



Dutch Waste Management Association
Partner in the circular economy



Annual Review 2024

Feasibility of the circular economy under pressure



I have been president of the Dutch Waste Management Association for six months. It is a position I am proud to hold. I am privileged to stand at the helm of an energetic and innovative sector that works vigorously to further improve the waste management chain, and that helps to make our society more circular and climate-resilient. These are determined companies that do not give up when times are difficult; they are always looking for possibilities and opportunities to give waste a second life through repair, reuse and recycling into new raw materials and energy. Of course, a good working relationship with our value chain partners is crucial. Only when we are all on the same page can we seize opportunities and realise our ambitions for circularity.

Unfortunately, the situation today is rather different. The recycling industry is in severe difficulties. Plastic recycling companies are going out of business because they cannot compete with cheap imports of oil-based plastic from China and the United States. We need government intervention to safeguard the plastic value chain in the Netherlands. In the meantime, the sector is faced with policy measures that are actually obstructing the transition to the circular economy. One example is the tax on circular plastic the government is thinking of imposing on the waste sector. Following the waste tax (under the Environmental taxes Act) and the carbon tax, this would be the third tax on waste management and it would put the competitive position of our members under severe pressure. And all this without any real greening. Investing in sustainable policy objectives

is being made impossible for the waste sector. What would this actually mean in practice? A plastics tax on our sector will make waste management in the Netherlands very expensive, it will cost the public and companies a lot of money and will result in a sharp increase in exports of waste for recycling. It is important to realise that tightening the thumbscrews on one of the links in the value chain will affect the whole chain, which could grind to a halt as a result. The circular economy will then recede further into the distance.

The sector wants to take concrete steps towards circularity and carbon reduction. To create the right environment for investing in a sustainable society we need stable government policies and effective policy instruments. It is crucial that the sector and government together set out the direction of travel and jointly formulate concrete and attainable objectives. Together with Patric Hanselman, managing director of DWMA since 1 November 2024, I invite all of you to work with us to make the circular economy we all want not just a paper reality, but a practical reality. We want to meet with our members and chart a course towards a clean, safe and circular Netherlands. The whole really is more than the sum of its parts, and together we are stronger.

Bart van de Leemput
President of the Dutch Waste Management Association

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Vision

The Dutch Waste Management Association (DWMA) sees a future in which circularity is a given, waste is reduced to the minimum and most materials are recycled for new uses. A future in which the waste industry plays its part in further reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Although its roots are local, the waste industry needs an international orientation and a European level playing field to keep the Dutch waste infrastructure ahead of the field in Europe.

Strategy

The DWMA has translated this vision into a strategy with three main themes: Vital Sector, Circularity and Climate. Circularity and Climate are about change – transforming the economy. The Vital Sector theme is the foundation – ensuring the essential conditions are in place.

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HEALTH & SAFETY

A safe and healthy work environment requires constant vigilance

The waste sector has made a safe and healthy work environment a priority. Employees must also be able to work and return home safely and in good health. Health and safety are absolute requirements for making the transition to the circular economy. Exploding NOS canisters, battery fires, aggressive behaviour towards refuse collectors and fatal accidents are all of serious concern to us.

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HEALTH & SAFETY

Despite the constant attention given to safety issues, unfortunately sometimes things do go wrong. Since 2006 we have been surveying our members to identify and record any accidents that occur. The number of accidents that result in sick leave is increasing slowly. This increase is in line with the national trend in all sectors of the economy. Sadly, fatal accidents among our members' employees have also occurred. In 2024 there were two such incidents, twice as many as in previous years. The accident statistics indicate their causes, such as entrapment, cut injuries and tripping. Based on our research, we advise our members on the possible preventative measures they can take. Health and safety at work was put in the spotlight during the waste sector's Safety Week organised and held in early June by the Health and Safety Catalogue for the Waste Sector Foundation (StAA).

Cyber security

Cyber crime is a growing risk to society. The national government is preparing a new Cyber Security Act based on EU legislation. Waste management is mentioned in the Act as a critical sector, which means that it is crucial for the functioning of society. Currently the Act applies only to the larger waste companies, which are subject to a mandatory registration system, a duty of care and a reporting obligation. A survey of our members revealed a desire for consultation between these companies, and in response we established a working group of specialists from among our members.

WE ARE COMMITTED TO:

- Fewer workplace accidents within the waste sector
- Monitoring the number and cause of accidents
- Better measures to optimise health, safety and working conditions
- Preventing waste fires

The DWMA and its members took part in this event and several companies organised special activities, such as a safety market or a quiz on the theme of safety.

Dangers of exploding NOS canisters

NOS canisters (laughing gas canisters) pose a major safety risk because they regularly explode in refuse collection vehicles and particularly in the incinerators of waste-to-energy (WtE) plants. The problems began on 1 January 2023 when the government amended the Opium Act to prohibit the recreational use of nitrous oxide and as a consequence the informal 'deposit system' in use at the time became untenable. Since then, large numbers of canisters end up in the residual waste stream or are thrown away in public places. They are extremely dangerous. In 2024, as in the previous year, there were about 10,000 explosions at WtE plants. In the meantime, many waste companies have introduced an extra processing stage to intercept and shred or manually remove the canisters. The total costs of these measures amount to more than 100 million euros per year. Despite all the measures being taken, though, the number of explosions remains high. We have been holding talks with the government

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HEALTH & SAFETY

on this issue since the beginning of 2023 and in June 2024 the DWMA took part in a round table discussion with members of the Parliamentary Committee on Infrastructure and Water Management. The DWMA also repeatedly brought the issue of NOS canisters to the attention of the national media. While the government shares our concerns, it will not reimburse the additional costs associated with NOS canisters. For the time being, therefore, no structural solutions to the problem are forthcoming at the national level.

Danger of battery fires

About 140,000 vapes (e-cigarettes) are thrown away with residual household waste each year. When subject to pressure, for example in rear compaction vehicles, the lithium batteries in vapes can spontaneously combust, exposing workers to potential danger. We are working hard with BRBS Recycling, the Dutch National Recycling Forum, the Association for Refuse and Cleansing Management NVRD, the Organisation for Producer Responsibility for E-waste Netherlands (Stichting OPEN) and the Dutch Association for Transport and Logistics TLN in the Battery Fires Task Force to resolve this state of affairs. The task force has called on the government to take action, for example by tackling illegal imports, imposing a collection obligation on retailers and setting up a more extensive network of return points. What would really work for vapes, and for NOS canisters as well, is a financial incentive, such as a national return refund for discarded items under a system facilitated and financed by national



Week of Waste Heroes 2025

The circular economy is ultimately about people. Every day around 30,000 people work in the waste industry, extracting raw materials and energy from waste. In the Week of Waste Heroes, an initiative by NRVD, DWMA and TLN held from 4 to 10 March 2024, we paid tribute to these Heroes. The week is also an ideal moment to show what goes on 'behind the scenes'. In 2024 once again more companies took part in the event. About 140 companies and organisations expressed their appreciation with a treat or special occasion. In portrait videos, the Waste Heroes told their own stories and showed what their work entails. These videos were distributed via social media. Our Heroes also received considerable press coverage.

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Safe Working in Sewers course

In the Netherlands, all drivers in the waste management industry have to take regular refresher training courses. If they obtain their basic qualification, they receive the mandatory Code 95 stamp on their driving licence. This code is valid for five years. Together with the sewer inspection and cleaning companies, we were able to get the 'Safe Working in Sewers' course included in the refresher training course. Our submitted training plan was approved by the Central Office for Motor Vehicle Driver Testing (CBR) and, based on a pilot training, the CBR has certified the course at one of the companies. We will be rolling out the course at the other companies.

'Everyone bears much of the responsibility for their own safety as well as that of their colleagues and the environment. We either work safely or we don't.'

Albert van Veldhuizen, chair of the Occupational Health and Safety Committee

government. An important step towards preventing waste fires caused by lithium batteries is to increase awareness among consumers. In our 'Separate It' (*Doe maar apart*) campaign we call on the Dutch public to recycle electrical appliances and batteries separately. Although this campaign is bearing fruit, the targets for separate collection are still not being met.

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CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Circular economy requires a whole-chain approach

The waste industry is throwing its weight behind the transition to the circular economy. This ambitious goal requires commitment across the whole value chain, from design and production up to and including the waste management phase. We support initiatives that promote the circular economy and do all we can to recover raw materials and energy from waste.

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CIRCULAR ECONOMY

The circular economy requires an integrated whole-chain approach in which the initial stages of the value chain play a key role. The market and production choices made by manufacturers determine whether or not a product is suitable for a long or second life, and what and how much waste is generated at the product's end-of-use. Based on interviews with manufacturers, we produced a fact sheet with ten action points for circular production. The lessons learned are meant to inspire other manufacturers.



WE ARE COMMITTED TO:

- Reduction, reuse, recycling, and materials and energy recovery
- Creating as much value as possible from waste
- Cooperation across the value chain between waste companies, manufacturers, government authorities, the public and knowledge institutes

'We want waste separation outside the home, in offices, schools, sports clubs and shops, to be just as natural as in the home.'

Iwan te Winkel, chair of the Collection Section

Commercial and industrial waste separation

To close recycling loops we see a major opportunity in raising the recycling rate of commercial and industrial waste. Each year about five billion kilograms of commercial and industrial waste is generated, but only half is recycled. Our members see plenty of opportunities to recycle this waste and we want to halve the amount of residual waste from offices, shops and other services. Following the campaign to encourage people to separate waste 'as if at home', which we launched in 2023 with the environment minister, in 2024 we kicked off a similar campaign with the chair of the SME association MKB-Nederland aimed at commercial and industrial companies. This campaign is aimed at new clients of the refuse collection companies, who will be offered contracts for at least two waste streams. Besides residual waste, this may

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Encouraging sustainable behaviour with TrashTalks

According to the Dutch independent consumer information organisation Milieu Centraal, consumers can often prevent more than 25% of their climate impact by choosing to buy circular products. In our TrashTalks social media campaign, which we launched in 2024, we encourage consumers to make sustainable purchasing choices. Consumers can become ‘binfluencers’ by buying products that are reusable and recyclable. Indirectly, we stimulate manufacturers to consider smart product design, recycling and reuse, and we call upon the government to develop enforceable and consistent policies. In the campaign we share videos, information on ‘Top or Trash’ products, and tips and tricks via social media, such as Instagram.

be a bin for paper, glass, organic waste or plastic. Waste collection companies are finding that their commercial and industrial customers are taking an extra bin. The campaign will continue into 2025, after which the results will be announced.

Financial collateral provision

An important obstacle in circular activities is the provision of financial collateral by waste companies. Under the Environment and Planning Act, licensing authorities can require waste companies to provide financial collateral for environmental risks, such as remediation costs in the event of an emergency or bankruptcy. We agree that these costs should not be borne by society. However, the government also requires professional and reliable companies to provide bank guarantees. These bank guarantees are restricting the opportunities for waste companies to invest in the circular economy and so we feel that the obligations imposed should be fair. In 2024 a two-year pilot project was launched in which provincial governments and regional environment agencies will investigate the use of financial collateralisation and whether or not this should be a requirement in licences.

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SVHCs high on the agenda

The sector is taking responsibility for eliminating substances of very high concern (SVHCs) from the waste management chain as much as possible. All waste companies are currently drawing up a prevention and reduction programme. We are holding discussions with Omgevingsdienst NL, the national association of regional environment agencies, on an industry-specific prevention and reduction programme so that individual members do not have to reinvent the wheel themselves. We want to obtain a clear picture of which SVHCs are in fact present in waste streams. We are first looking at construction and demolition waste, because this is by far the biggest waste stream, and are participating in a government pilot project to obtain a better understanding of potential SVHC emissions during treatment and the possible presence of SVHCs in outgoing streams. The best solution, in our view, will be found at the beginning of the value chain. Turning the tap off there so that SVHCs will no longer be in circulation will provide optimal protection for the environment and public health.

'We take responsibility for eliminating SVHCs from the waste management chain as much as possible. If their return to the product lifecycle loop is unavoidable, we ensure in each case that this occurs safely and with acceptable risks to ensure the protection of public health and the environment.'

Pascal van der Ploeg, chair of the Committee on SVHCs

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CLIMATE

Sector contributes to a low carbon economy

The Netherlands aims to halt all greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. Climate protection and the circular economy are two sides of the same coin. We support the climate targets, but will be discussing the specific measures to be taken with the government. The waste sector is making a contribution to reducing carbon emissions and wants to take additional steps.

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CLIMATE

Carbon emissions from the Dutch waste management sector have fallen significantly over recent decades. Because we now landfill much less waste, greenhouse gas emissions from waste management activities are small in comparison with other countries. More recycling of various waste streams and the use of captured CO₂ also help to reduce carbon emissions.

Greening mobility

High on our agenda and those of our members is making mobility more sustainable. Waste and sewerage companies are turning to smart logistics and switching to electricity and sustainable fuels. By deploying electric refuse collection vehicles, they are also preparing for the zero emission zones due to be introduced in town and city centres from January 2025 by around 30 munic-

WE ARE COMMITTED TO:

- More carbon capture and reuse
- Reducing carbon emissions through prevention and reuse
- Greening mobility

ipal councils. In these zones, delivery vans and lorries must be emission free. We support the idea behind emission free town and city centres, but a survey among our members reveals that electrifying the vehicle park presents a major challenge to the sector. Waste collection and sewerage companies are running up against several obstacles, such as the lack of affordable electric vehicles and insufficient charging capacity due to a lack of capacity in the power grid. To make it clear what the sector is up against, we are distributing information to municipal councils and other interested parties.

Disproportionate increase in carbon tax

The 2025 Tax Plan, published in December 2024, announces an increase in the CO₂ emissions reduction target for waste-to-energy (WtE) plants from 30% to 80% by 2030. This means that the carbon tax on processing residual waste will rise sharply over the coming years. We understand and endorse the principle of imposing an emission reduction target on WtE plants, but consider this increase to be not only unachievable, but also unreasonable; other industrial sectors have to reduce their emissions by 'only' 43%. We ask politicians and ministries to bring the target for WtE plants into line with the other industries.



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Talks on specific arrangements for WtE plants

The government wants to help companies with high carbon emissions to become more sustainable and is holding consultations on industry-specific measures. Exploratory sessions on such talks with the WtE plants were held in 2024. WtE plants are investing tens of millions of euros on carbon reduction, including carbon capture facilities. These facilities capture the CO₂ in flue gases for use in greenhouse horticulture, for example, or to be stored underground. A major concern is the lack of suitable infrastructure over the coming five years. The WtE plants are also working on better post-separation of residual waste and supplying more heat to district heating networks. The DWMA believes that bespoke arrangements with financial support from the government will offer more climate benefits and opportunities for the industry than a carbon tax. A tax will only increase costs to the public and restrict the ability of companies to invest in the circular economy.

‘Climate change is making extreme downpours increasingly likely. Advice and sewer management and maintenance are essential to ensure the proper drainage and discharge of all that rainwater.’

John Witkamp, chair of the Sewer Maintenance Section

New sustainability reporting requirements

The introduction of the EU Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) marks a major change in business practices for our members. It introduces new requirements for sustainability reporting by large companies, including waste companies. The CSRD prescribes a detailed framework for reporting the impacts of waste streams on carbon emissions. At the end of 2024 we organised a meeting with our members to discuss how we can support them in this task. They expressed an urgent need for the mutual exchange of knowledge and experience.

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EUROPE

European level playing field needed

The European arena is very important for the Dutch waste sector as the European Union determines the main legislative framework and many waste companies operate internationally. We argue the case for an integrated approach to the European waste sector, which is interconnected and inseparable. However, we note that we are still far from achieving a single level playing field between member states.

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EUROPE

Continuing to learn from each other

In 2024 we strengthened bilateral contacts with our counterparts in other member states. Increasingly, we work closely with German, Polish, Belgian, Czech and Finnish associations, among others, and learn from each other. We are sharing our experiences with NOS canisters with our German colleagues. Like the Netherlands, the German government is considering introducing a ban on nitrous oxide, but is working closely with municipalities and waste companies.

Topics on the European agenda

An important item on the European agenda for the sector is the revision of the Waste Shipment Regulation (WSR). We are concerned that the tightening up of this legislation will mean that it will no longer be possible to process Dutch hazardous waste in other countries, such as Germany and France. These exports are necessary because the Netherlands does not have the processing capacity to treat most of its combustible hazardous waste. One item that affects the WtE plants is the expectation that in 2028 they will be included in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS) and will have to pay an EU carbon tax. The tax

'Exporting combustible hazardous waste is necessary because the Netherlands does not have the required processing capacity.'

Jakob Huisman, chair of the Hazardous and Oil-containing Wastes Section

WE ARE COMMITTED TO:

- A more harmonious European market with a level playing field
- New EU legislation for more ecodesign and use of secondary raw materials
- Reducing landfilling to increase materials and energy recovery
- Effective implementation of EU legislation by the member states

is designed to reduce carbon emissions, which the WtE plants have little or no control over. The European Union has decided to first carry out a thorough impact assessment, because the tax could have major consequences for the whole waste management infrastructure.

Ambition: 75% recycling by 2035

We support the ambition of the European Waste Management Association (FEAD), of which we are a member, to achieve a target of 75% recycling in Europe by 2035. More recycling will generate multiple benefits, such as increased raw materials security, better environmental quality and lower carbon emissions. An important step towards more recycling is reducing landfilling in Europe. Some EU member states still landfill more than 60% of their municipal waste, much of which is organic and recyclable material. This leads to high methane emissions. Transitioning to less landfilling will depend on adopting an integrated approach to the whole European waste management infrastructure. Countries that landfill much of their waste have

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insufficient recycling and incineration capacity and an inadequate waste management infrastructure. The transition will require tens of millions of tonnes of additional recycling and incineration capacity in the current 'landfill countries'. Until that is in place, the residual incineration capacity in the Netherlands and other European countries can be used by the landfilling member states while they invest in more recycling capacity.

New EU landfill association

Together with industry associations in Germany, the Netherlands and Austria, we established the European Landfill Association (ELA) in October 2024. The ELA aims to end the landfilling of organic waste in Europe. This can be done by tightening up the landfill reduction target and introducing European landfill bans for recyclable material. Reducing the landfilling of organic waste will reduce methane emissions by 75 million tonnes

'The establishment of the ELA is an important milestone for the optimal facilitation of landfills towards the circular economy.'

Bjorn Hamal (Renewi), vice-chair of the European Landfill Association

of CO₂-equivalents and will contribute towards the circular economy. The ELA is also closely associated with the development of best available techniques (BAT) for landfills by the European Commission. These BATs are mandatory in licences.

Recycling of construction and demolition waste

Construction and demolition waste is by far the biggest waste stream. Recycling this waste stream is essential for achieving the 75% recycling target. A recycling section has been established within the European Recycling Industries' Confederation (EuRIC) with the aim of increasing the recovery of raw materials from construction and demolition waste. The DWMA was involved in this development. The new organisation is already working on cooperation across the value chain, end-of-waste status and issues surrounding the definitions of waste.

See also:

- [European Landfill Association wants to end the landfilling of organic waste in Europe](#)



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RECYCLING & RESIDUAL MATERIALS

Full backing for recycling

Recycling is a cornerstone of the transition to the circular economy. Eighty per cent of all Dutch waste is given a second life and the waste industry extracts the maximum possible energy and materials from the remaining part. 2024 was a difficult year for the Dutch recycling sector. We sounded the alarm and stressed the need for structural solutions to provide long-term support for the recycling sector.

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RECYCLING & RESIDUAL MATERIALS

The ambitions for the circular economy bear little relation to current reality. The Government remains committed to a climate neutral and completely circular economy in the Netherlands by 2050, but in the meantime recycling companies are going under. The prices of primary raw materials are falling while production costs of recycled materials are rising, stocks are piling up and the necessary investments are not being made. This is especially true for plastic recycling and several recycling companies have gone bankrupt. Our members have reduced their processing capacity.

Government support for recycling

We are in discussion with our members, government authorities and other stakeholders on the crisis in the recycling industry. Without additional measures, the circular economy will recede further into the future. If the Dutch government and the European Commission really want a circular economy, they must be willing to support the production and use of secondary materials. European manufacturers must use more European recycled plastic. Measures such as a mandatory percentage of recycled waste in new products and cutting back exports to countries outside the EU will help. Government authorities should also use their purchasing power to increase markets for recycled materials.

Plastics petition

Under current policies the plastic processing and recycling industry will continue to decline. This is the message conveyed by several industry associations in a joint petition we presented to the House of Representatives at the end of 2024. The petition

WE ARE COMMITTED TO:

- High-grade reuse and recycling
- High-quality collected waste streams
- Materials and energy recovery from residual waste
- Sustainable landfills

was drawn up by the DWMA, the Dutch Federation of the Rubber and Plastics Industry (NRK), Plastics Europe, the Association of the Dutch Chemical Industry (VNCI) and the Confederation of Netherlands Industry and Employers (VNO-NCW). Not only is plastic recycling in severe difficulties, but production and processing are as well. Our appeal to the Government is 'Help us! Make plastics circular!' and work with value chain partners and government departments on an integrated, whole-chain approach. The Netherlands has the ideal ingredients for the production of circular plastic: a good manufacturing and sorting industry and recycling companies that are among the best in Europe. We are doing more for circular plastic, for example through the system of extended producer responsibility (EPR) run by the manufacturers' organisation Verpact (formerly the Packaging Waste Fund). We have set up a think tank with the Dutch Association for Transport and Logistics (TLN) to come up with solutions based on the experiences of our members.

More and cleaner food and garden waste

The demand for biobased raw materials continues to grow. It is therefore crucial that food and garden waste (FGW) is collected separately. The amount of separately collected FGW is

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growing, thanks to better collection strategies employed by the municipalities, and also to the growth of the population. Climate change makes a contribution too, because the warmer winters and wetter summers are leading to more garden waste. The FGW separation rate has risen to 65%. The composting sector is striving to collect not only more, but also better quality (cleaner) FGW, because clean FGW produces clean compost. At the National Compost Day 2024 we presented an infographic on the quality of FGW. For the members, this provides a useful tool in discussions with their customers, the municipal governments, on the quality of collected FGW. Giving feedback to residents on the quality of collected FGW has proven to be highly effective.

'We are working with local authorities on the collection of clean food and garden waste for the production of high-quality compost. We're making steady progress, but we mustn't take our foot off the pedal.'

John van Haeff, chair of the Bioconversion Section

Notification Decree delayed twice

The planned revision of the Industrial and Hazardous Wastes (Notification) Decree will require discarders to provide information on substances of very high concern (SVHCs) to waste processing companies. While we support the principle, the fact that non-relevant data must be handed over is a problem. It causes an excessive administrative burden and the transfer of unnecessary information, which benefits no one. It also does not result in the elimination of SVHCs, which is of utmost importance for containing environmental and health risks. We have joined with the BRBS Recycling (the Dutch association for the recycling of construction and demolition wastes) and the Metal Recycling Federation (MRF) to make representations on the Notification Decree. Several meetings with the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, letters to members of the House of Representatives and an active lobby have so far led to the revision being delayed twice. The environment minister shares the industry's concerns and is discussing the matter with us. During the first half of 2025 the ministry will draw up guidelines in consultation with the parties who will be working with the Decree: the waste sector and the decentralised competent authorities. To make way for this process the coming into force of the revised Decree has been postponed until 1 July 2025.

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Bottom ash sales stagnant

Sales of bottom ash, the waste that remains in the incinerators of WtE plants, are stagnant. Many municipalities and regional environment agencies have thrown up barriers to the use of this circular building material. Despite the classification of this material as suitable for unrestricted use after reprocessing, they have made the use of bottom ash subject to a permit. As a result, a million tonnes of this circular building material are now in storage. This problem with the disposal of bottom ash could have knock-on effects throughout the whole waste processing chain. We are in discussion with the ministry and other authorities on this matter. To get this material released for use we have proposed a new Green Deal along the lines of the Green Deal on the sustainable recovery and use of WtE bottom ash. This ran from 2012 to 2020 and was completed successfully.

'Preventing raw materials shortages in the EU is essential. A strong policy that supports European recycled materials, and that sets consistent quality and sustainability requirements for recycled materials within and outside the EU, will strengthen the circular economy and reduce our dependence on scarce primary raw materials.'

Bruno Bruins, chair of the Recycling Section

A future-proof landfill infrastructure

The waste sector is acting in a united front to make further progress with creating a circular economy. We are ambitious, but also realistic. However good society is at prevention, separation and recycling of wastes, residual streams will always remain that have to be incinerated or landfilled. To ensure the landfill option remains open in future, in June 2024 the Government published the Landfill Work Programme 2024–2029. The programme describes the steps that need to be taken to create a future-proof landfill infrastructure in which landfilling remains an available and affordable option. We took part in several sessions on the programme and the sector is satisfied with the process and the programme.

See also:

- [Crisis in plastic sorting and recycling industry](#)
- [Call to the Dutch government: let's make plastics circular](#)



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SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Getting maximum energy from waste

The Dutch waste sector produces 8% of all the sustainable energy generated in the Netherlands. It reduces the use of fossil fuels and makes a contribution towards climate and energy targets. Our members are constantly increasing the amount of sustainable energy they generate. We are paving the way to increasing sustainable energy generation and are discussing this with the sector and the government.

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SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Waste companies are continuously working on new initiatives for generating sustainable energy from waste. For example, several of our members are committed to producing sustainable bio-LNG from the anaerobic digestion of food and garden waste. Bio-NLG plays an important part in making lorries more sustainable.

Waiting lists for accessing the electricity grid

Sustainable electricity initiatives are being frustrated by grid congestion caused by overloading of the power grid. In many parts of the country, congestion has led to long waiting lists for connection to the grid. In spring 2024 the Authority for Consumers & Markets (ACM) published a framework for giving priority access to the electricity grid for certain parties. The draft framework included waste and sewerage management among the priority sectors, but the DWMA was disappointed to discover that waste and sewerage companies had been left out of the final version. We have lodged an objection in which we point out that waste companies have an obligation to make their vehicle fleets



WE ARE COMMITTED TO:

- Higher production of sustainable energy and sustainable fuels
- Exploiting the potential of heat from waste

sustainable and carry out their essential duties for society. They clean up the waste generated by production and consumption and keep the sewers clean to ensure the proper drainage and discharge of wastewater and rainwater. This is vital for public health.

Abundance of heat

Waste-to-energy (WtE) plants account for much of the energy supplied by the sector. The plants have a considerable potential to supply heat and already provide 20% of the heat supplied to district heating networks. Under the National Climate Agreement, a half million additional buildings must be connected to a district heating network by 2030. The WtEs can supply the necessary heat. However, the new Heat Act introduces additional obstacles. The new system for determining carbon emissions penalises WtEs and creates an uneven playing field for different heat sources that have a similar effect on the electricity grid.

'We call upon the government to continue supporting the sector so that it can carry out its essential role as supplier of sustainable energy to the optimum and so contribute towards the climate targets.'

Yves Luca, chair of the Waste-to-Energy Section

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Looking ahead to 2025

The crisis in plastic recycling will continue and require considerable efforts from the DWMA. The plastic processing industry must be convinced to purchase and use recycled plastic. The DWMA asks the government to support this market with appropriate policy. The drafting of a representation on the new Circular Materials Plan, an 850-page document that will replace the National Waste Management Plan in 2025, will take up a considerable share of the DWMA's capacity during the first quarter of 2025, as will the carbon tax and the possible introduction of a circular plastic tax. Other topics that will be high on the DWMA's agenda and those of its members in 2025 include safety in the sector, the EU Emissions Trading Scheme, grid congestion, substances of very high concern (SVHCs), the strategy for processing food and garden waste, refuse collection in the town and city centres, guidance on the implementation of the revised Industrial and Hazardous Waste (Notification) Decree and the revision of the EU Landfill Directive.

The Trash Talks social media campaign will be continued in 2025. The Week of Waste Heroes, National Compost Day, Safety Week and the Waste Conference are also on the agenda, while the campaign to stimulate the separate collection of batteries and electrical appliances will be run again.

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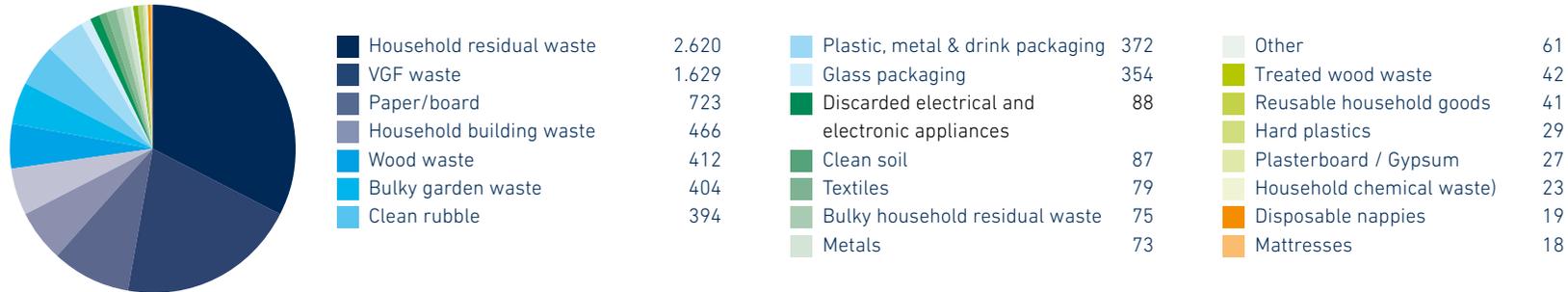
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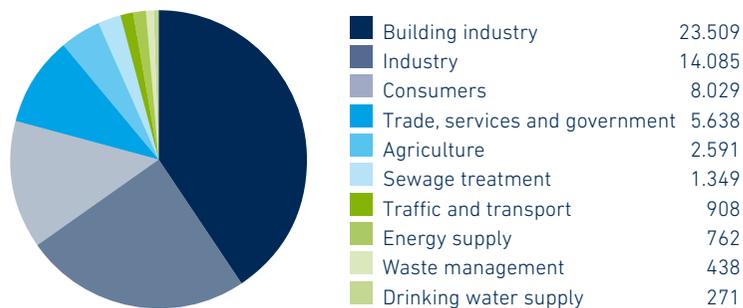
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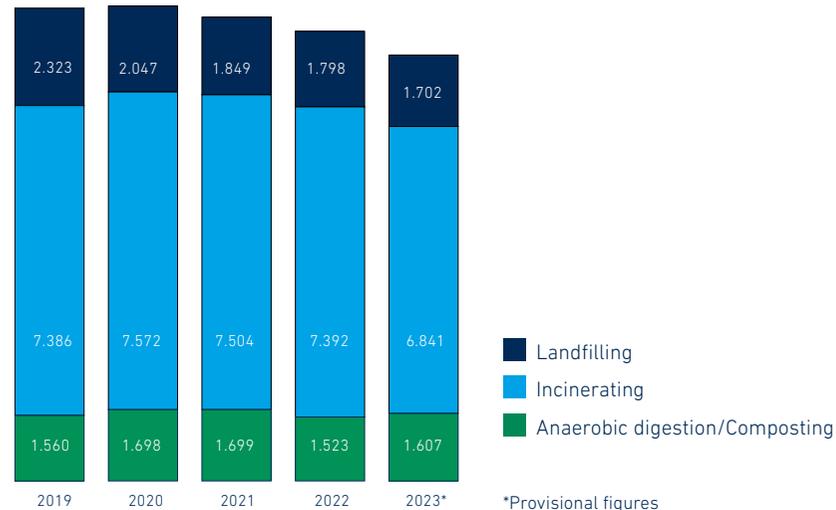
In 2023 the 8.3 million households in the Netherlands produced 8.0 million tonnes of waste (8.034 kilotonnes)



Total waste arisings in the Netherlands in 2022 (57.597 kilotonnes)



Composting, incinerating, landfilling in the Netherlands 2019-2023 (in kilotonnes)



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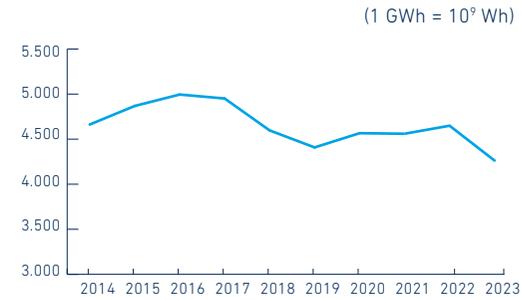
WASTE STATISTICS

Landfill rate of municipal waste in 2022

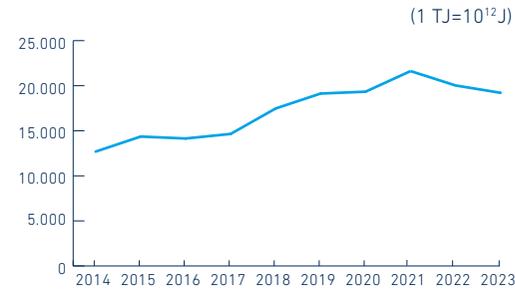
- 25% or more
- 10% to 25%
- less than 10%



Electricity produced by the Dutch waste sector (gigawatt hours)



Useful heat produced by the Dutch waste sector (terajoules)



Green gas produced by the Dutch waste sector (million m³)



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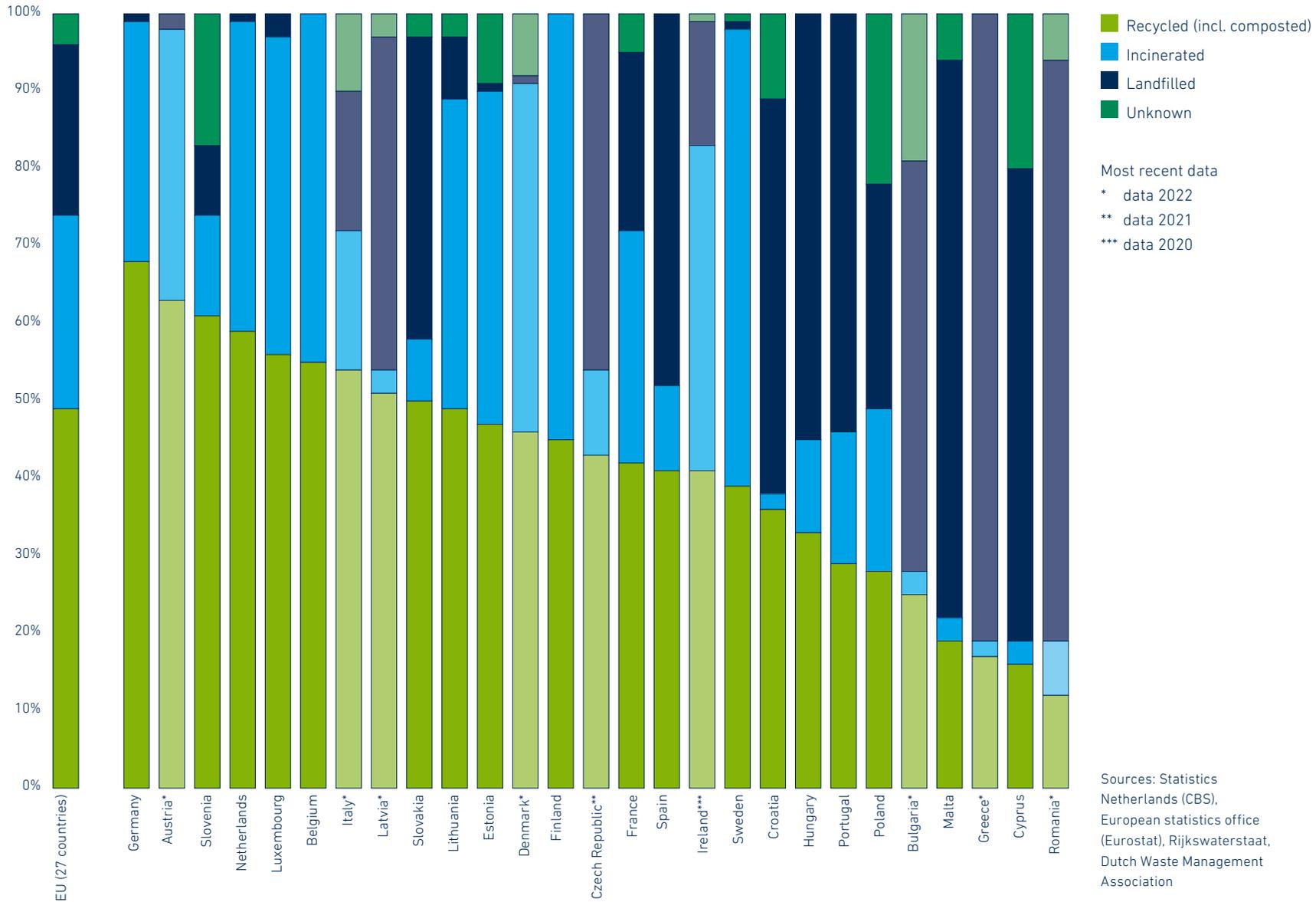
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How did the EU member states process their municipal solid waste in 2023?



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Each person in the Netherlands produces

450 kilograms of waste each year

Energy from waste accounts for **8%** of all
the **sustainable energy produced**

Turnover in the sector amounts to

11 billion euros per year

The waste sector provides **employment**
for more than **30,000** people

Approx. **80%** of all waste arisings in the Netherlands,
almost **60 million tonnes**, are recycled

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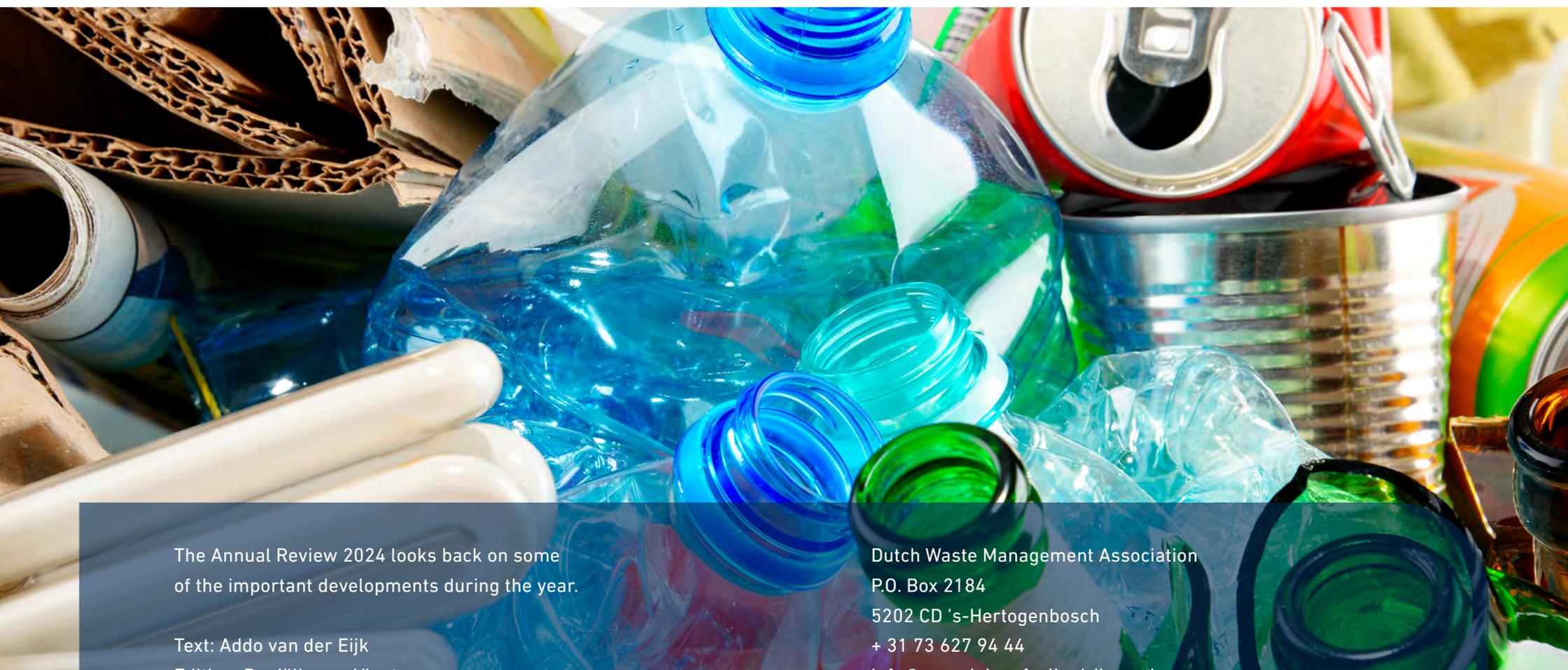
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Vereniging Afvalbedrijven

Partner in de circulaire economie



The Annual Review 2024 looks back on some of the important developments during the year.

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