

MANAGEMENT OF INDUSTRIAL WASTE

Due to their specificity and complexity, some industrial waste must be redirected to specialised treatment processes. Among the various treatments that can be applied to them, recovery is explored for both environmental and economic reasons.

The data come from the results of the Integrated Environmental Survey² covering a non-representative constant sample of 138 establishments from the extractive, manufacturing, and energy generation industries in Wallonia. Certain establishments in the tertiary sector have also been surveyed in view of the industrial nature of their activities.

Almost all waste is recovered

According to the survey, the recovery rate of industrial waste was estimated at an average of 92% over the period 1995 - 2013. This waste was mainly recovered for its content in materials, primarily non-metallic (mainly vegetable waste and residues from thermal operations). Waste classified as non-hazardous and hazardous was recovered at 91.8% and 82.6% respectively.

Different performance across sectors

In 2013, almost ¾ of the recovered waste was processed by the sub-sectors of metallurgy, non-metallic minerals and food processing, the main sub-sectors generating industrial waste. Analysis within each sub-sector showed that extractive industries, metallurgy, food processing, wood processing and non-metallic minerals had the highest recovery rates (> 95%). As regards non-recovered waste, industrialists have often

opted for depositing in technical landfill sites (*centre d'enfouissement technique - CET*), except for waste from the extractive industry (primarily mined areas), which is generally put back in place at the extraction site itself.

Main determinants of the recovery rate

The average recovery rate of industrial waste is high, but nevertheless depends on the existence of sufficient tonnages of homogeneous waste, the organisation of sorting at source, knowledge of the physico-chemical characteristics of waste, the presence of capable recovery systems and the economic value of waste.

New objectives

The next Walloon Waste-Resource Plan² envisages, *inter alia*, a legal framework to grant product status to waste that can be used as resources/raw materials in industry, to increase the sorting of industrial packaging and to prohibit the depositing of industrial waste in CET if energy can be recovered from it.

^[1] ICEDD, 2016a | ^[2] PWD-R: enacted by the Walloon Government on 16/06/2016

Fig. WASTE 5-1 Management of industrial waste in Wallonia*

