

PRICING OF THE MANAGEMENT OF HOUSEHOLD AND SIMILAR WASTE

The application of taxes/fees on household and similar waste¹ is aimed in particular at preventing the generation of such waste. In Wallonia, legislation specifies that the costs of household waste management must fall directly on beneficiaries.

Most municipalities observe the "true-cost"

Pursuant to the Decree of 27/06/1996², Walloon municipalities must pass on all the costs of managing household waste to beneficiaries *via* the establishment of municipal tax regulations. Since 2012, the coverage rate of the true-cost must be between 95% and 110%. Municipalities that do not comply with the set rate may have their regional subsidies for waste prevention and management reduced. In 2015, only one Walloon municipality (Écaussinnes, with a coverage rate of 94%) did not comply with what was stipulated in the decree on the basis of its forecasted budget³. However, on the basis of the final municipal accounts, 24 Walloon municipalities presented a coverage rate of the true-cost outside the limits set by the regulations, in 2015.

A fee structure, 262 different tax regulations

Pricing for the management of household and similar waste includes a flat-rate component (to finance the minimum service: collection and treatment of a certain quantity of waste, access to container parks, etc.) and a variable component which is proportional to the volume of waste produced (chargeable bag/bag with sticker: 55% of Walloon municipalities and 69% of the Walloon population in 2015), or to the weight of waste produced (dual container: 45% of Walloon municipalities and 31% of the Walloon population in 2015). The introduction of a single pricing structure guarantees a uniform level of quality in terms of the services available throughout Wallonia. However, the costing of these

services varies greatly from one municipality to another.

What factors influence the evolution of UHR production?

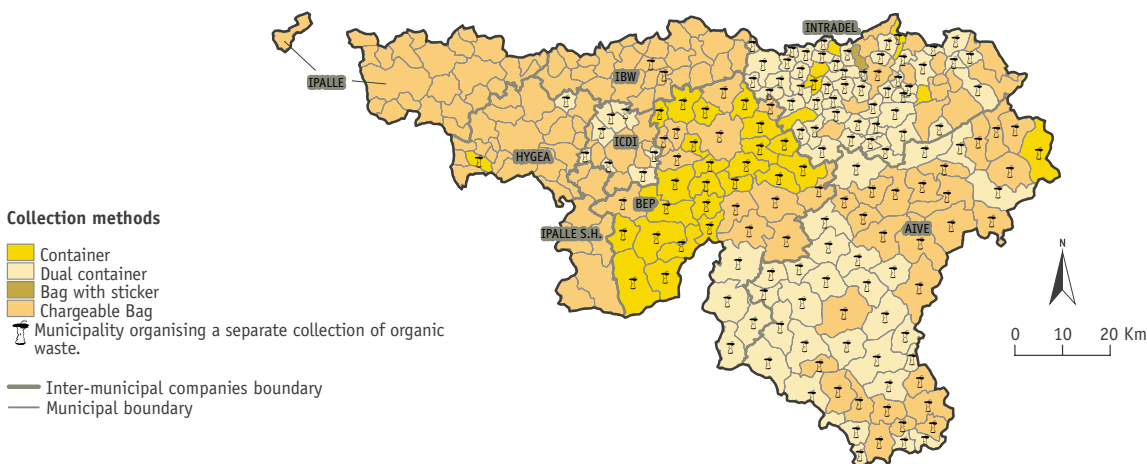
According to a study carried out in Wallonia in 2010⁴, the mode of pricing of unsorted household refuse (UHR) and the typology of municipalities (agricultural, industrial, residential, tourist or urban municipality) are the two factors that have the greatest influence on the quantity of UHR produced. In addition, the study shows that weight-based pricing generates less UHR (from 108 to 136 kg/(inhab.year)) than volume-based pricing (from 170 to 181 kg/(inhab.year)).

Towards a generalised collection of organic waste

In 2015, nearly 6 out of 10 municipalities organised a separate collection (SC) of organic waste. This service was not uniformly distributed throughout the territory: the majority of the municipalities of Hainaut and Walloon Brabant did not yet offer it. The generalisation of SC for organic waste is planned for 2025 as part of the next Walloon Waste-Resources Plan⁵. This generalisation will make it possible to reduce even more the quantities of UHR⁶ and ultimately the final amount of the invoice payable by beneficiaries.

[¹] → HOUSE 9 | [²] Waste Decree | [³] Following the adoption of the Decree of 23/06/2016, regional subsidies are now conditional on the respect of the true-cost on the basis of the provisional budgets with a retroactive effect to 01/01/2013 | [⁴] RDC Environment, 2010b | [⁵] PWD-R: enacted by the Walloon Government on 16/06/2016 | [⁶] → Map 59

Map 58 Methods of collection of unsorted household waste* and organic waste (2015)



* General waste bin