



LOCAL MATERIALS PLAN 2023 – 2030

SUMMARY BROCHURE

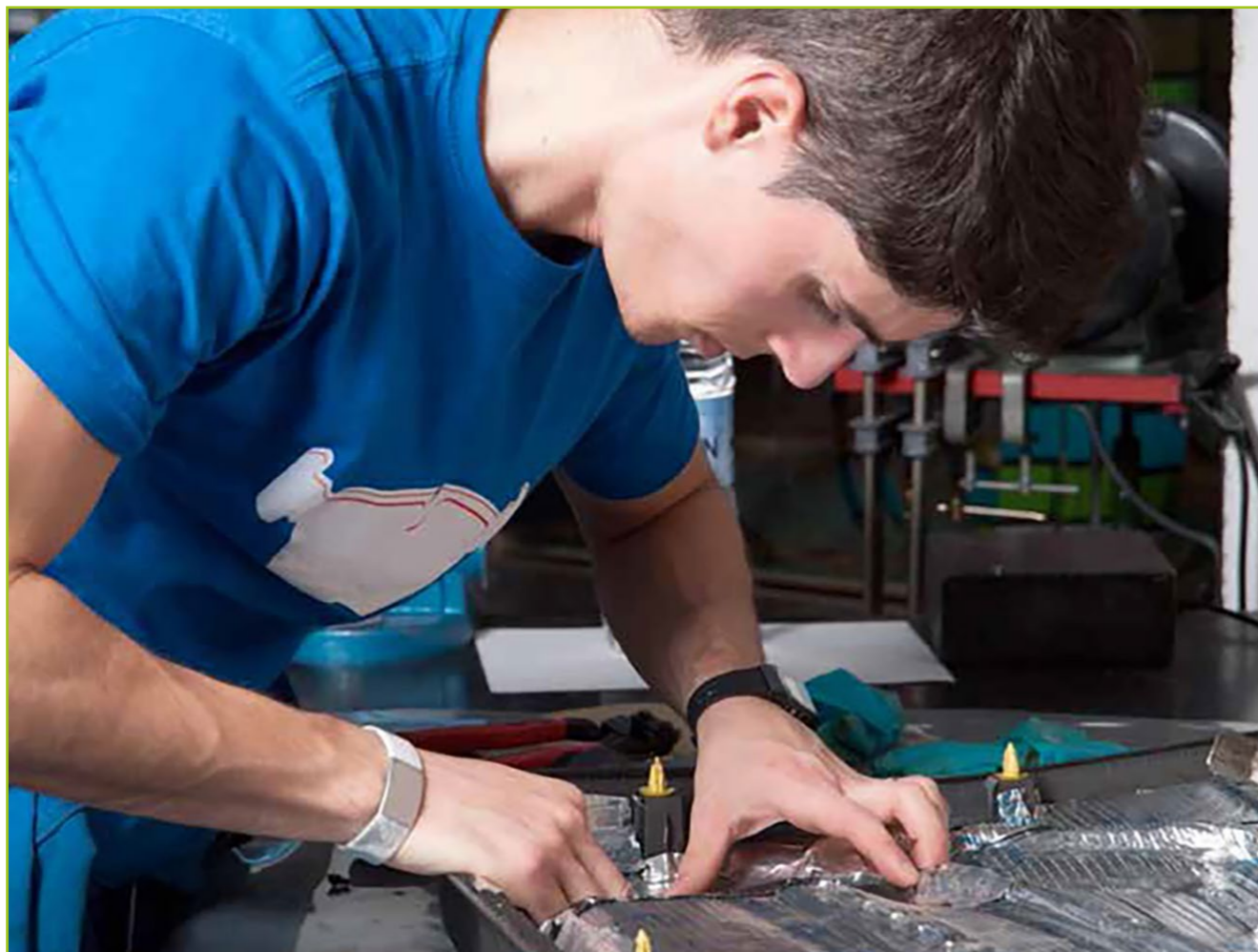


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1 WHAT IS THIS BROCHURE ABOUT?

This brochure is a summary of the 'Local Materials Plan'. The Local Materials Plan is the title of the new implementation plan for household waste and similar industrial waste and runs from 2023 to 2030. The Local Materials Plan was ultimately approved by the Government of Flanders on 26 May 2023.

The Local Materials Plan is a follow-up to the Implementation Plan for household waste and similar industrial waste for 2016-2022. It builds upon the work done in the previous period, while also introducing some major innovations. With this implementation plan, we are taking another step towards an integrated policy for the circular economy, by paying more attention to prevention and reuse and by further closing material circuits. In addition, the plan also continues to shape the basis of waste policy. Indeed, also in the area of selective collection and recycling, there are still some major steps to be taken. Finally, the incineration and landfilling of waste and avoiding litter and fly-tipping also remain major policy issues.

The Local Materials Plan focuses on the following waste streams:

- The household waste:
 - citizens' waste collected selectively;
 - small residual household waste and bulky waste from households;
 - street and sweeping debris, waste from litter and fly-tipping and the waste from street rubbish bins.

- Part of the industrial waste:
 - Comparable industrial waste: the waste from businesses and organisations that is comparable to household waste streams in terms of its nature, composition and quantity;
 - Similar industrial waste: these are the same waste streams as 'comparable industrial waste', but they arise at businesses and organisations in larger quantities than what can be expected in a household.

The Local Materials Plan has particular regard to the local level and the role of local governments, especially for household waste management. The plan provides the framework within which local authorities can assume that role. It contains the vision and policy actions at the Flemish level, a number of ideas and tools and also a number of obligations for local governments. This way, we will continue to chart a course together towards a circular society.

2 TWISTS AND TURNS IN SOCIETY AND POLICY

The Local Materials Plan took shape in a turbulent societal context and a rapidly changing policy context. The plan takes that background into account as best it can.

Firstly, there is the great climate challenge we face. The Flemish Energy and Climate Plan identifies the waste sector as one of the sectors that needs to achieve a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. There is also a more complex link between climate and materials policy, which leads to an increased focus on the theme of prevention in the plan. Through prevention, we not only avoid emissions in the waste phase, but there is also less production of (consumer) goods and thus less extraction of raw materials and less logistics. As a result, we avoid greenhouse gas emissions at the beginning and throughout the production chain too. Moreover, we do so without compromising our prosperity, because we can fulfil our needs just as well with strategies such as life extension, reuse or shared use as with the production of ever more new (disposable) products. This insight is also key in the European policy. The European Circular Economy Action Plan is therefore a key pillar of the European Green Deal to drastically reduce the EU's greenhouse gas emissions. The Local Materials Plan explicitly takes into account that European policy context and a number of European Directives arising from it.

Secondly, the Local Materials Plan emerged during the aftermath of the corona crisis, which merged seamlessly into the crisis resulting from the Russian-Ukrainian conflict. The economic consequences of both crises expose a number of weaknesses in today's linear economy. Long supply and disposal lines make our economy vulnerable. Strategies in which we create economic prosperity without dependence on production and raw materials from far-away foreign countries may help us face future global crises. The importance of European production with recycled raw materials and of models based on life extension, repair and reuse thus came into even sharper focus in drawing up this plan.

3 MORE PREVENTION

Flanders aims to achieve an **absolute decoupling** between the total amount of waste on the one hand and economic growth and population growth on the other. This means that the total amount of waste is certainly not growing – even as the economy or population grows. This is true not only for household waste, but also for similar industrial waste and for the sum of the two. Thus, the total Flemish amount of waste will remain at least stable at 2,376,000 tons of household waste and 1,956,000 tons of similar industrial waste by 2030. Preferably, we will achieve an absolute decrease.

In addition to these general targets, Flanders also aims to reduce (the waste from) a number of specific product groups by 2030:

- the quantity of single-use plastic food packaging placed on the market that serves food products intended for immediate consumption;
- the quantity of single-use household packaging placed on the market (932,000 tons in 2020 for Belgium);
- the quantity of single-use industrial packaging placed on the market (907,000 tons in 2020 for Belgium);
- household textile waste.

Reuse is one specific prevention strategy. This is where the reuse centres play a major role. By 2030, we want to achieve 8 kg of reuse per resident via the reuse centres. But in addition to reuse centres, there are a great many initiatives in Flanders that encourage reuse, both formally and informally. This is why we are also monitoring the broader reuse of consumer goods through these various initiatives.

In order to achieve these prevention and reuse goals, communication and raising awareness will be important tools. The Public Waste Agency of Flanders is also continuing to support reuse centres, event organisers and local governments in terms of prevention. Apart from that there are some new legislative initiatives, which are needed for acceleration. For example, the plan has further regard to prevention in extended producer responsibility schemes and revises the 'ISA packaging' (Interregional Collaboration Agreement between the 3 Belgian regions) to require packaging producers to meet certain prevention targets as well. During the plan period, the ban on distributing any further unaddressed advertising materials in mailboxes without a 'Yes sticker' will be introduced. We are also looking at the possibility of banning the destruction of certain stocks or unsold goods. Finally, we will also continue to work on a number of new use bans for single-use products and ensure the availability of drinking water in public locations to avoid unnecessary beverage packaging waste.

4 LESS HOUSEHOLD RESIDUAL WASTE

The overall target for household residual waste is 100 kg per capita by 2030, as set out in the Flemish Energy and Climate Plan. This will be translated into a target for each municipality. As in the previous implementation plan, this municipal target will depend upon the profile of the municipality, based on the cluster classification of municipalities by the Belfius bank. We did greatly simplify Belfius Bank's cluster classification, leaving only 4 clusters.

The calculation of the target by cluster is based on a 30% decrease compared to the cluster target in the previous 2016-2022 planning period. The main cluster is an amalgamation of several clusters from the previous plan, with different targets at the time. So here, you cannot simply assume a 30% reduction. The target for the municipalities in the main cluster does remain within a range of between (rounded) 20 and 40% decrease from their target in the previous plan for all municipalities.

Part of the reductions in the residual waste figure anticipated in each cluster will be achieved by municipalities thanks to actions for which responsibility lies at the Flemish level. This Flemish share is set at 13kg per capita and is linked to the effective implementation of a selection of actions in the plan. In doing so, we are fulfilling the principle of co-responsibility at both policy levels.

Some municipalities today already have a very good residual waste figure compared to the other municipalities in their cluster. For municipalities whose residual waste figure in 2020 exceeded the cluster target by a maximum of 13kg, we expect them to take the necessary steps themselves to at least maintain their 2020 residual waste figure and then achieve the minimum reduction of 13kg (subject to implementing the actions at the Flemish level).

The household residual waste targets by cluster of municipalities by 2030 are:

- main cluster (which is all municipalities except those in clusters 15 and 16): **90kg** per resident;
- large and regional cities (cluster 15A: Antwerp, Ghent and Bruges): **135kg** per resident
- large and regional cities (cluster 15B: other central cities): **111kg** per resident;
- coastal municipalities (cluster 16): **181kg** per resident.

For 53 already high-scoring municipalities, the above cluster target is not relevant. They must reduce their residual waste by the minimum drop of 13kg per resident (the Flemish proportion) by 2030.

Another new feature is that municipalities can 'show solidarity' with their residual waste target at the inter-municipal level. This is especially useful for waste intermunicipalities where municipalities are highly aligned in their policy. The participating municipalities of an intermunicipality can thus substitute their individual objectives for the target at the intermunicipality level. They must officially report this to the Public Waste Agency of Flanders and meet a number of conditions.

The table below shows the target for each waste intermunicipality. This was established on the basis of the population-weighted average of the targets for each municipality of the intermunicipality. Municipalities that do not belong to an intermunicipality are listed separately in the table for completeness.

INTERMUNICIPALITY / MUNICIPALITY	Target per IM (Kg/res) by 2030
Aarschot	90
Anvers	135
EcoWerf	83
IBOGEM cvba	90
IDM	90
IGEAN milieu & veiligheid	90
ILVA i.g.s.	95
IMOG	97
INCOVO	90
INTERRAND	90
INTERZA	90
Intradura	90
IOK Afvalbeheer	88%
IVAGO	132

INTERMUNICIPALITY / MUNICIPALITY	Target per IM (Kg/res) by 2030
IVAREM	96
IVBO	125
IVIO	90
IVLA	90
IVM	90
IVOO	158
IVVO	117
Knokke-Heist	181
Limburg.net	93
MIROM Menen	90
MIROM Roeselare	97
MIWA	87
Rhode-Saint-Genèse	90
VERKO	90



5 FURTHER OPTIMISATION OF HOUSEHOLD WASTE COLLECTION

Local governments are in charge of household waste collection and thus play a key role in policy. In order to achieve the household residual waste targets, while also further improving services for citizens, a number of new obligations will be necessary. At the same time, customisation remains an important basic principle and local governments are still being given a great deal of freedom to choose how they organise collection.

5.1 STREAMS TO BE COLLECTED AND THEIR MINIMUM COLLECTION FREQUENCY

The table alongside indicates the minimum waste streams that a local government is required to collect under the plan, in what manner and the minimum frequency. A local government may always collect more waste streams selectively or collect them more frequently.

Waste streams	Required minimum frequency of door-to-door collection	Short-distance presentation method permitted as an alternative to DTD collection	Required at every standard recycling centre
Small residual waste	Min. monthly	Yes	No
Paper and cardboard	Min. monthly	Yes	Yes
PMD (Plastic, Metal and drink cartons)	Min. every two weeks	Yes	No
Glass	Min. monthly	Yes, at least one container per 700 residents and mandatory separation between white and coloured glass.	No
VFG (vegetables, fruit and garden waste inc. kitchen waste)	Min. every two weeks	Yes	-VFG and VF: No
OR VF (inc. kitchen waste) + separate fine garden waste	OR VF min. every two weeks + min. monthly fine garden waste	OR - VF: Yes - Fine garden waste: No	
Fine garden waste:	Depending on choice of VF or VFG collection	/	Yes
Prunings	/	/	Yes ¹
Tree stumps	/	/	Yes
Bulky waste	On demand, min. twice a year ²	No	Yes
Textiles	Min. four times a year	Yes, provided min. one container per 1,000 residents	Yes
WEEE	/	/	Yes
Metals	/	/	Yes
Wood			
Untreated (A)	/	/	Yes
Non-contaminated, but treated (B)			Yes ³
Contaminated and treated (hazardous/C)			No
Reusable goods	On demand continuously	No	No
Flat glass	/	/	Yes
Hard plastics	/	/	Yes
Household hazardous waste	/	/	Yes
Frying fat and oil	/	/	Yes
Pure stone rubble	/	/	Yes
Other construction and demolition waste	/	/	Yes
Bonded asbestos cement	/	/	Yes (10km scheme) ⁴
Mattresses	/	/	Yes (10km scheme) ⁵
Cork	/	/	Yes

¹ Prunings may also be collected along with the fine garden waste at the recycling centre, if necessary, provided that the disposal frequency for the fine garden waste is respected. This removal frequency is weekly in the April-October period and monthly in the November-March period (see also heading 6.2.2.1).

² When collecting bulky waste at home, citizens must also be able to bring along waste streams that are to be collected selectively via the recycling centre, if the citizen cannot bring these waste streams themselves due to their size or weight. Of course, such waste streams must be sorted out afterwards and sent for recycling. Therefore, such waste streams should not be reported in the residual waste figure.

³ The uncontaminated treated wood may also be collected along with the untreated wood at the recycling centre, if necessary. Separately collected untreated wood must always go to materials recycling, however.

⁴ Bonded asbestos does not need to be accepted at every recycling centre. It is sufficient that 90% of residents for this waste stream have access to a recycling centre within 10km of the home. See also heading 6.2.2.3 Number of recycling centres.

⁵ Mattresses do not need to be accepted at every recycling centre. It is sufficient that 90% of residents for this waste stream have access to a recycling centre within 10km of the home. See also heading 6.2.2.3 Number of recycling centres.

5.2 NEW SELECTIVE STREAMS: BIO-WASTE AND DIAPERS

Some new streams will be selectively collected in this planning period. From 1 January 2024, every municipality in Flanders must selectively collect bio-waste from its citizens at home. To this end, the plan allows for several scenarios, albeit with some conditions.

Bio-waste collection scenarios:

- Door-to-door collection of VFG in bins. This is the preferred scenario.
- Door-to-door collection of VFG in bags. This scenario is permitted through 2027. Only in the urban centers of clusters 15A and 15B is this scenario possible thereafter too.
- Door-to-door collection of kitchen waste and food scraps combined with door-to-door collection of fine garden waste in bins.
- Optimo pilot project, where six separate waste streams are collected simultaneously and where both VF on the one hand and garden waste on the other are collected in bags. This scenario is only possible in the municipalities already participating.

In all the scenarios, the local government must also accept garden waste at the recycling centre. Home collection of VFG in bins is preferred. The scenarios in which kitchen waste and food scraps on the one hand and garden waste on the other are collected separately will be evaluated during the planning period. Only if the results are as good as for VFG collection can such collection be continued.

For the collection of disposable diapers, support is being provided from the Government of Flanders for the construction of a pilot facility for the recycling of diaper waste. If an effective recycling option is operational with greater societal benefits than costs, Flanders will impose an acceptance obligation upon the manufacturers of disposable diapers. This involves selective collection of disposable diapers and removal to recycling of 80% of diapers by 2030.

5.3 METHOD OF COLLECTION

A great many local governments have opted for underground collection in recent years, complementary to or as an alternative to door-to-door collection. The table in section 5.1 indicates the waste streams for which this is permitted as a substitute alternative. As an additional service, local governments are completely free to provide underground systems complementary to door-to-door collection. The siting of such systems must be well thought-out.

For collection at the recycling centre, the Local Materials Plan contains several points for consideration and a number of obligations for specific streams. In addition, the plan also encourages the development of (mobile) mini-recycling centre in this period, and there are some slight changes in the number of recycling centres that local governments must provide.

5.4 SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE

In terms of support, the Public Waste Agency of Flanders continues to deploy its tailored tools. Municipalities and intermunicipalities with a high distance to the residual waste target will be guided to implement additional measures through visits. The benchmarking tool allows local governments to compare themselves with one another. The learning networks organised by the Association of Flemish Cities and Municipalities VVSG-Interafval are also continuing.



6 LESS INDUSTRIAL RESIDUAL WASTE

The quantity of industrial residual waste needs to go down. Based on the Government of Flanders' climate plan, the target is 30% less industrial residual waste by 2030 compared to the 2018-2020 period. To that end, the plan advances both general communication initiatives on sorting at source and more sector-focused initiatives.

Furthermore, the Local Materials Plan focuses on correct collection formulas. Subscription formulas for residual waste mean that many businesses pay as much for a half-full container of residual waste as for a full one. As a result, they are not motivated to improve selective collection. The plan provides for an amendment to legislation, making weighted DIFTAR ('differentiated tariff') mandatory in the collection of industrial residual waste.

Finally, the Local Materials Plan provides a robust enforcement component as the concluding piece of the policy. There will be greater supervision in the coming planning period of both source sorting at the companies and on the correct application of legislation with which collectors must comply.



7 MORE AND BETTER RECYCLING

Extensive selective collection is not an end in itself and is only effective if sufficient recycling capacity also exists to produce high-quality recyclate. In addition, the marketing of recyclate must be supported.

As part of the 'Flemish Resilience' Relaunch Plan, in 2021 the Government of Flanders provided for a project to develop Flanders as a recycling hub. It allocated 30 million euros to subsidise various projects through a call in 2021 and a second in 2022. The plan provides for an evaluation of this support mechanism, to consider on the basis of which whether any further structural support would be useful.

In addition, the Local Materials Plan has regard to the high-quality processing of bio-waste through digestion and composting. Due to the generalised selective collection of bio-waste from businesses and households, a whole challenge awaits there in the coming years. The plan identifies current and projected supply as well as processing capacity, and also addresses the quality of processing.



8 AS LITTLE INCINERATION AND LANDFILLING AS POSSIBLE

Incineration and certainly landfilling we prefer to do as little as possible. We lose valuable raw materials from the chain of materials that way. Incineration and landfill bans and environmental levies discourage this form of disposal as far as possible, with landfilling remaining consistently more expensive than incineration with energy recovery.

For some waste streams, unfortunately, incineration or landfilling is still the only option. For those waste streams, the capacity for final treatment should be as close as possible to supply.

The policy on final processing builds upon the previous planning period and on the long-term vision for final disposal approved by the Government of Flanders in 2020. An important innovation is the explicit choice to keep not only residual household waste but also residual industrial waste in Flanders for incineration as far as possible via the proximity principle, thus limiting any exports. Furthermore, the Public Waste Agency of Flanders is working to revise the levies section of the Materials Decree, with a view to simplifying and further optimising the steering effect of the tool.



9 AS LITTLE LITTER AS POSSIBLE

Litter literally and figuratively pollutes public spaces. Moreover, cleaning it up costs Flanders and local governments a great deal of money.

In this planning period, our primary goal is to further reduce litter. The total amount of litter cleaned up must decrease by 20% by 2030 and the number of items of litter must also decrease by 20% for a number of specific types of environments.

To achieve these goals, Flanders is continuing to work with six-pillar policies. The six pillars are prevention, raising awareness, infrastructure, environment, participation and enforcement. In that sense, the pillars of prevention and enforcement are receiving greater attention than in the past. In terms of litter prevention, the introduction of a deposit scheme is also included as an action in the Local Materials Plan.

With the transposition of the Single Use Plastics Directive, authorities will be reimbursed by manufacturers of products at risk of becoming litter for the costs associated with litter from 2023. In order to ensure efficient use of resources, the plan provides for a number of commitments by those authorities. These are both reporting requirements and policy actions.





10 CONCLUSION

By further reducing the amount of residual waste and avoiding incineration, landfill and litter as far as possible, the Local Materials Plan further pursues the classical targets of the Flemish waste policy. The generalised collection of bio-waste, the acceptance obligation for disposable diapers, more correct collection formulas for businesses and the enhancement of the six-pillar policy against litter are major new policy steps in this regard.

With an increased focus on prevention, the new plan simultaneously introduces an important shift in emphasis. Prevention strategies, such as life extension, sharing, repair and reuse are crucial to reducing greenhouse gas emissions throughout the chain and reducing our dependence on materials. To truly shape a circular society, while also addressing the climate challenge in such a manner, we must not only keep materials in the cycle, but also fundamentally dematerialise our society.





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