



www.compostnetwork.info

New Design and Structure

The European Compost Network has adapted a new structure and design for its website <http://www.compostnetwork.de>. With the new website the ECN informs its members and interested people about the development on policies in the context of sustainable biowaste management in Europe. Besides the ECN website a further internet platform concerning the European Quality Assurance Scheme of ECN is set up under <http://www.ecn-qas.eu>.

The website 'www.compost.info' includes all information about the European Compost Network. Following the profile 'About us' the 'Mission and Vision' the 'ECN statutes' and the 'Organisational structure' are given. Information about the ECN Membership with a downloadable application form can be found under 'Membership / Members'. Very often information about the status of the management of biowaste in the European Countries is requested. Therefore the ECN members, notably the Country representatives, provide annually updated reports about the status of biowaste management, respectively composting and digestion, in their countries.

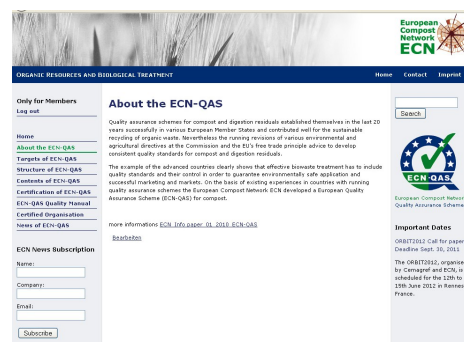
Information platform

Public information about relevant issues of the work of ECN can be found under the section 'Communication'. Besides the 'ECN NEWS', where the different issues of the ECN newsletter can be downloaded, 'Info Papers', 'Position Papers', 'Presentations' and 'Publications' of the European Compost Network are provided.

Work programme is available

The work programme of ECN is reflected by the 'working groups'. Access to the working documents is restricted to ECN Members. About the 'Log in' at the top of the website the Members gain

access to the internal part. The documents of the Annual Meetings are available as well as the discussion papers of the working groups. All relevant European legislations and reports on biowaste management are listed also.



Website about the European Quality Assurance Scheme

By clicking on the ECN-QAS logo on the right side the ECN-QAS website is opened. The ECN-QAS website 'www.ecn-qas.eu' includes all information about the European Quality Assurance Scheme. Information about the targets and the structure of ECN-QAS are explained as well as how the certification procedure works. Quality Assurance Organisation certified by ECN can be seen under the profile "Certified Organisation".

EU Green Week
Resource efficiency and
strategy of the EU

Page 2-3

EU Commission
European-wide Screening
of compost and digestate

Page 4

From the Countries
Market report of compost
and digestate in Ireland

Page 5

Revised compost standard
in Great Britain

Page 6

ORBIT2012
First announcement and
call for papers

Page 7



Using less, living better

Under the slogan "Using less, living better" the EU Commissioner for Environment, Janez Potočnik, opened the European "[Green Week](#)" on the 24 May 2011.

Natural resources, including raw materials such as fuels, minerals, metals and also food, soil, water air, biomass and ecosystems are under pressure. During the last century the world population quadrupled, the economic output increased by 40%, the use of fossil fuels by 16%, the fishing catches by 35% and the water use by 9%. If these current trends will continue and taking into consideration that by 2050, the global population will be grown by 30% to around 9 billion people, it is clear that we have to change our consumption patterns. Resource conservation and the efficient use of resources by reusing and recycling, are the key elements of the 21st century.

EU Flagship Initiative for a Resource-efficient Europe

The flagship initiative "[A Resource-efficient Europe](#)" is one action in the context of the Europe 2020 Strategy. This initiative should lead towards a resource-efficient and low-carbon economy with the goal to ensure the competitiveness of the European industry by respecting the protection of the environment. The European Commission is pursuing a holistic approach, in which it sets up a framework for action in the wide range of policy areas, like climate protection, energy, agriculture, fisheries, biodiversity, waste management, transport and industry. Recycling plays an essential role, because this ensure the security of supply of raw materials.

Recycling is the key issue

Peter Kurth, the new appointed president of the European Federation of Waste Management and Environmental Services (FEAD) stressed the key role of the recycling industry in the context of resource efficiency and economic growth at the Green week in Brussels: "Today 20-30% of resources used are imported into the EU, 5.25 billion euros worth of recyclables (paper, glass, plastics, aluminium and steel) are disposed yearly. If these materials

were recycled, 148 million tonnes of CO₂ emissions equivalent could be avoided. Moreover, at least 500.000 new jobs would be created in Europe if Member States recycled 70% of their waste."

Long-term and Medium-term Measures

With the flagship initiative for a resource-efficient Europe the Commission will figure out long-term measures in respect to resource security and sustainable growth:

- Outline what the EU needs to do to create a low-carbon economy in 2050 by cutting greenhouse gas emissions by 80 to 95% as part of global efforts to fight climate change;
- Analyse how the EU can create an energy system by 2050 which is low-carbon, resource efficient, secure and competitive;
- Present a vision for a low-carbon, resource-efficient, secure and competitive transport system by 2050;
- Define medium and long-term objectives and means for achieving them with the main aim to decouple economic growth from resource use and its environmental impacts.

The Commission has already identified a number of medium-term measures to achieve the goal of a resource-efficient Europe:

- An energy efficiency plan which will identify measures to achieve energy savings of 20% across all sectors until 2020;
- Proposals to reform the Common Agricultural Policy, the Common Fisheries Policy, Cohesion Policy, energy infrastructure and trans-European networks for transport;
- A new EU biodiversity strategy for 2020
- Measures to tackle the challenges in commodity markets and on raw materials which will periodically assess critical raw materials and define a trade policy to ensure sustainable suppliers of raw materials from global markets. These will promote, among others, recycling in Europe.
- A strategy to make the EU a 'circular economy', based on a recycling society with the aim of reducing waste

- generation and using waste as a resource;
- Early action on adaption to climate change
- A water policy that makes water saving measures and increasing efficiency a priority.

EU Strategy on Raw Materials

The flagship initiative 'A Resource-efficient Europe' is accompanied by the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the regions on "[Tackling the challenges in commodity markets and on Raw Materials](#)".

This initiative of the European Commission sets out targeted measures to secure and improve access to raw materials for the EU. Based on the first Communication on the Raw Materials Initiative published in November 2008, this new strategy document further pursues and reinforces the 3 pillar-based approach to improving access to Raw Materials for Europe. These pillars are:

1. Fair and sustainable supply of raw materials from international markets;
2. Fostering sustainable supply within the EU;
3. Boosting resource efficiency and promote recycling.

Increasing Resource Efficiency by Recycling

The Communication stresses that by increasing the demand for raw materials worldwide, greater efforts will have to be made on recycling. Higher recycling rates will reduce the pressure on demand for primary raw materials, help to reuse valuable materials which would otherwise be wasted, and reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions from extraction and processing. In respect to achieve a resource-efficient Europe the Commission underline the importance of better implementation and enforcement of existing EU waste legislation.

The Commission proposes therefore to:

- review the Thematic Strategy on waste prevention and recycling in 2012 to develop best practices in collection and treatment of key waste streams;
- support research and pilot actions on resource efficiency and economic incentives for recycling or refund systems;

- carry out an ex-post evaluation of the EU waste acquis, including an assessment of areas where legislation in the various waste streams could be aligned to improve coherence;
- review the action plan on sustainable consumption and production in 2012 to identify what additional initiatives are necessary in this area;
- analyse the feasibility of developing ecodesign instruments (i) to foster more efficient use of raw materials, (ii) ensure the recyclability and durability of products and (iii) promote the use of secondary raw materials in products, notably in the context of the Ecodesign Directive; and
- develop new initiatives to improve the competitiveness of EU recycling industries notably by introducing new market based instruments favouring secondary raw materials.

Certification System for Recycling Plants

To further strengthen the enforcement of the Waste Shipment Regulation, the Commission proposes to examine the feasibility of applying a global certification scheme for recycling facilities to the export of waste streams, building on environmentally-sound management criteria.

I N F O R M A T I O N

Special Issue about the European Green Week 2011



The European Parliament Magazine has published a special issue on the topic of the European Green Week 2011 on resource efficiency. The issue can be downloaded here: <http://www.theparliament.com/digimag/issue328>

A Resource-efficient Europe

Further information on the European Flagship initiative "A Resource-efficient Europe": <http://ec.europa.eu/resource-efficient-europe/>

EU Raw material Strategy

Further information on the European Communication on raw materials: http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/raw-materials/index_en.htm



JRC-IPTS/IES

Screening for End-of-Waste Criteria for Biodegradable Waste

The Joint Research Institute (JRC) of the European Commission “Institute for Environment and Sustainability” (IES) has commissioned a screening exercise to determine the pollutants in treated bio-waste in the context of the decision-making process for end-of-waste criteria for compost and digestate.

During the first Technical Working Group Meeting in Seville on the 2nd March 2011 the discussion was focused on suitable clean input materials for compost and digestate in respect to the parameters characterising the EoW standard for compost and digestate. Some members of the TWG are still in favour to include sewage sludge and mixed solid waste from mechanical biological treatment in a positive list for End-of-waste compost and digestate. Due to the lack of data concerning organic and inorganic pollutants in different types of organic fractions the JRC-IES is organising an European-wide screening on pollutants.

ECN supports the EoW screening

Several members of the European Compost Network are going to support the screening exercise of the European Commission by providing sampling materials of different organic fractions like compost, liquid and solid digestate, sludge and MBT material. The samples should be taken by the plant manager themselves. The JRC recommends to take the samples according the European Standard EN 12579 for growing media and soil improvers and for liquid samples the EN ISO 5667-13 “Water quality/Sampling/Part 13: Guidance on sampling of sludges from sewage and water-treatment works”.

It is important that a representative sample of the batch is taken. The sampling should be documented in a sampling protocol. The JRC-IES has provided a sampling protocol template, which is based on the ECN Quality Manual.

List of Parameters

Perfluorinated surfactants (including PFOS, PFOA)

Heavy metals (including Ag, Al, As, Ba, Cd, Co, Cr, Cu, Fe, Mg, Mn, Mo, Ni, Pb, Sb, Se, Ti, Tl, V, Zn)

Mercury

PCBs

PCDD/Fs

PAHs

Siloxanes

Polycyclic Musks

Nonylphenol and -ethoxylates

PBDE

Veterinary drugs, pharmaceuticals

Estrogene activity (bio-assay)

Sampling campaign in June 2011

During June 2011 the JRC-IES is going to collect the samples across Europe. The samples will be analysed by JRC laboratories or selected partner laboratories. Based on the outcome of the results the JRC-IES will publish the second report on End-of-waste criteria for compost and digestate. At the next Technical Working Group Meeting in October, the outcome of the sampling campaign and the further development will be discussed.

Further Information on the EoW project can be found [here](#).



IRELAND/CRÉ

Market Report on the Composting and Anaerobic Digestion Sectors

In collaboration with Cré - Composting and Anaerobic Digestion Association of Ireland - InterTradelreland published a market report on composting and anaerobic digestion in Ireland and Northern Ireland.

The report looks at the key factors influencing the market for organic waste as well as new initiatives and the environmental benefits from processing organic waste in composting and anaerobic digestion facilities. The report is set in the context of the EU Landfill Directive which requires member states to divert biodegradable municipal waste (BMW) from landfill, of which organic waste is a significant component. The current issues concerning the organic waste sector on the island of Ireland are:

- Anaerobic digestion is emerging as a popular technology to process food waste, due in part for its potential as a source of renewable energy;
- The over reliance on landfills for disposal of organic waste has to change rapidly. Significant amounts of organic waste needs to be diverted from landfills to avoid financial penalties from the European Commission;
- Compost producers are aware of the need to respond and provide sufficient capacity in the short term;
- Funding is needed to support the rapid development of food waste reprocessing facilities; and
- New end markets for compost are emerging in the peat, tillage, organic and 'Grow your Own' sectors.

Outlook for the composting and anaerobic digestion industry

It is expected that the composting and anaerobic digestion industry will continue to grow and develop over the next years.

The following points outline some prospects:

- The creation of the right economic climate in which landfill disposal of organic waste is financially less attractive will increase the composting and anaerobic digestion activities;
- The industry faces the challenge of developing an adequate network of composting and anaerobic digestion sites that meet the needs of the locality and will meet the demand for treatment capacity for source-segregated organic wastes;
- An increasing number of companies involved in composting and anaerobic digestion should be more encouraged to adopt quality standards such as the PAS 100 QAS and the future national QAS, in order to ensure the production of quality compost;
- There are possibilities for the development of an all-island brown bin network of waste collectors.
- Forecasts suggest that there is significant potential waste arising which could be source separated and processed in composting and anaerobic digestion facilities to produce quality assured products;
- In order to comply with the EU Landfill Directive, it is expected that there will be considerable capital investments (multi-million £/€ investments) by the private and public sectors in biological treatment facilities and waste management infrastructures and services; and
- If the estimated organic waste arising is 1.5-2 million tonnes in Ireland and Northern Ireland was composted/digested, the estimated turnover could be in the region of €195-260 million.

The market report can be downloaded [here](#).





United Kingdom/AFOR

British Standard for Quality Compost 'PAS 100' revised

The British Standards Institution's PAS 100:2005 specification for composted materials has been reviewed, resulting in publication PAS100:2011.

Developed by BSI, WRAP and the Association for Organics Recycling, taking into account of the steering committee and feedback from consultation with stakeholders, this latest edition has been reformatted to make it easier to use. It references new legislation, guidelines and scientific reports.

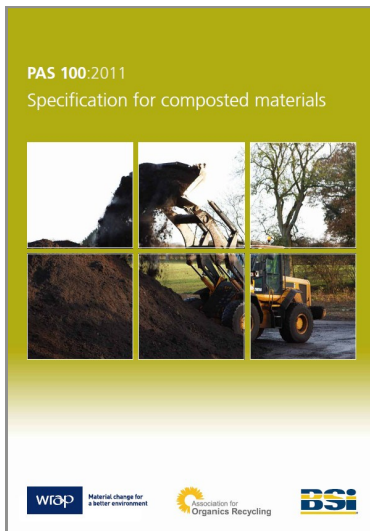
The review included a re-examination of test methods, resulting in laboratory use of a different, more practical method for testing E. coli, and more strin-

gent upper limits for stones in compost used as mulch and physical contaminants in compost however it is used.

In addition PAS 100:2011 does not allow the composting of sewage sludge and its derivatives, although it does allow digestates from anaerobic or aerobic digestion of source-segregated biodegradable wastes and materials as inputs for composting.

The PAS 100:2011 is available via <http://www.wrap.org.uk/>.

More about The Association of Organics Recycling' can be found [here](#).



Germany

EU Notification of the German Recycling and Waste Legislation

On the 28 March 2011 the draft of the revised German Recycling and Waste Act was delivered to the European Commission for notification. The notification ends on the 29 June 2011.

The 'Recycling and Waste Legislation Reform Act' transposes Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and the Council of 19 November 2008 on waste and repealing certain Directives (Waste Framework Directive) into national law, should improve the resource efficiency of recycling.

Flexible optimisation clause
The draft copies the new 5-tier hierarchy (prevention – preparation for reuse – recycling – other, including energetic utilisation – disposal) of the Waste Framework Directive including a 'flexible optimisation clause'. The high-

est priority is for the option of utilisation, which best protects humans and the environment. In case of different equal-ranking options, the waste owner has the right to choose.

Material recycling in competition with energy recovery!

By having the choice to decide on equal-ranking options the German Quality Assurance Organisation for Compost (BGK) stresses in their statement to the European Commission that this flexible optimisation clause will jeopardize the sustainable management of biowaste and that this is not in line with the priority rule of the Waste Framework Directive.

The EU notification text can be downloaded [here](#).

The BGK position on the draft German Recycling and Waste Act is available [here](#).

First Announcement

ORBIT2012

Global assessment for organic resources and waste management: Assessment of technologies for optimal organics management processes and enlightened environmental policies

During the last years, a big strength has been put on organic resources recovery in order to achieve our aspiration towards a "Recycling Society" and climate stabilisation. Energy, nutrients and organic matter needs have thus driven sustainable management of resources and wastes and promoted new technological developments. In this context, biological processing of organic wastes and the use of natural resources to recover nutrients as phosphorus, to produce soil improvers and to supply energy is of great interest. However rules on the management of organic resources waste are fragmented and the current legislation in Europe might be not sufficient to achieve the stated objectives of its effective management.

Following the ORBIT conferences tradition, **ORBIT2012** will deal with all aspects of organic resources and waste management with a special focus on the assessment of technologies with environmental, social and economical point of view. A large place will be given to climate change, waste management assessment and decision tools. Traditional themes as energy recovery (Biofuels, biogas, hydrogen production), biological treatments (composting and anaerobic digestion) and also mechanical biological treatment still remain central issues that have to be discussed in order to improve technologies and product quality, especially for land application. More local management systems such as home and community composting will also be discussed as they may represent solutions that have to be considered in an integrated organic waste management plan. Special emphasis will also be laid on EU policies and strategies for sustainable organic waste management. The conference will present high quality and innovative research in all the aforementioned topics and will include oral presentations, poster sessions and specific workshops.

The **ORBIT2012** is organised by Cemagref, Environmental management and biological treatment of wastes Research Unit, and the European Compost Network (ECN). The conference is scheduled for the 12th – 15th June 2012 in Rennes, France. Please visit the website for further information:

www.orbit2012.fr




ORBIT2012

GLOBAL ASSESSMENT FOR ORGANIC RESOURCES AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

8th International Conference
 June 12th to 15th, 2012
 In Rennes, Brittany, France

First Announcement and Call for Papers




orbit2012.fr



5 July 2011, Valencia (ES)

International Seminar on the Interpretation of Life Cycle Thinking in the Waste Management Hierarchy

The Seminar is organised by ACR+, with the support of Holcim Company. It is meant to gather a group of experts in order to discuss the concrete examples of interpretation of the EU waste hierarchy through Life Cycle Thinking, as foreseen in article 14, 2 of the Waste Framework Directive 2008/98.

http://www.acrplus.org/seminar_life_cycle_thinking

24-25 August 2011, Hamburg (DE)

The City of Future - Symposium on Material- and Energy-efficient Use of Bioresources

“Urban Bioresources” commonly only get recognized as badly smelling wastes or waste waters. In the BERBION-project their usage for material and energy generation following a holistic approach for a selected German region is investigated. The results of the projects and practical experiences will be presented by researchers, practitioners and governmental representatives for the topics «availability, demand, collection of bioresources», «utilization cascades for energy and material generation» and «integrated concepts». A panel discussion to the topic «Sustainable region» completes the program.

<http://www.berbion.de>

3-7 October 2011, Sardinia (IT)

Sardinia 2011

Thirteenth International Waste Management and Landfill Symposium
<http://www.sardiniasymposium.it>

17-21 October 2011, Barcelona (ES)

International Symposium on Growing Media, Composting and Substrate Analysis

The conference will bring together stakeholders from around the world to address the scientific and technological advances in growing media, analyti-

cal methods and composting for horticultural uses, focusing on the sustainability of the involved processes, resources, products and management practices.

<http://www.compostnetwork.info>

31 Oct.– 2 Nov 2011, Madison (USA) Renewable Energy from Organics Recycling

BioCycle presents the 11th Annual Conference on Anaerobic Digestion, Biogas Markets, Food Waste, Manure, Compost, Biofuels

Call for Papers: 15 July 2011

<http://www.biocycleenergy.com>

7-11 November 2011, Mexico City (MX)

Feeding Plants is Feeding People

19th Symposium of the International Scientific Centre of fertilisers (CIEC)

<http://ciec2011.cinvestav.mx/>

22-23 November 2011, Berlin (DE) 6th European Bioplastics Conference

The 6th European Bioplastics Conference will be setting new standards and is the place to be for getting a comprehensive overview of the latest innovations in material and application development.

<http://www.european-bioplastics.org>

17-20 January 2012 2011, Austin (USA)

The Soil and Water Connection

20th Annual conference & Tradeshow of the US Composting Council

First Call for papers: 27 June 2011

<http://www.compostingcouncil.org>

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