Waste Management and Re-use centers in the region of Flanders

Online Webinar “Strengthening the re-use of products in Croatia”

12 July 2022, 9:30 – 12:00

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Presented by Eddy Wille, senior advisor
Region of Flanders

General information:
- Population: 6.4 M inhabitants
- Surface: 13.599 Km² (Croatia: 56.594 Km²)
- Densely populated: 472 inhab./Km² (Croatia: 74)
- Highly industrialised
- Regional policies
- Important harbours (gateway to Germany)
- Limited natural resources
OVAM

- Public Waste Agency of Flanders
- Environmental Agency headed by the Flemish Minister of Environmental Affairs
- Competent Authority for:
  - Waste Management;
  - Sustainable Material Management;
  - Circular economy
  - Soil Remediation.
- Staff: approx. 320 FTE
- Offices: Mechelen – Belgium
- ovam.vlaanderen.be
History of Waste management in Flanders

Evolution:

- Waste collection & disposal
- Waste treatment
- Waste hierarchy
- Material management
- Sustainable resource management
- Circular Economy

Remember the 7 R:
reduce, reuse, repair, recycle, recover, reclaim, reserve
Transition from Waste to Material Management

Our Goals for a Sustainable Material Management:

- Closing material loops as efficient as possible: circular economy
- Eco-efficient production
- Innovation & Ecodesign: built to disassembly
- Stimulate ‘Green Consumption’
- Order in own house: green procurement

Transition: Cradle to grave ➔ Cradle to cradle

“Upgrading the hardware is not difficult at all. It is way more difficult to change people’s mindsets and get them to embrace new systems.” (Song Gang, director Science and Technology Information Center of Beijing City Administration)
Figures on household waste

Household waste per inhabitant of Flanders

The amount of residual waste we produce is decreasing much more slowly than the waste that is collected separately. Therefore, OVAM wants to improve separate collection even more.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Collected separately</th>
<th>Residual waste</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>555 KG</td>
<td>155 KG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>476 KG</td>
<td>147 KG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>-8 KG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>400 KG</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>329 KG</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>23 KG</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>94-142 million kilos</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

How much food are we wasting?

Flemish consumers waste up to 23 kg of food per person each year.

For Flanders as a whole the amount is between 94 and 142 million kilograms.

With this amount of food 30,000 football teams can be fed for one year.

How is residual household waste processed?

950,000 TONNES

This is the amount of non-separated residual waste collected in Flanders each year.
Figures on household waste

Since 1997 → more waste collected source-separated than residual waste

⇒ LANDFILLING IS HISTORY (<1%)

Strong focus on the reduction of residual waste
Linear to circular economy
Re-use centres in Flanders

→ >25 years of experience

Centres & shops 1995-2020
Pillars of Flander’s re-use sector

- Environmental protection
  - Preventing waste generation
  - Sold re-usable goods → reduction of 65,000 tons CO2

- Social employment
  - Employment for low-skilled and long-term jobless workers
  - Job, training and future prospects to over 4,572 FTE

- Social protection
  - Affordable quality household goods for everyone
Key success factor 1

Link between re-use & social employment
Re-use ↔ social and circular employment

- Most re-use centres are social economy companies subsidized by the department of Work & Social Economy
Key success factor 2

Embedding of the re-use centres into the Flemish waste policy & into the local waste policy
Flemish waste policy & local waste policy

- **Municipal solid waste policy**
  - Materials Decree
  - Municipal solid waste management plans
  - Integration of the re-use centres in the take-back obligation of the Waste Electronic and Electrical Equipment (WEEE)
  - Re-use and re-use centres in EPR schemes
Flemish waste policy & local waste policy

- Operating area’s → avoiding unnecessary competition & stimulating cooperation – situation 2016
Key success factor 3

Federation of Flemish re-use centers
Strong umbrella organization

- unite nearly all re-use centers
- driving force behind the development of the re-use centers in Flanders
Strong umbrella organization

- Support re-use centres in their professionalization
- Exchange of information & experience between re-use centres
- Standardization of monitoring & reporting systems in partnership with the OVAM
- Representation on discussion fora with government (OVAM), local authorities, policy makers & industry
Key success factor 4

Continue professionalization → consolidate the position achieved within the municipal solid waste policy
Professionalization
Professionalization

- Strong branding!
  - In the beginning struggle with the image ‘Poor folk outlet’ →
  - creation of a common brand
Professionalization

› Cooperation with professional advertising agencies for public awareness raising & information campaigns
Professionalization
Key success factor 5
Measurement is key to knowledge & management
Measurement

- Data monitoring & reporting from the early stages
- Uniform weight tables (worked out by the OVAM in corporation with the federation to measure re-use percentages/targets
- Annual reporting of data to the authorities
- Further policy development of the sector and integration in the waste policy
- Benchmarking and exchange of information between re-use centres
- Calculation tonnage fee for local authorities
Some results 2020

- Collection per inhabitant: ± 11,3 kg

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Delivered by the citizen at the re-use shops</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collected door-to-door on demand by the re-use shops</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collected at the civic amenity site</td>
<td>19.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other channels</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Collection of re-usable goods from households 2019 - 2020 (= Covid impact)

- **Collection**
  - 2019 - 87 571 - 13,29 kg /capita
  - 2020 - 74 892 - 11,3 kg /capita

- **Collection methods**:
  - brought to the centres, collected at home, recycling yard, containers for textile en WEEE, collection of WEEE at distribution points

- **Brought to the centres**: 39 606 ton or 53%
- **Collected at home**: 13 505 ton or 18% (Covid impact)
- **Collected a recycling yard**: 13 516 ton or 18%
Some results

- Target 2022 for the sector: average of 7 kg/capita sold of re-usable goods
- 2019: 5.7 kg/capita – 2020: 4.5 kg/capita

RE-USE PER CAPITA


0.4 | 0.6 | 0.7 | 1.0 | 1.4 | 1.8 | 2.2 | 2.5 | 3.3 | 3.1 | 2.8 | 2.9 | 3.2 | 3.4 | 3.7 | 3.8 | 4.0 | 4.2 | 4.2 | 4.5 | 4.8 | 5.0 | 4.99 | 5.3 | 5.4 | 5.7 | 4.5
Collection by product groups in tonnes

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IN WEE</td>
<td>18.256</td>
<td>18.159</td>
<td>18.243</td>
<td>17.721</td>
<td>18.874</td>
<td>17.383</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IN Household &amp; Leisure</td>
<td>17.920</td>
<td>19.817</td>
<td>22.569</td>
<td>24.192</td>
<td>27.372</td>
<td>23.899</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IN Various goods</td>
<td>1.015</td>
<td>1.220</td>
<td>1.222</td>
<td>1.307</td>
<td>1.533</td>
<td>1.232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IN Totaal - Fracties</td>
<td>68.048</td>
<td>73.784</td>
<td>78.537</td>
<td>81.162</td>
<td>87.504</td>
<td>74.648</td>
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## Sold goods by productgroups in tonnes

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HGB WEE</td>
<td>1.948</td>
<td>1.920</td>
<td>1.876</td>
<td>2.105</td>
<td>2.264</td>
<td>1.856</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HGB Various</td>
<td>362</td>
<td>448</td>
<td>399</td>
<td>409</td>
<td>455</td>
<td>385</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HGB Totaal</strong></td>
<td><strong>31.341</strong></td>
<td><strong>32.355</strong></td>
<td><strong>34.803</strong></td>
<td><strong>35.102</strong></td>
<td><strong>36.045</strong></td>
<td><strong>30.071</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Some results

- Financial situation Flemish re-use sector (2014)

Financial situation Flemish re-use centres (mio €) 2014

- Social employment 46%
- Shop sales 39%
- Environment 1%
- Recycling and collection fees 14%
Some results Re-use percentage

➔ Percentage of re-used / sold goods versus collected goods

➔ Percentage influenced by quality of product, potential to be sold even at low prices, repairability, demand, size, local situation

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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HGB-% WEE</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HGB-% Furniture</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HGB-% Textile</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HGB-% Household &amp; Leisure</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HGB-% Various</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Future developments

➔ Research for new initiatives related to closing the material loops and extend services to clients: repair, share, renting, home delivery,…

➔ Kilo sale
  ➔ Large volumes of low quality textile that cannot be sold in the regular shops

➔ Upcycling
  ➔ Non reusable goods and material are used to manufacture new products

➔ Resourcelab
  ➔ Young designers work together with reuse centres and create unique design products
Thank you for your attention
Any questions?

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