

Annual Meeting 2011

The 2011 Annual Meeting took place on the 23 February 2011 during the AD EUROPE conference in Dublin. The Annual Meeting focussed on ECN's new statutes as well as past and proposed work activities. A new Board was elected and the Annual Meeting agreed on a new fee structure for 2012.

ECN Membership 2011

At the end of 2010 ECN had 80 Members, consisting of:

- 25 commercial companies,
- 20 biowaste organisations,
- 22 NGOs,
- 4 governmental organisations and
- 9 members stemming from universities/academia.

New ECN Board

The new ECN Board, elected by the Annual Meeting, nominated Aloys Oechtering (Reterra Service GmbH, Germany) as chair and Dr Jane Gilbert (Carbon Clarity, UK) as co-chair of the European Compost Network. Further elected Board members are: Florian Amlinger (ARGE Compost & Biogas, Austria), Morten Brogger (Solum, Denmark) Enzo Favoino (Scuola Agraria del Parco die Monza, Italy), John van Haeff (Attero, The Netherlands), Mait Kriipsalu (Estonian University of Life Science, Estonia), Henrik Lystad (Avfall Norge, Norway), Jean-Luc Martel (CIRSEE Suez Environment, France).

New work structure

For 2011 the Board has nominated two Executive Directors, Dr Stefanie Siebert and Josef Barth, for the day-to-day business of ECN. The responsibilities of the Executive Directors were divided into the managing sectors "Communications and Quality Assurance" and "European Policy".

With the implementation of the five working groups in 2010 and the nomination of experts from ECN's Membership, work successfully started with four working group meetings during 2011.

WG 1 European Policy	Chair: Florian Amlinger (21 Members)
WG 2 Quality Assurance	Chair: Stefanie Siebert (30 Members)
WG 3 Integrated Waste Management	Chair: Enzo Favoino (20 Members)
WG 4 Anaerobic Digestion	Chairs: Angelika Blom / Henrik Lystad (25 Members)
WG 5 Eastern and Starting Countries	Chairs: Mait Kriipsalu / Josef Barth (10 Members)

European Policy

The work of ECN on European Policy was focussed mainly on the on-going consultation process on setting End-of-Waste Criteria for biodegradable waste subject to biological treatment.

End-of-Waste criteria for biodegradable waste

The European Compost Network was involved in the whole consultation process. During the consultation process two technical working documents were published by the Joint Research Institute JRC IPTS in Seville. Based on these reports two Technical Working Group meetings took place in 2011 (2nd March 2011 and 24th - 25th October 2011). The consultation closed on the 11th January 2012.

The European Compost Network held two WG1 meeting on this issue:

26th January 2011 ECN WG1 Meeting in Mechelen (17 participants)

ECN Position on the Concept for Regulating Bio-waste Recycling in the EU

6th October 2011 ECN WG1 Meeting in Cologne (16 participants)

WG1 Minutes 06/10/2011

An additional questionnaire was also sent out by JRC in November 2011, to which ECN responded. The final responses of ECN can be downloaded under the WG1 documents in the internal part of the ECN website.

Animal-by-Product regulation

The regulation on the implementation of the new Animal-by-Product-Regulation (EC) Nr. 1069/2009 came into force on 10 March 2011. Several Member States, responsible officers and composting and digestion facilities, raised a number of questions on how to implement the ABPR regulation in a way that fulfilled the Regulation's requirements. Based on the discussions in WG1 and WG4, ECN will work on a guidance brochure "**How to implement the ABPR in composting and anaerobic digestion**". For financing this project ECN is looking for further sponsorship. The working group chair has devised a draft concept, including an estimate of required resources. The project works will start in February 2012 and will be finalised by end of July 2012.

EU Fertiliser Regulation

The results of the consultation/impact assessment on the Fertiliser Regulation which was started at the beginning of 2011 were published in a draft report on the EU Circa website at the end of 2011. This impact assessment will be used as discussion basis in the context of the revision of the EU Fertiliser Regulation which started in January 2012. Therefore the Directorate General Enterprise and Industry (DG ENTR) from the EU Commission had set up four new working groups. The revision of the EU Fertiliser regulation should end up in a new proposal including organic fertilisers, soil improvers and growing media. ECN has nominated an expert for each working group. These are:

WG1: Overall structure of the future proposal - Nominated ECN Expert: Stefanie Siebert

WG2: Nutrient content, Product composition and agronomic efficacy - Nominated ECN Expert: Maria Thelen-Jüngling (Quality Manager for compost of BGK, Germany)

WG3: Contaminants, Hygiene and other Risks - Nominated ECN Expert: Florian Amlinger (ARGE Compost & Biogas, Austria)

WG4: Labelling, Enforcement and Control - Nominated ECN Expert: Wim Vanden Auweele (Quality Manger for compost and digestate of VLACO, Belgium)

Consultations

ECN was actively involved in the *"Stakeholder consultation on the appropriateness of setting targets for bio-waste recycling"*. Besides a legal framework, for many years ECN has supported the need for additional supporting regulatory guidance at EU level for biowaste management in Europe. Without clear drivers for biological treatment, ECN believes it will be impossible to establish the necessary infrastructure and treatment capacity to reap the full benefits of biowaste management across Europe as outlined in the Commission's Communication on Biowaste and to meet the diversion targets of the Landfill Directive. Targets are the most promising supporting drivers like other environmental policies show. The European Compost Network has commented on the *"Draft Report on existing minimum waste treatment requirements and recommendation for possible action to be taken at EU level"*.

Further ECN took part in the *"Stakeholder consultation on options to reduce the use of plastic carrier bags and options to improve the requirements of biodegradability in the Directive 94/62 EC on packaging and packaging waste and the visibility of biodegradable packaging products to consumers"*.

Quality Assurance and Anaerobic Digestion

Revision of the ECN-QAS

A total of four national quality assurance organisations were either undergoing or had achieved certification in 2011. At the 2011 Annual Meeting in Dublin, the ECN-QAS Conformity Label was awarded to BGK (German Quality Assurance Organisation for Compost) and to VLACO (Flemish Quality Assurance Organisation for Compost). Based on the results and experiences of the first conformity assessments revision of the ECN-QAS Quality Manual was initiated at the joint working group meeting of WG2 and WG4.

7th October 2011 ECN WG2/WG4 working group meeting Cologne (19 participants)

WG2/WG4 Minutes 07/10/2011

ECN-QAS for Digestate

Based on the outcome of the initial working group meeting of WG4 Anaerobic digestion on the **24th February 2011** in Dublin, it was decided to start work on additional criteria for digestate in the ECN-QAS Quality Manual. In order to collect baseline information on digestate, an online survey about digestion in Europe was set up by WG4. Based on the results obtained and the collection of information on existing quality assurance schemes in some European Member States the work on the first draft for ECN-QAS on digestate has started. The draft will be discussed at the next joint working group meeting of WG2/WG4 on the 25th April 2012 during the Nordic Biogas Conference (23-25 April 2012) in Copenhagen.

Communication

Website re-launched

The European Compost Network has significantly revised its website <http://www.compostnetwork.info> during 2011. With the new website structure ECN informs its members and interested people about the development of policies in the context of sustainable biowaste management in Europe. In addition to the ECN website, a further internet platform detailing the European Quality Assurance Scheme of ECN has been developed: <http://www.ecn-qas.eu>.



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.

The work programme of ECN is reflected by the 'working groups'. Access to the working documents is restricted to ECN Members, who can log in through at the top of the home page. The documents of the Annual Meetings are available, as well as the discussion papers of the working groups, and information about relevant European legislation and reports on biowaste management.

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 Organisations certified by ECN can be seen under the profile "Certified Organisation".

ECN NEWS, Position Papers and Presentations

Besides the website ECN has published its quarterly newsletter, *ECN NEWS*. The newsletter includes information about the current work of ECN, European Policy and news from ECN Members.

In addition to *ECN NEWS* the *ECN Position Paper on the Concept for Regulating Biowaste Recycling in Europe* and the *ECN Presentation on End-of-Waste Criteria for Compost and Digestates* were published on the ECN website.



Projects

EU Research Project "COMPO-Ball"

"COMPO-BALL - Development of novel on-line composting monitoring system for temperature and moisture" - is a FP7 Project Research for Small and Medium Sized Enterprise (SME) and Associations. After the first project year in 2010 a reporting meeting with the European Commission and an external reviewer was held successfully in March 2011. Prototypes for monitoring temperature and humidity in composting heaps are built and were tested in 2011. The results will be analysed in 2012. ECN is responsible for communication and dissemination of results. Posters were presented at AD 2011 and on the 3rd Baltic Biowaste Conference in Vilnius. Further information about the "COMPO-BALL"-project is available at: <http://www.compo-ball.eu/>.

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Conferences

AD Europe 2011

This conference was held in co-operation with Cré Compost and Anaerobic Digestion Association of Ireland on the 24 & 25 February 2011 in Dublin. During the two-day conference 33 speakers from 15 countries from around the world presented under the conference title ‘Future of Anaerobic Digestion of Organic Waste in Europe - Situation, Barriers and Chances’ the impact of European biowaste policy on anaerobic digestion. The target of the conference was providing key advice on setting incentives for AD in member states in Europe and advice from the European Investment Bank on how to raise finance for an AD plants. More than 300 participants took part in the conference. Further information is available under <http://www.cre.ie/ad2011/>.

3rd Baltic Biowaste Conference

Together with the International Solid Waste Association (ISWA) and in co-operation with the Lithuanian Ministry of Environment, the European Compost Network organised the 3rd Baltic Biowaste Conference on “Challenges for the Implementation of Municipal Biodegradable Waste Management in the Baltic States” on the 23 & 24 November 2011 in Vilnius. One hundred and fifty participants interested in the field of biowaste management took part in the conference. As an outcome of the conference further one-day mini-workshops for municipalities and biowaste operators are requested. The presentations of the conference can be downloaded here: <http://www.compostnetwork.info/bbc/>.