

# From waste to sustainable materials management?

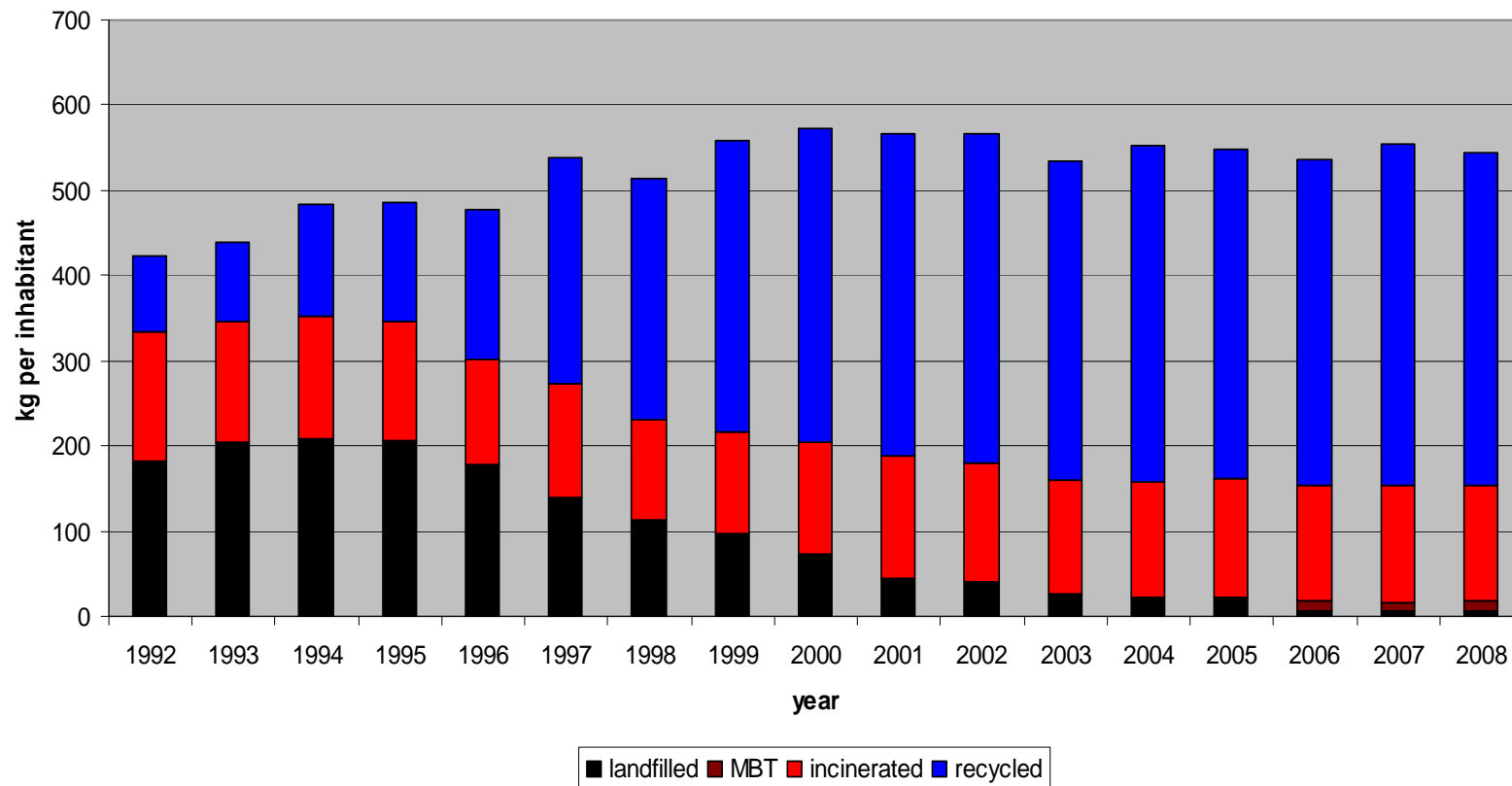
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# Quantities of household waste generated and treated in Flanders



## Factors of success: work on all steps of the hierarchy

- Landfilling: landfill ban and taxes
- Incineration: incineration ban, taxes and capacity planning
- Recycling: separate collection, extensive collection schemes, polluter pays principle, communication, targets, extended producer responsibility, end of waste criteria
- Reuse: extensive network of reuse centres
- Prevention: communication, subsidies and waste collection charging

## Main challenges

- Further reduce landfilling of combustible industrial waste
- Step up recycling of industrial waste
- Reduce the amount of waste produced
- Reduce the environmental impact over the complete life cycle (resource efficiency)
- Create sustainable material cycles in a finite world

End of life approach



fully integrated approach

## New developments...

- Globalisation of waste/materials markets
- climate change - decreasing biodiversity - resource scarcity have become crucial topics
- different policy frameworks are coming together
  - waste policy (life cycle thinking, end of waste/byproducts, energy recovery, prevention and ecodesign)
  - product policy (ecodesign, REACH)
  - energy policy (renewable energy, energy efficiency)
  - economic and innovation policy (resource scarcity)
- shift in responsibilities (consumers, producers, waste handlers, authorities)

## ...require new approaches

- Life cycle thinking
- Chain management approach
  - promote cooperation between different actors in a material cycle
- Create new markets
  - green public procurement
  - standard setting
  - product criteria
  - internalisation of costs
- Promote new business models
  - product/service combinations
  - supply chain management
- ecodesign of products and material cycles

## ...and new paradigms

- From “how do we treat waste in an environmentally sound way”
  - Waste management
- To “how can we can we make the best possible use of the finite materials we have available?” and “how can we design material cycles for eternity?”
  - Materials management

## Conclusions

- Considerable room for improvement for stepping up recycling with well known and proven “classical” instruments
- Main new challenge is reducing amounts of waste produced and environmental impact over complete life cycle
  - More integration of policies towards material policies
  - More cooperation between actors in a life cycle
  - Innovation in business
  - New forms of governance
  - New ways of monitoring and laying down objectives