



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Households throw more away

Municipal refuse collection services collected 3% more waste from households in 1998 than in 1997: a total eight million tons, the equivalent of 515 kilos per inhabitant. Provisional figures from Statistics Netherlands show that the increase is mainly caused by larger amounts of builders' waste from house conversions and extensions, and more used paper. Remarkably the amount of compostable waste collected fell slightly after years of growth. Nearly twice as many large household appliances were collected than in 1997.

More builders' refuse

The increase in the total amount of household waste is less than in previous years. The largest increase was for waste matter generated during the reconstruction and conversion of dwellings, +17%. The reason behind this is the increasing number of conversions and extensions of houses in recent years.

Over 1 million tons of paper collected

The amount of used paper collected rose by over 40% in the period 1995-1998. Last year the amount of used paper and cardboard rose by 11% to over 1 million tons.

Kitchen and garden waste down for the first time

Remarkably, the collected amount of compostable waste fell by 2% in 1998 after years of increasing. Two out of every three municipalities collected less compostable waste than in 1997. Overall nearly 100 kilos of compostable waste were collected per inhabitant.

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