



BELGIUM



Water & Waste Water Market Brief 2008

Belgium: Important Links & Contacts

Belgian federal government's Ministry of the Environment: www.health.fgov.be
Flanders Regional Waste Management Agency: www.ovam.be
Wallonia Ministry of Environment, Waste Management Agency: www.environnement.wallonie.be
Environmental administration for the Brussels region: www.ibgebim.be

IFEST October, 2010 (every two years) :www.ifest.be (IFEST is Belgium's main international fair on environmental technologies).



Market Overview

The Kingdom of Belgium is one of the most densely populated and heavily industrialized nations in the world. Roughly the size of Maryland, Belgium has a population of 10.5 million. Belgium's small area and dense population has created an acute environmental awareness, consistently ranking this smaller European nation as one of the top 20 destinations for U.S. environmental exports.

Since 2002, U.S. exports of environmental technology to its Top 20 destinations have grown over 50%, keeping pace with the overall growth of the global market. Exports to Belgium have likewise kept pace with this global growth rate. By year-end 2007, U.S. environmental exports to Belgium stood at over \$500 million, generally following this breakdown: 40% water/wastewater, 30% air pollution control, and 24% solid waste and recycling. Exports included products, chemicals and supplies. Opportunities were also realized with services, primarily consulting and engineering. Predominant product exports to Belgium from the U.S. in the water sector generally fall into HST numbers 8413 (pumps, submersible pumps, centrifugal pumps), 8421 (water filtering apparatus and parts), and 8481 (all types of taps, cocks and valves).

The Belgian water treatment market is comprised of industrial and residential wastewater and drinking water treatment, and includes both equipment and services. Recently, the three regions of Belgium--Flanders, Wallonia, and Brussels--implemented major infrastructure projects and made considerable investments aimed at the treatment of virtually all wastewater by 2010. While the Belgian water treatment market is very developed with limited opportunities expansion, water and wastewater treatment equipment and supplies dominated the nearly \$500 million of U.S. environmental exports to Belgium in 2007. The best prospects for American companies are in equipment and supplies. It is recommended to approach the Belgian market through partnerships, strategic alliances and joint ventures with local firms.

Best Prospects

- Safe sludge treatment and disposal equipment including filter presses, dewatering tables, belt presses centrifuges
- Home and small commercial point of use water filtration systems
- Domestic water saving technologies for shower and toilet applications
- Water treatment system components (to be assembled by local engineering companies)
- Ozone generators

For More Information

U.S. Embassy to Belgium
U.S. Commercial Service

Stéphane P. Croigny
Commercial Advisor
27 Boulevard Du Régent
BE-1000 Brussels, Belgium
Tel: +32.2.508.2456
Fax: +32.2.512.3644
stephane.Croigny@mail.doc.gov
Website: www.buyusa.gov/belgium