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**THE DUTCH ENVIRONMENTAL ACCOUNTS: PRESENT STATUS AND FUTURE
DEVELOPMENTS**

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THE DUTCH ENVIRONMENTAL ACCOUNTS: PRESENT STATUS AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

Abstract

Environmental accounting relates environmental data to the national accounts. This enables consistent comparison of environmental and economic indicators. Work areas range from accounts for natural resources such as the extraction of oil and gas to material use and emissions data such as CO₂ and waste. The environmental accounts are internationally comparable through common frameworks, concepts and methods.

Statistics Netherlands has a long history in environmental accounting at the national accounts department. This culminated in the introduction of the National Accounting Matrix including Environmental Accounts (NAMEA) in 1991. In this paper the history of the Dutch environmental accounts is discussed, as well as the future extensions which are currently envisaged.

At present, the core publication of the Dutch environmental accounts consist of six parts, namely the NAMEA-matrix, detailed emission accounts for NAMEA, the water accounts (NAMWA), energy accounts, waste accounts and environmental tax accounts. The NAMEA consists of a conventional National Accounts Matrix (NAM), extended with two accounts on the environment: a substance account and an account for environmental themes. NAMWA is a further specification of NAMEA for water, using the same accounting structure.

At present, Statistics Netherlands is extending the system of environmental accounts based on the System of Environmental and Economic Accounting (SEEA). This extension includes projects on subsoil accounts, physical accounts, water accounts, eco-industry accounts, waste accounts, energy accounts, land use accounts, environmental tax en subsidy accounts as well as macro-economic analyses.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1. Environmental accounting integrates environmental data with the national accounts. Accordingly environmental data can be directly compared with macro-economic indicators such as GDP. Work areas range from accounts for natural resources such as the extraction of oil and gas to material use and emissions data such as CO₂ and waste. The environmental accounts are internationally comparable through common frameworks, concepts and methods.

2. Environmental accounting has a long history of international coordination culminating in the System of Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting (SEEA, 2003). The SEEA handbook was produced to provide an overview of a variety of environmental accounts. Recently, the *UN Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting* (UNCEEA) was established. The main objectives of this committee are to elevate the system of environmental accounts to an international statistical standard and to advance the implementation of SEEA in all countries. In Europe, Eurostat has indicated to give high priority to the further development of the environmental accounts (Eurostat, 2005). On the national level there is also much interest in the environmental accounts, as environmental institutes and ministries use this data for environmental-economic analyses and policy development.

3. Since initial work in the early 1990s, Statistics Netherlands has gradually extended the Dutch system of environmental accounts. This paper provides an overview of the current status of the environmental accounts in the Netherlands and new developments in this area. This paper proceeds as follows. In Chapter 2 the history of environmental accounting in the Netherlands is discussed. Chapter 3 further elaborates on the current status of the Dutch environmental accounts, namely the NAMEA and its two principle components the air emission accounts and the water accounts. In Chapter 4 a summary is presented of new projects that are currently under way. Finally, conclusions are drawn in Chapter 5.

2. HISTORY OF THE DUTCH ENVIRONMENTAL ACCOUNTS

4. In 1991 an illustrative NAMEA (National accounting matrix including environmental accounts) was presented for the first time (De Boo, Bosch, Gorter and Keuning, 1993), according to the conceptual design by Keuning (1993). The original design contained a complete system of national flow accounts, including a full set of income distribution and use accounts, accumulation accounts and changes in balance sheet accounts. At a conceptual level, not only emissions of pollutants and extraction of natural resources are represented, but also their effects.

5. A distinction was made between effects of current emissions that are absorbed in the current period (noise, stench, etc.), current effects of emissions in the past (e.g. leakage from a garbage dump), net capital losses due to natural causes (e.g. a severe drought), referable damage - to economic assets and to other, natural assets - due to environmental effects, and non-referable degradation to non-economic, natural assets. All these transactions were summarized in additional balancing items, culminating in a new total for the changes in net worth.

6. Soon, it became clear that insufficient data were available for an immediate operationalization of this conceptual framework. For that reason, it was decided to compile a more modest pilot-NAMEA, making use of the work done at the Dutch Ministry of Housing, Spatial planning and the Environment (1989). This Ministry had developed a so-called national environment policy plan, in which a number of environmental themes were distinguished. For each of these themes a single indicator had been designed, by weighing together the emissions that contributed to each theme (Adriaanse, 1993). The conversion of emissions into theme equivalents was based on the expected contribution of each polluting substance to a particular environmental theme. By the time the first NAMEA was compiled, this environment policy plan

had been approved by Dutch Parliament. In 1993, the first NAMEA became available (De Haan, Keuning and Bosch, 1994), and the present NAMEAs largely maintained this format (see for example De Haan and Keuning, 1996).

7. Statistics Netherlands has published detailed NAMEAs for the years 1990 to 2004 (for the most recent publication see CBS, 2007). In these publications, the following themes are considered: the greenhouse effect, ozone layer depletion, acidification, eutrophication, waste, wastewater and the exploration of crude oil and natural gas.

8. During the 1990s and the early 2000s, a number of pilot projects were performed to extend the system of environmental accounts. Following a pilot project in 1997, the Dutch system of environmental accounts was extended in 2002 with the National Accounting Matrix including Water Accounts (NAMWA). Other pilot projects have focussed on energy (Verduin, 2000), land use (Leurs and van Dalen, 1998), subsoil accounts (Van den Berg and van de Ven, 2001), dispersion of toxic substances (Seegers et al., 2000), material flow accounts (Konijn et al., 1995, 1997) and environmental taxes (De Haan, 2004).

9. In 2004 new resources became available at Statistics Netherlands to further expand the environmental accounts. In 2004 and 2005 energy accounts, environmental tax accounts and waste accounts were developed and implemented, while the air emission accounts and the water emission accounts were further extended. In 2006 the first electronic publication for the environmental accounts was published, which will appear annually. In 2007 the first modules of the environmental accounts were published on Stat Line, the electronic database for Statistics Netherlands that is available to the public.

3. PRESENT STATUS OF THE DUTCH ENVIRONMENTAL ACCOUNTS

3.1 Introduction

10. Table 3.1 gives an overview of the different environmental accounts that are developed at Statistics Netherlands. Some of these components are already implemented, others are still being developed. They are discussed in more detail below.

Table 3.1: Overview of the different environmental accounts in the Netherlands, implemented and under development.

	Implemented	Work in progress
Physical flow accounts		
energy accounts	x	
physical water accounts		x
Material flow accounts		x
Air emission accounts	x	
water emission accounts	x	
Waste accounts	x	
Nutrient (N and P) accounts	x	
Asset accounts		
Subsoil accounts for oil and gas		x
Monetary accounts		
Environmental tax accounts	x	
Environmental protection expenditure accounts	x	x
Environmental subsidy accounts		x
Eco -industry accounts		x
Other		
Analyses		x
Indicators		x

3.2 *Energy accounts*

11. Traditionally, most countries compile two kinds of energy statistics. First of all, the energy balances provide in the form of energy flow tables a complete overview of the supply and use of energy on a national level. On a detailed level by industry and by energy source the receipts, the aim of use and the total deliverance of the energy source is recorded. Secondly, countries compile the National Accounts, which record all monetary flows associated with energy (production of energy, intermediate use by industries, final use by households, etc.). Ideally, data from the physical energy statistics (energy balances) should be consistent with the monetary data from the National Accounts. However, there are two main reasons why this is not the case. First of all, differences in classifications and definitions make a direct comparison between the two data sets impossible. Secondly, the source information for these two statistics usually originate from two different and separate data flows. This causes all kinds of inconsistencies, for example because of differences in the sample size of the underlying survey, up scaling factors, consistency procedures etc.

12. In order to circumvent these problems the so-called *energy accounts* have been developed. The energy accounts represent a consistent framework in which energy data, both in monetary and physical terms, have been integrated into the national accounting framework. The supply and use tables, part of the system of National Accounts, provide an overall accounting structure for the energy accounts in values and quantities. The energy accounts provide a complete overview of the supply and use of energy commodities of the Dutch economy. Data are presented for 58 industries, households, stock changes and imports and exports.

13. In the Netherlands a new methodology was developed to compile the energy accounts. Physical data, derived from the energy statistics, have been combined with price information to calculate the monetary energy values. These energy values have subsequently been implemented into the National Accounts. By combining these two data sources, a systematic framework is created containing consistent and harmonised monetary and physical energy data.

3.3 *Air emission accounts*

14. As yet, the most developed environmental accounts in the Netherlands are the air emission accounts. The air emission accounts show the origin and destination of air emissions of CO₂, CH₄, N₂O, CFK's, NO₃, SO₂, NH₃, NMVOS, CO and fine dust.

15. In the Netherlands air emissions are centrally recorded in a database called the Dutch Pollutant Emission Registration. Several institutes take part in the gathering of emission data and the composition of the database. A number of statistical sources are used to compute the emissions and to add more detail by specifying the data by branch of industry. Air emissions caused by stationary and mobile sources are recorded separately as for both sources a different methodology is followed. Physical data on the use of energy play a crucial role in the final estimations of the air emissions. In the case of the stationary sources Statistics Netherlands is responsible for the estimation of emission totals specified by industry classification. As the major part of air emissions are related to the combustion of fossil energy sources the statistic on Energy supply in the Netherlands is used to gross up the data which were originally measured at the polluting location.

16. Air emissions related to mobile sources are mainly based on transport statistics. For example in the case of road vehicles the emissions are modelled from data on the annual distance travelled by type of vehicle combined with specific use and technical data on the related amount of emissions. Still there is a strong relation with the energy statistics as the overall use of transport fuels is a result of the Dutch energy balance sheet.

17. Still there is a difference in definition. The registration of emissions and energy is restricted to the area within the Dutch borders. However due to international transport activity part of emissions aboard are caused by Dutch residents. These emissions have to be taken into account following the rules of the National Accounts. Using several statistical sources on the purchase of fuels aboard, the distances travelled aboard, these emissions are composed and attributed to the responsible economic activity. From the results it turns out that 10 % of the CO₂ emissions caused by Dutch residents are produced aboard. The difference between the emissions in the Netherlands and the emissions caused by the residents are made visible in a bridge table (Table 2).

18. In a recent project, a transport module was developed for the environmental accounts to allocate the air emissions from mobile sources to the different kind of industries and households. Mobile sources represent the different transport modes that generate emissions of a number of air emissions. In the transport module the energy use from mobile sources (road transport, water transport, air transport) is determined by distributing the total energy use over the industries and households. The emission factors for the different gasses are applied to the energy subdivision in order to be able to calculate the emissions from mobile sources. In the transport module, the emissions are calculated according to the definitions of the National Accounts. Therefore both the emissions produced within the national territory as emissions produced outside the national territory will be determined.

Table 3.2: Bridge table for CO₂ emissions for the Netherlands

		2001	2002	2003*	2004*
Emissions by residents	1	202187	201258	203732	206253
Residents in the rest of the world	2=3+4+5	22173	21722	20967	21016
Transport by road	3	5165	5236	5129	5363
Air transport (incl. defence activities)	4	11445	11289	10998	10380
Water transport	5	5564	5197	4839	5273
Non-residents in the Netherlands	6=7+8+9	6846	6962	7043	6987
Transport by road	7	1918	1925	1844	1794
Air transport	8	278	308	317	316
Water transport	9	4650	4729	4882	4878
Emissions in the Netherlands	10=1-2+6	186860	186498	189808	192224

3.4 Water accounts (NAMWA)

19. Since a number of years, the demand for information about the economic value of water and the wider economic consequences of water policy and management has increased rapidly. In Europe, the introduction of the European Water Framework Directive (WFD) has given this demand an important impulse. The Water Framework Directive is one of the first European directives in the domain of water, which explicitly acknowledges the important role of economics in water policy and management. In order to meet this growing demand, Statistics Netherlands has developed an integrated water economics information system called the National Accounting Matrix including Water Accounts (NAMWA).

20. Following a pilot project in 1997 (De Haan, 1997), the Dutch system of environmental accounts was extended in 2002 with the water accounts. Statistics Netherlands and the National Institute for Integrated Water Management and Wastewater Treatment (RIZA) are working together on the development of a new integrated river basin information system. NAMWA is a further specification of NAMEA for water, using the same accounting structure. The Dutch water accounts present information at the level of the four main river basin districts in the Netherlands: Meuse, Scheldt, Ems, Rhine-North,

Rhine-West, Rhine-East and Rhine-Centre. The Dutch water accounts are published annually by Statistics Netherlands. RIZA uses the water accounts for making reports for the Water Framework Directive.

21. The NAMWA-matrix consists of 10 monetary accounts and 4 physical accounts. The first two physical accounts for the emission of substances and water extraction and discharge represent the flows. The third physical account for water extraction and discharge describes changes in stocks, while the fourth physical account for emissions describes the contribution of various substances to 'environmental themes' such as eutrophication or the dispersion of heavy metals in water.

22. By linking water and substance flows to economic flows and doing this systematically for a number of years, insight is gained into the (nature of the) relationship between our physical water systems and the economy. The integration of physical and economic information also allows the construction of integrated indicators. For instance, water use by various economic sectors can be related to the economic interests involved. It is this integration of water and economy at river basin level, which makes NAMWA an important information tool to support policy and decision-making in the field of integrated water management as advocated by the WFD. By linking information about the physical pressures exerted on the water system by economic agents and the associated economic interests, NAMWA enables policy makers and water managers at national and river basin scale in a consistent way to assess the necessary measures to reduce these pressures and meet the environmental objectives in the WFD in an integrated way. NAMWA offers opportunities to analyse the trade-offs between environmental goals and the economic interests involved at the relevant level of analysis, i.e. river basins.

3.5 *Waste accounts*

23. Solid waste may contribute to a range of environmental problems and therefore the composition of waste is relevant. Statistics Netherlands has decided extent the waste accounts of the environmental accounts. In comparison to the waste accounts in the current environmental accounts several improvements in the coverage of waste flows were made. Firstly, the number of reported NACE categories increase from about 40 to about 60. Secondly, about 70 different waste types, divided in hazardous and non-hazardous waste, are distinguished. The categorization of waste types is according to the new European waste regulation. This waste harmonized categorization facilitates comparisons between countries. Thirdly, another main extension to the current waste accounts is the implementation of cross-boundary waste flows. Fourthly, a distinction between residuals and waste products is made. As a result complete residual supply and use tables, thus including recycled residuals, can be presented in the environmental accounts.

3.6 *Environmental tax accounts*

24. The environmental taxes account identify taxes in the National Accounts that are related to the environment, using the definition and criteria set by the OECD and Eurostat. The tax revenues are classified by category (energy, transport, pollution and resource taxes) and also by industry/final use and environmental domain. Integration of environmental taxes within an overall framework will constitute the second stage of the development of the account. In the Netherlands, environmental taxes can be directly obtained from the National Accounts.

3.7 *The NAMEA*

25. The NAMEA consists of a conventional National Accounts Matrix (NAM), extended with two accounts on the environment: a substance account and an account for environmental themes. These accounts do not express transactions in monetary terms but include information on the environmental pressures as they are observed in reality: that is, in physical units. The pollution caused by producers and

consumers is shown, as well as the balance of cross-border pollution from and to the rest of the world. For the greenhouse effect and the ozone layer depletion only the pressure on the global environment is shown.

26. In addition to the environmental accounts, the other accounts in the NAMEA contain, in an aggregated form, the usual transactions of the NAM. However, in a number of cases, the receipts and outlays with a typical 'environmental character' have been singled out and reported separately, e.g. the environmental cleansing services in the goods and services account. Like in the NAM, in the NAMEA the receipts are registered on the row and the outlays in the column. The accounts are balanced: the balancing item being the totals of the receipts minus the outlays. This item has been shaded in the column of the account concerned. In this way the totals for the rows and columns are equal for all accounts and a consistent system emerges. In Figure 1 an overview is shown of the structure of the NAMEA as published in the Netherlands.

27. The so-called 'environmental themes' are represented in a separate account. The concept of the themes has been adopted from the (second) Netherlands' 'National Environmental Policy Plan' (Netherlands Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment) where they are used as an integrating framework of current environmental problems in the Netherlands. The weights reflect for each theme the potential relative stress of each substance on the environment. The substance units are converted into theme-related stress equivalents and are largely based on international research on the effects of different substances on the quality of the environment.

Figure 1: The NAMEA matrix (shaded areas are physical accounts)

ACCOUNT (classification)	Goods and services (product-groups)	Consumption of households (purposes)	Production (industry)	Generation of income (value added categories)	Distribution of income and consumption (sectors)	Capital	Taxes (types)	Rest of the world, current	Rest of the world, capital	Substances	Environmental themes	TOTAL
Goods and services (product groups)		Consumption of households	Intermediate consumption		Consumption of government	Gross capital formation		Exports (fob)				Use at purchasers' prices
Consumption of households					Consumption of households					Emission of pollutants by consumers		Consumption of households
Production	Output at basic prices									Emission of pollutants by producers		Output at basic prices
Generation of income (value added categories)			Net value added				VAT not handed over to the government	Compensation of employees from r.o.w.				Origin of generated income
Distribution of income and consumption				Net national generated income	Property income and current transfers		Taxes less subsidies	Property income and current transfers from r.o.w.				Current receipts
Capital			Consumption of fixed capital		Net national savings				Capital transfers from r.o.w.	Other domestic emission of pollutants and changes in natural resources		Capital receipts
Financial balance						National net lending (+) or net borrowing (-)			Net lending from the rest of the world			
Taxes (types)	Taxes less subsidies on products		Other taxes less subsidies on production		Current taxes on income and wealth			Current taxes on income and wealth from r.o.w.				Tax payments (less subsidies)
Rest of the world, current	Imports (cif)			Compensation of employees to r.o.w.	Property income and current transfers to r.o.w.		Current taxes on income and wealth to r.o.w.		Surplus of the nation on current transactions	Cross border pollution from r.o.w.		Current payments to the rest of the world
Rest of the world, capital						Capital transfers to r.o.w.						Capital payments to the rest of the world
Substances			Absorption by producers					Cross border pollution to r.o.w.			Contribution to environmental themes	Destination Of substances
Environmental themes						Environmental indicators						Theme-equivalents
TOTAL	Supply at purchasers' prices	Consumption of households	Input at basic prices	Destination of generated income	Current expenditures	Capital expenditures	Tax receipts (less subsidies)	Current receipts from the rest of the world	Capital receipts from the rest of the world	Origin of substances	Theme-equivalents	

4. NEW DEVELOPMENTS

4.1 *Introduction*

28. Statistics Netherlands is at present expanding the depth and breath of the environmental accounts by producing a number of accounts that are also described in the SEEA. This culminated in a plan to extend the Dutch environmental accounts which will be implemented in the period 2005-2009. This section gives an overview of the new projects that are currently executed.

4.2 *Physical water accounts*

29. One of the new projects that is initiated in 2006 are the compilation of the physical water accounts (water balances). The water balance shows the quantitative input and output flows of ground, surface and tap water. In previous years the water balance was compiled using data from the National Water Survey conducted by Statistics Netherlands once every five years. The most recent survey was conducted over 2001. This survey comprised business level data on water use by industry, mining and electricity companies. However, at present, this survey has been stopped and therefore it is necessary to investigate alternative data sources and their potential for the compilation of the water balance.

30. A promising source for compiling the water balance is found in the annual environmental reports by enterprises. These reports include a brief section on used water quantities divided into tap water, ground water and surface water. Further, a distinction is made between ground and surface water for cooling purposes and non-cooling purposes.

31. It is intended to compare the results of the National Water Survey 2001 with the environmental reports of 2001 in order to determine the suitability of these data for compiling the water balance. Further, an attempt will be made to estimate lacking data. An interesting additional advantage of the environmental reports is that they are prepared on a yearly basis, allowing the making of the water balance on a more regular basis than before.

4.3 *Subsoil accounts*

32. According to the 1995 ESA, subsoil assets (AN.212) are defined as proven reserves of mineral deposits located on or below the earth's surface that are economically exploitable given current technology and relative prices. In the absence of market prices, the value of the reserves usually has to be determined by the present value of expected net returns resulting from the commercial exploitation of those assets.

33. To estimate expected net returns in relation to subsoil assets, in practice, two alternative methods can be applied: the 'net resource rent method' and the 'government appropriation method'. In this context, 'net resource rent' stands for net operating surplus plus specific taxes less the return to fixed capital. The latter item is to be calculated as the normal rate of return to fixed capital times total net stock of fixed capital.

34. In this project new physical and monetary subsoil asset accounts for the Netherlands will be compiled for oil and gas.

4.4 *Material flow accounts*

35. The SEEA introduces three physical accounts that cover all material flows in the economy: Physical Supply and Use Tables (PSUT), Physical Input-Output Tables (PIOT) and Material Flows Accounts (MFA). The former two are similar to the monetary supply and use tables (SUT) and input-

output tables except that the tables adhere to physical balances rather than monetary balances. They therefore contain all materials that are extracted or emitted from/to the environment. They also include the physical flows of products in the economy, including recycling and packaging products (Konijn et al., 1995; Konijn et al., 1997; Hoekstra, 2005; and Hoekstra and van den Bergh, 2006).

36. Economy-wide MFA provide an aggregate overview, in tonnes, of the annual material inputs and outputs of an economy including inputs from the national environment and outputs to the environment and the physical amounts of imports and exports. Material flow accounts are one of the priority areas recommended for harmonised reporting in the EU.

37. At the end of 2007 Statistics Netherlands will tackle all three physical accounts simultaneously so that they are mutually consistent. This data set will provide detailed insight about the structure of the physical economy and could serve as a data source for detailed policy analysis on products and materials.

4.5 Land use accounts

38. Integrated asset accounts for land in physical and monetary units, including balance sheets and changes in balance sheets, will be linked to economic activities in a new land use accounting system. Land cover and land use changes are described and classified according to their economic, natural or other functions. This core set of accounts is the basis for the development of supplementary accounts focusing on, e.g., productivity and partitioning of land and biodiversity.

39. Using the results of a pilot project (Leurs and van Dalen, 1998) land use accounts will be assembled. Using new data based on GIS-formation new and more detailed land use accounts can be compiled.

4.6 Environmental subsidy accounts

40. Other economic instruments, besides environmental taxes, cover environmental subsidies, emissions permits and environmental liabilities. Contrary to the environmental tax account, they cannot be directly obtained from the National Accounts as no subdivision for the subsidies is made. Therefore, the environmental subsidies have to be obtained from additional data sources like registers. Additional problems occur when classifying certain subsidies as environmental or not.

41. In 2007 a new project has started to compile environmental subsidy accounts for the Netherlands. These accounts show the total subsidies distributed to the different industries and households. The subsidies will be classified according to the different environmental themes (energy saving, air pollution, water pollution etc.)

4.7 Eco-industry accounts

42. In order to reduce environmental pressure, environmental measures that are imposed on companies and households become increasingly stringent. The consequences of environmental measures and environmental concerns for the economy show a large interest by policymakers. On the one hand this interest focuses on the financial burden on the polluting sectors which have to invest in pollution abatement control. On the other hand they want information on the new growth sector consisting of enterprises which produce goods and services to measure, prevent, limit, minimise or correct environmental damage – the so called eco-industries. These two aspects are often referred to as the *demand and supply side* of the ‘environmental market’.

43. On the *demand side* Statistics Netherlands already collects extensive (but not complete) data on environmental protection expenditure. However, no clear picture exists of the *supply side* of the eco-industry. In order to draw such a picture data are needed on the size (in terms of employment and sales), the structure and the competitiveness of these eco-industries. These data would describe the economic significance of the sector.

44. The aim of this project is to compile eco-industry accounts, analysing the employment, value-added and environmental expenditure. The accounts will be implemented in our NAMEA framework. Specifying eco-industry in the NAMEA will show its contribution of economic activities to economic and environmental indicators. This study would follow up a study by Statistics Netherlands on environment-related employment in the Netherlands for the year 1997 (Dietz et al., 2000).

45. A first pilot project was executed in 2006. This project covered only the pollution management part of the eco-industries (CBS, 2006b). The first results showed that the environmental goods and services industry in the Netherlands accounts for 1,4 percent of total employment. A new project, to be executed in 2008, will also cover the resource part of the eco-industries.

4.8 *Analyses*

46. The environmental accounts have two advantages which make them very useful for analysis. Firstly, the data is collected in a consistent manner with the National Accounts and time series of both the monetary or labour accounts can therefore be depicted alongside the environmental indicators. Secondly, the environmental data can easily be linked to the input-output data for the Netherlands. This allows for a number of input-output modelling techniques to be used for analysis of the relationship between the economy and environment. These applications include:

1. Imputation to final demand categories. This application allows for the attribution of environmental indicators to final demand categories such as consumption and exports. The method does not only attribute the direct emissions but also the indirect emissions that were created as a result of feedback effect of the production process.
2. Impact analysis. In this type of model a “what if” question can be answered. For example, it could answer the question: “what would happen to waste generation if consumption increased by 10%”.
3. Structural decomposition analysis. In this type of analysis input-output tables from 2 years are used to identify the underlying sources of changes in emissions of waste flows. Through this method, growth of environmentally damaging emissions can be attributed to growth in technology or final demand categories.

47. The environmental accounts can also be used for more advanced environmental-economic models such as General Equilibrium models and other macro-economic models. However, since these models are beyond the scope of expertise of Statistics Netherlands these are not discussed further.

5. CONCLUSIONS

48. Environmental accounting relates environmental data to the National Accounts. This enables consistent comparison of environmental and economic indicators. Work areas range from accounts for natural resources such as the extraction of oil and gas to material use and emissions data such as CO₂ and waste. The environmental accounts are internationally comparable through common frameworks, concepts and methods.

49. Statistics Netherlands has a long history in environmental accounting at the National Accounts department. This culminated in the introduction of the National Accounting Matrix including Environmental Accounts (NAMEA) in 1991. In this paper the history and theory of the NAMEA are discussed, as well as the future extensions which are currently envisaged.

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51. At present, Statistics Netherlands is extending the system of environmental accounts based on the System of Environmental and Economic Accounting (SEEA). This extension includes projects on subsoil accounts, physical accounts, water accounts, eco-industry accounts, dispersion accounts, waste accounts, energy accounts, land use accounts, environmental tax en subsidy accounts as well as macro-economic analyses.

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