

New developments in the policy
on contaminated soil in the
Netherlands

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Renewed soil protection Act

- Renewed soil protection Act in final phase in Parliamentary debate.
- New in the Act:
 - the obligation of soil remediation for industrial owners, combined with financial arrangements
 - aftercare
 - fit for use remediation

Create a clean soil and healthy environment for all

- The users or owners of the site can link the remediation to their own investment plans
- The risk will be assessed by means of a tiered approach
- The overall goal is: create a clean soil and healthy environment for all

Scale of soil pollution nationwide

- Several inventories of contaminated sites have been made
- The most recent estimate is that 600.000 sites are seriously contaminated
- 60.000 of them need remediation

General soil policy

- dec 2003 policy letter to parliament:
 - the various aspects of soil protection and management linked together, including biological and physical aspects
 - target: sustainable soil use
 - harmonising soil capacity and vulnerability with human use functions
 - holistic approach, integrating
 - spatial planning (including underground space),
 - water management,
 - urban development, nature and agriculture
 - regional projects

Excavated soil

- The policy document How to deal with contaminated excavated soil is presently under review.
- New elements:
 - Soil and sludge in one system
 - Reuse of soil/sludge not longer part of Building material decree
 - Nation wide soil management plans.