 2008, but was subsequently simplified in August 2008 to facilitate wider compliance and make planning payments easier. Focus has also been shifted from companies that specialize in packaging or that undertake packaging activities to those that supply packaging materials.

The tax finances a Waste Fund, which is to be used to assist in the provision, at Municipality level, of a separate collection of plastic packaging material from households.

This means that the packaging tax both provides a financial incentive to reduce packaging waste generation, but also funds increased plastic packaging waste recycling by improving collection.



Results

The tax is expected to generate 365 million Euros in 2009. In addition to funding the separate collection of plastic waste, the packaging tax has also helped to fund other waste reduction and reuse initiatives, including a popular anti-litter program. It is too early to assess the tax's impacts on recycling levels, but the collection system will be in place by the end of 2009.

Further Information

Dutch Ministry of Housing, Special Planning and the Environment: <http://international.vrom.nl>
 Dutch Ministry of Finance: www.minfin.nl/english