Bin2Bean

Practice abstract 13

SCAN ME!

How is Amsterdam managing biowaste?

*The **Living Labs** of **Amsterdam, Hamburg, and Egaleo** serve as inspiration and experimental testbeds for the Bin2Bean project. They help explore how different cities address waste system challenges and implement solutions for organic waste recycling.*
*This abstract, dedicated to **Amsterdam Living Lab**, dives into these questions through the lens of policy guidelines and roadmaps.*

The Netherlands' Waste Management

In the Netherlands, the Environmental Management Act provides the legal basis for environmental policy, including municipal waste management through the National Waste Management Plan (LAP). Dutch policy prioritises separate collection, requiring municipalities to collect bio-waste separately from households and businesses.

Amsterdam Living Lab case

Amsterdam, with over 900,000 residents across 220 km², faces significant waste challenges due to high density, waterways, and limited space for containers. Underground infrastructure further restricts bin placement, especially in the city centre. The city's seven districts manage waste collection independently, leading to different systems and bin types. As a result, bio-waste collection remains limited, with about 98% of food waste still incinerated.

Waste fees are a flat rate: as of May 2025, single households pay €352 per year and larger households €469, providing no financial incentive for separation. Initiatives such as "Afval naar Oogst" encourage voluntary food waste separation by allowing residents to bring organic scraps to community gardens for composting.

Bin2Bean Living Lab activities aim to improve separation and collection through technical and social innovations. A project lab is developing a kitchen sink grinder to reduce waste volume and recover up to 65% of dry matter for use in gardens and agriculture. The project also conducts life cycle assessments, socio-economic analysis, and business modelling using local datasets to support municipal decision-making.

Project partners

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originally published on

Co-funded by the European Union

EU CAP NETWORK

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