Charging for waste

Lessons from Flanders

Financing the Future of Local Government,
London, 30.09.2008

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This Presentation

- Our results
- Cost Flemish waste management policy
- Systems for pay-as-you-throw
- Evolution of tariffs
- Why variable charging?
- Reaction of the public
- Conclusions

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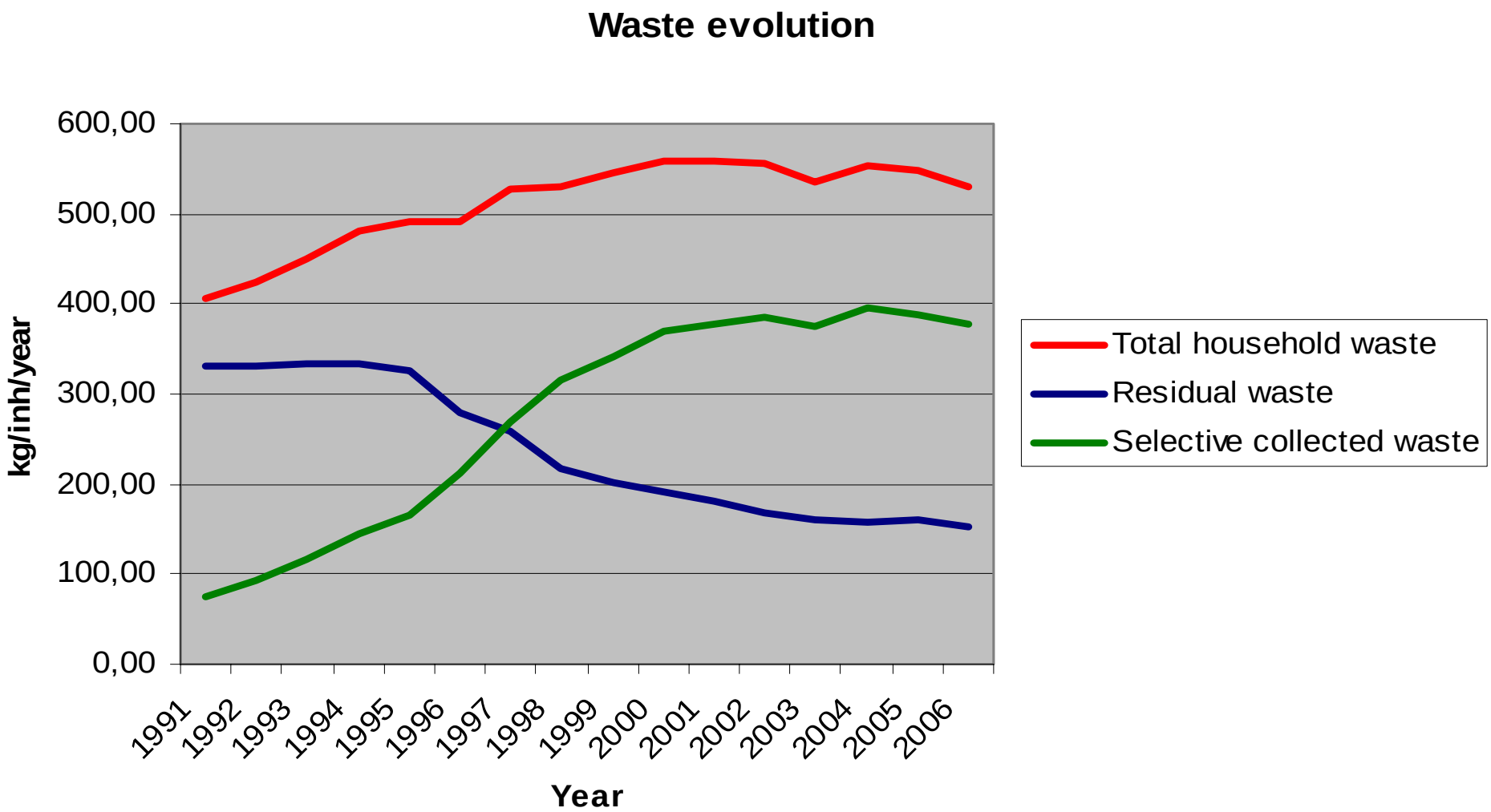
Flemish waste management: Results (1)



Flemish waste management: Results (2)

	2006	1991
Production	531 kg /inhabitant/year	406 kg /inhabitant/year
Separate collection (total)	377 kg /inhabitant/year > 71 %	75 kg /inhabitant/year = 18 %

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Total cost Flemish waste policy

- On average € 220 per household per year (1 household = 2,45 persons)
  - In the past: all costs financed from either the general budget or from a fixed waste tax
- Now (average):
  - € 36 paid through producer responsibility schemes
  - € 184 paid through municipalities
    - 1/3 taxes related to the amount of waste (PAYT)
    - 1/3 fixed waste tax/household: in 2005 on average € 60 / household / year
    - 1/3 general municipal budget
  - Variable charging is applied in ALL municipalities

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Systems for PAYT

- Systems for PAYT:
  - Compulsory use of a household waste bag of a given volume; sold at a certain price
  - To weigh and register the household waste container when emptied
  - To count the number of times that a container is emptied
  - Now also weighing systems on collection sites
- Waste for disposal: average 1,3 EUR/bag; packaging waste: 0,25 EUR/bag; VFG: 1 EUR/bag; paper and glass: free

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Evolution of tariffs

- Average cost of bag for residual waste (60 l.)

Year	1996	1998	2000	2003	2005	2006
€ / bag	0,44	0,60	0,66	1,14	1,22	1,25

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Why variable charging?

- Creating an incentive for better sorting and prevention of waste
  - Environmental benefit
  - Economical benefit
- Covering variable costs through a variable revenue
- Socially fairer !

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Reaction of the public

- Introduction: resistance…
  - Communication before = information
  - Communication afterwards = discussion
- BUT: most people do not know how much waste they produce nor the alternatives they have
- After one year: accepted as a good and fair system by a large majority of the public
- PAYT is not causing more littering

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Conclusions

- Charging for waste
  - Good measure (ecological, financial, social) !
  - Apply a tariff, accepted by the public
  - Needs some political courage
  - Is an economical instrument, to be used in a mix of other environmental policy measures (communication, providing a good service, …)

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