

## A.3 Objectives for the planning period

The official mission of the Netherlands' environmental policy is 'to make a contribution to sustainable development by creating conditions and establishing basic criteria for the preservation and improvement of the quality of the environment'. This leads to the following objectives for the waste management policy:

- To limit the creation of waste.
- To limit the environmental burden caused by production chains; in other words, the environmental burden caused by the entire chain is taken into account in reducing the environmental burden in the waste phase in order to avoid transferring the environmental burden to other phases in the chain.
- To optimise the use of waste in a circular economy; in other words, raw materials and waste should be reused with the highest possible value in the same chain or in other chains, thus preventing these substances from being lost to the circular economy. Only waste that cannot be recovered for a useful purpose may be discarded.

This section describes the implications of these objectives for the waste management policy. A distinction is made between general objectives that have been agreed earlier (sub-section A.3.1), quantitative and qualitative objectives specifically arising from the third National Waste Management Plan (NWMP (in Dutch 'Landelijke Afvalbeheerplan (LAP)3' (sub-section A.3.2) and targets set by the European Union (sub-section A.3.3).

The objectives in this section apply for the Netherlands as a whole and – except insofar as they also appear in the minimum standards laid down in this National Waste Management Plan – are not intended to be included as target requirements in environmental permits.

### A.3.1 General objectives

The principal goal of the Government-wide Circular Economy Programme is to promote the transition to a circular economy. The aim of the system approach adopted to accomplish this is to generate new business models and changes in consumer behaviour, legislation and the division of roles in society. A number of general qualitative and quantitative targets have been set to achieve this.

In the context of the aforementioned policy, the following goals were set out in a letter to the House of Representatives<sup>9</sup> and the follow-up to it:

1. Where possible, to remove barriers faced by businesses in designing their production processes for the benefit of a circular economy and the recycling of their waste streams.
2. To halve the volume of waste in the Netherlands that 'leaves' the economy via incineration plants and/or landfill sites by 2022, compared with 2012. In 2012, the volume was almost 10 Mton.
3. To transform the Netherlands into a hotspot of the circular economy by 2020.
4. To increase awareness among households and businesses of their waste production and of what is done with the waste in the chain.
5. To encourage producers to manufacture more sustainable, and preferably circular, products and products that are easier to repair and recycle.
6. Where possible, to close chains by identifying the opportunities and obstacles in consultation with chain partners and other stakeholders, jointly formulating a desired final scenario and formulating actions for making the transition from the current situation to the desired scenario in association with the stakeholders.
7. To create more transparency in the quality and quantity of secondary raw materials supplied and demanded in chain projects.
8. To increase the proportion of separation of household waste (fine and coarse) from 52% in 2014 to at least 75% in 2020. In this context, waste separation relates to both separation at the source and post-separation.

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<sup>9</sup> IENM/BSK-2014/12161, 28 January 2014

9. To promote the prevention of household waste to the extent that waste production has declined from 500 kilograms of household waste (fine and coarse) in 2014 to a maximum of 400 kilograms per inhabitant per year in 2020.
10. To reduce the volume of household waste from 240 kilograms per inhabitant per year in 2014 to a maximum of 100 kilograms per inhabitant per year in 2020, and a maximum of 30 kilograms per inhabitant per year in 2025.
11. To halve the volume of residual waste similar to household waste from businesses, organisations and public authorities in the Netherlands in 2022 compared with 2012.

The 'More and Better Recycling'<sup>10</sup> agreement included the following objectives:

12. To promote high-value recycling on the basis of a definition and a method that are both transparent and widely endorsed.
13. To promote sustainable innovation in waste management and recycling with the aim of improving quality and reducing environmental burden.
14. To increase the yield from sorting processes to generate more materials for (high-value) recycling.
15. To remove unnecessary obstacles to more and better recycling in legislation and regulation in an environmentally responsible manner.

The government's reaction to the Transition Agendas expressed the following ambition:

16. To reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 1Mton in 2021 through circular procurement by all public authorities.

In parallel with the drafting of the NWMP, a framework was developed for monitoring the transition to a circular economy within a chain. On the basis of the framework, further targets for the transition to a circular economy will be adopted in the event of changes to NWMP3.

### A.3.2 Specific NWMP objectives

NWMP3 contains the following quantitative and qualitative objectives for the management of specific waste substances in the Netherlands:

17. To promote the prevention of waste with a view to reinforcing the progress that was made in the period 1985-2014 in decoupling the development of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and the development of the total volume of waste.  
This means that the total volume of waste must not exceed 61 Mton in 2023 or 63 Mton in 2029.<sup>11</sup>
18. To increase the proportion of the total volume of waste that is prepared for reuse and recycling from 77% in 2014 to at least 85% in 2023.
19. To increase the proportion of building and demolition waste that is prepared for reuse and recycling from 92% in 2014 to at least 95% in 2023.
20. To increase the proportion of industrial waste that is prepared for reuse and recycling from 81% in 2014 to at least 85% in 2023.

### A.3.3 In Europe

A number of EU directives relating to waste contain both qualitative and quantitative targets for the member states. The directives and the quantitative targets they prescribe are listed below.

A number of these targets are implemented more strictly by means of Dutch decrees and/or in the NWMP. Where applicable, those targets are highlighted here.

<sup>10</sup> The 'More and Better Recycling' agreement was signed on 16 March 2015 by the Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment (new name: Infrastructure and Water Management), BRBS Recycling, FHG, NVRD and the Dutch Waste Management Association with the aim of improving the recycling of waste in the Netherlands with a higher return for humans, the economy and the environment. At the same time, it endeavours to reduce the volume of recyclable waste in the Netherlands that is still landfilled and/or incinerated by also promoting more recycling.

<sup>11</sup> For an elaboration of the scenario, see also appendix F4.

In general, the European targets are adopted verbatim in Dutch decrees.

Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC)

- preparation for re-use, recycling and/or other material recovery of at least 50% by weight of household waste in 2020
- preparation for re-use, recycling and/or other material recovery of at least 70% by weight of building and demolition waste in 2020.

In the Netherlands, these targets have been intensified:

- at least maintain the proportion of building and demolition waste prepared for re-use and recycling at 95%
- increase the proportion of separation of household waste to at least 75% in 2020.

End-of-Life Vehicles Directive (2000/53/EC)

- re-use and recovery of at least 95% by weight in 2015
- re-use and recycling of at least 85% by weight in 2015.

Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive (94/62/EU)

- recycling of at least 55% by weight of all packaging waste in 2008
- recycling of at least 60% by weight for glass in 2008
- recycling of at least 60% by weight for paper and carton in 2008
- recycling of at least 50% by weight for metals in 2008
- recycling of at least 22.5% by weight for plastics in 2008
- recycling of at least 15% by weight for wood in 2008.

In the Netherlands, these targets have been intensified:

- recovery of at least 75% by weight and recycling of 70% by weight of all packaging brought onto the market
- recycling of at least 45% by weight of plastic packaging waste in 2015, rising to 51% by weight in 2021
- recycling of at least 31% by weight of wooden packaging in 2015, rising to 43% by weight in 2021
- recycling of at least 90% by weight of glass packaging
- recycling of at least 75% by weight of paper and cardboard packaging
- recycling of at least 85% by weight of metal packaging.

Batteries Directive (2006/66/EC)

- collection of at least 45% by weight by 26 September 2016.

Landfill Directive (1999/31/EC)

- reduction of the amount of biodegradable municipal waste sent to a landfill site to a maximum of 35% by weight of the total amount of biodegradable municipal waste produced by 1995.

Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive (2012/19/EC)

- collection of at least 45% by weight by 2016
- collection of at least 65% by weight of the amount brought onto the market or collection of 85% by weight of discarded electrical and electronic equipment that was produced in 2019.

### **A.3.4 Core of the policy with respect to the objectives**

This final sub-section summarises the key points of the policy included in this section. Other information in this section explains the policy below or interprets existing laws and regulations or case law. There will always be a public consultation procedure prior to changes in the following key policy points. Changes to more explanatory parts of this section will simply be announced.

- The whole of sub-section A.3.2 on specific targets formulated in the NWMP is part of the core policy.