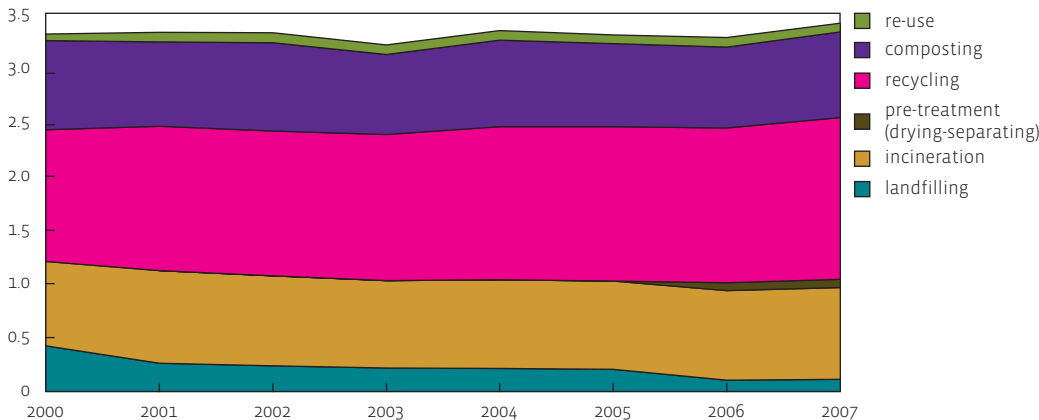




amount of household waste (million tonnes)



up to and including 2000: excluding small hazardous waste

Source: OVAM

Most household waste is recycled, composted or incinerated

Preventing waste is the first priority of the waste policy. Waste that cannot be prevented should be treated with the greatest possible respect for the environment. Re-use comes first, followed by recycling and composting. After that comes incineration with energy recovery. Landfilling is the last option.

Of the total amount of household waste collected in 2007, 2 % went to re-use, 24 % to composting, 44 % to recycling, 2 % towards pre-treatment (drying-separation), 25 % to incineration with energy recovery and 3 % to landfills.

Landfill remains limited

The proportion of household waste incinerated and composted has remained fairly constant since 2000. The proportion recycled increased slightly, from 37 to 44 %. The proportion of household waste landfilled decreased slightly between 2001 and 2005, from 8 to 6 %. Since 1 January 2006 the ban on landfilling for non-recyclable flammable household waste has been more strictly applied. As a result, the proportion of household waste landfilled decreased to 3 % in 2006. In 2007, the proportion landfilled remained the same.

amount of household waste (ktonnes)	1991	2000	2004	2005	2006	2007
re-use	50	59	85	82	88	80
composting/recycling	351	2 050	2 228	2 205	2 188	2 301
pre-treatment (drying-separating)	0	0	0	1	72	73
incineration	844	784	822	817	833	855
landfilling	1 094	423	214	207	104	112
total	2 339	3 317	3 349	3 311	3 284	3 420