

Country report Hungary

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Introduction and organic waste situation

According to the data from NFM (Hungarian Ministry of National Development) the production of MSW (Municipal Solid Waste) has been decreasing since the year of 2006. In 2014, 3.8 million tons of MSW were generated in Hungary. This waste stream consists of 1,3 million tons/year bio-waste (green-waste and kitchen waste). The second potential biodegradable waste stream is the municipal sewage sludge with the amount of 800 000 tons/year (calculated on 20 % d.m. content). The 3rd biodegradable waste stream is agricultural residues and wastes from food industry with a potential of 400 000 tons/year. Altogether, 2,5 million tons/year biological degradable waste was generated in 2014.

Legal framework for the organic waste stream and compost production

The requirements and the processes of modern waste management have set in force as a new waste management law in 2012. The Nr. CLXXXV National law for Waste management defines wastes and their types. Legal aspects of waste management, transfer and transport with responsibilities of waste holders are specified. The other related regulations are in the following:

Regulation Nr. 23/2003. - Technical requirements of biowaste treatment and composting (BIOWASTE REGULATION)

The 23/2003 Biowaste Regulation defines compost. It also covers suitable input materials, hygiene requirements and the technical specifications of composting/biogas plants.

It regulates only the establishment and operation of composting/biogas facilities but there is no regulations regarding the end-product and quality assurance. With this content it does not support the use of composts. Comment: it can be stated that the revision of 23/2003 Regulation is going on and there will be a new Biowaste Regulation in Hungary within a year, which contains also the End of- Waste Criteria.

The 246/2014. (IX. 29.) Government regulation defines the rules for the establishment and operation of the waste management facilities and so the composting plants. The 22-24 points of the regulation cover the operating regulations of composting plants. This affects the main parts of composting plants, and it describes the detailed operating manual and information have to be given by the plant manager.

Regulation Nr. 36/2006 - Permission, distribution and utilization of materials for growing yields (FERTILIZER REGULATION)

Regulation of materials for growing yields specified by the decree 36/2006 of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. It regulates the use of all kind of soil fertiliser (chemical fertilizers, composts, organic fertilisers and growing media).

The decree defines compost as a product and gives product specifications. It is allowed to produce compost products from sewage sludge. Limit values for trace elements and level of pollutants are specified. It regulates only the use of end product and not the production process. The permission is valid for 10 years. Unfortunately

this decree is not in harmony with Regulation Nr. 23/2003. – Technical requirements of biowaste treatment and composting.

Regulation Nr. 50/2001 Ruling the treatment and agricultural utilization of wastewater and wastewater sludge (SEWAGE SLUDGE REGULATION)

Sewage sludge might be applied on arable lands for agricultural purposes if meets all requirements specified in the order Ministry of Environment and Water metals concentration limits and sanitary tests. Regulation Nr. 50/2001 regulates only sewage sludge treatment and utilization. Threshold values of toxic elements in raw materials and end products are specified. It is possible to use treated sewage sludge under individual permissions. Regulation makes a distinction between sewage sludge and composted sewage sludge.

Regulation of 318/2013. (VIII. 28.) about Landfill tax

Decree No. 318 of 2013 (VIII. 28.) of the Government concerning the payment and purposes of the landfill tax. Major changes have been introduced recently in the area of waste management by implementing the Waste Act CLXXXVI of 2012. This Act introduced a Landfill Tax, as well as waste prevention within the waste hierarchy. This replaces The Waste Management Act (Act XLIII of 2000).

Payments from the Landfill Tax are spent for the purposes set out in Government Regulation (VIII.28) 318/2013. This Regulation explains the amount of proceeds, payment of contributions to the landfill, as well as the use of landfill goals. It has funded the development of Waste Management Plans (WMP) and Strategies.

Treatment of organic waste and MSW

Composting

The number of bio-waste composting plants has increased in the past few years, according to the Hungarian Quality Compost Association survey, there are 67 composting plants in operation with 350 000 tons/year treatment capacity (Ministry of National Development, NFM 2014). The main input material is the separately collected green-waste.

The produced compost end-product is approximately 200 000 tons/year amount.

Mechanical-Biological Treatment

In order to meet the requirements of the EU Landfill Directive and to reduce the organic content of the MSW going for landfills the Hungarian Waste Policy target the need for pre-treatment. In 2014 there were 14 Mechanical-Biological Treatment plants in Hungary, which process all together 550.000 tons/year quantity.

Anaerobic digestion

There are 58 anaerobic digestion plants in operation. Most of these anaerobic digestion plants (23 plants) use sewage sludge and agricultural waste (31 plants) mainly liquid manure in combination with agricultural residues in total of (350 000 tons/year).

Quality assurance system and compost utilization



There are many proposals and pilot projects managed by the Hungarian Quality Compost Association (HQCA) for compost assurance system, but unfortunately there is no any legal regulation for it. Based on our proposal the future system will be similar to the German System of the Bundesgütegemeinschaft Kompost e.V. BGK and will be based on the ECN-QAS.

Contacts and source of country information

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About ECN

The European Compost Network is a membership organisation with 70 members from 28 European Countries. Members include all European bio-waste organisations and their operating plants, research, policy making, consultants and authorities. ECN represents 22 bio-waste organisations (compost and digestate quality assurance organisations) from 14 European Countries and two from abroad, 25 companies producing bio-based products (organic fertilisers, soil improvers, growing media and, biodegradable plastics), 9 non-governmental organisations of environmental protection organisations, 11 academic (research) institutes in environmental, agricultural and natural sciences and 3 environmental agencies.

Via the member organisations, ECN represents more than 3000 experts and plant operators with more than 30 million tonnes of biological waste treatment capacity.