

Biowaste in the context of present and future EU policies


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Introduction – present EU policies on biowaste

Policy action
 Biowaste diversion targets – (Landfill Directive 1999/31)

Technical standards of biowaste management:
 Biological treatment – not regulated on EU level
 Landfilling – Landfill Directive (1999/31)
 Thermal treatment – Waste Incineration Directive (2000/76)

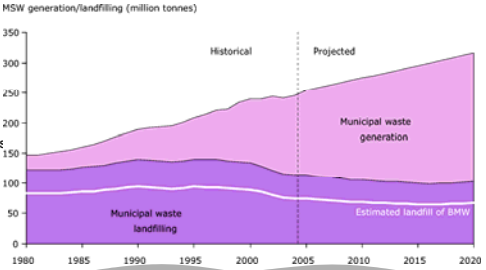


Diverting waste from landfills


- Some MS heavily rely on landfilling waste e.g. Ireland, UK, Greece, Spain & EU-12
- High number of illegal landfills in the EU - negative impact on air, water, soil (e.g. methane, leachate)
- A lot of biowaste is diverted from landfills – even more has to be done.




Projected generation and landfilling of municipal waste in the EU-25




Source: EEA, 2007




Landfill directive – distance to targets:

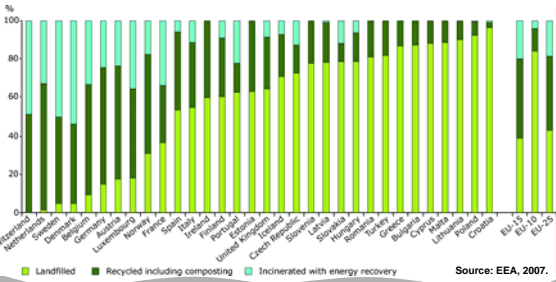
Biowaste landfilled in 2003 compared to generation in 1996




Source: CEC, 2006. EEA Landfill Brochure.

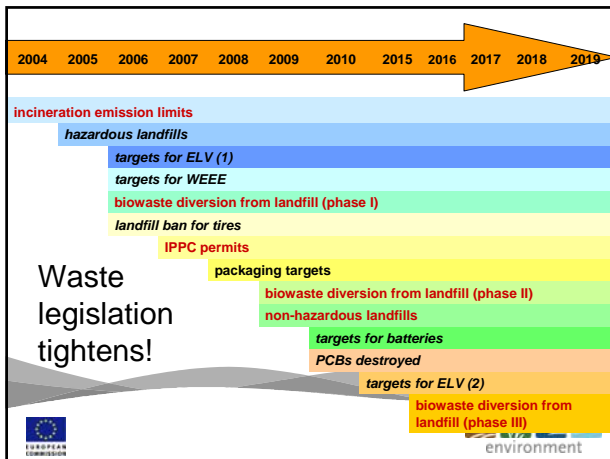


Recycling, incineration and landfilling of MSW



Source: EEA, 2007.





Current activities in area of biowaste

- End of Waste criteria – study on compost
- Revision of IPPC Directive
- Preparation of guidance on biowaste management (LCA based guidelines)

and especially...

- Revision of Waste Framework Directive
- Assessment of possible Biowaste Directive

End of Waste criteria – study on compost

- Executed by Joint Research Centre (IPTS Sevilla)
- Methodology to distinguish where waste become a product and can be excluded from waste legislation
- To be used under new Framework Directive
- Legal form still to be decided...

Revision of IPPC Directive

- Current Directive covers biological treatment only as pre-treatment before disposal
- Commission Proposal – adopted on 21 Dec. 2007 – IPPC will cover all biological treatment installations of capacity over 50 tonnes per day

Guidance on biowaste management

Reason:

- for MSW management there is NO single environmentally best option

Aim:

- To assist Public Authorities of the Member States in preparing of waste management strategies using life cycle thinking

More info

- based on scientific studies, including LCAs
- available for wide and free public use
- first results – mid-2008

Waste Framework Directive – main objectives of the revision

- Modernise and simplify waste policy
- Introduce an impact-based approach
- Introduce “end-of-waste” criteria
- Establish minimum treatment standards
- Waste prevention

Waste Framework Directive – major points of debate between institutions

Towards less disposal and more resource efficiency:

- Binding Waste Prevention Targets?
- EU wide Recycling Targets?
- Efficient energy recovery?

Moving upward in the waste hierarchy!



Waste Framework Directive – Parliament proposals on biowaste

- Priority of material recovery for biowaste
- Obligation of Member States to develop system for separate collection
- Commission shall define conditions on use of treated biowaste on land



Waste Framework Directive – Council position on biowaste

- More flexible approach – countries “shall encourage”:
 - Separate collection
 - Safe treatment
 - Safe use of materials from biowaste
- “Commission will carry an assessment on the management of bio-waste with a view to submit proposal if appropriate”



Possible Elements for a Biowaste Directive

3 areas for possible policy intervention on biowaste

- Compost quality
- Treatment standards
- Additional instruments supporting recycling
 - Targets?
 - Mandatory separate collection?
 - Landfill bans?
 - Trading schemes?



Would a Biowaste directive - overlap with other projects?

- Quality standards – EoW criteria & Eco-label decision
 - (shall “waste compost” be covered?)
- Treatment standards – IPPC revision
 - (shall small installations be regulated?)
- Instruments promoting biowaste recycling – possible WFD targets + LCA Guidelines



Assessment of a Biowaste Directive

Some elements to be used in assessment:

- Previous working papers (2001-2003)
- European Eco-label criteria for soil improvers (2006/799/EC)
- End of Waste related studies and consultations
- IPPC revision background studies
- Related studies on sewage sludge
- Separate study will be launched soon

Stakeholder consultations will be necessary.



Next steps?

- **WFD second reading in European Parliament**
 - starts in February...
 - expected date of adoption: 2nd half of 2008

- **Communication on biowaste expected at the end of the year**



Thank you for your attention!

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/compost/index.htm>

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