

EEB  
New Report on Resource  
Efficiency

Page 4

ISWA MWBT  
Field Visit at Milan's Separate  
Collection of Foodwaste

Page 5-6

ACR+  
Report on Management Options  
for Bio-waste

Page 7

EU Policy  
Revision on Organic Farming  
Regulation

Page 8

End-of-waste criteria for  
compost and digestate

Page 9



Christian Garaffa (Novamont), Martin Eves (Chairman of Cré), Fergus O'Dowd (Minister of State in the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resource) & Ian Kilgannon (Bord Gais Networks), L to R,

## CRÉ/ECN, Dublin

# AD EUROPE 2014

The European conference on anaerobic digestion and composting, AD Europe, Dublin 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> February 2014, brought together 193 professionals in renewable energy, organic waste and agricultural residue treatment, regulators and scientists from 22 countries around the world. The conference was jointly organised by the ECN and Cré - Composting and Anaerobic Digestion Association of Ireland. With 39 speakers covering topics from composting to anaerobic digestion, the conference was a vibrant forum to exchange knowledge and explore emerging techniques in the AD and composting sector. There was plenty of entertainment for delegates with a food fair one evening, another evening was the conference banquet followed by Irish dancing. During the conference banquet there was a raffle and raised €1,100 for the Irish Cancer Society.

Ireland's Prime Minister, Enda Kenny, in a short [video message](#) to the conference underlined his support for the development of anaerobic digestion and composting. Fergus O'Dowd, Ireland's Minister of State in the Department of Communication, Energy, Natural Resources, opened the conference, stating that he intends bioenergy (biogas, agricultural or renewable energy crops, wood) to contribute a significant portion to Ireland's renewable energy target of 16% production by 2020.

### Job creation potential from digestion and composting

Stefanie Siebert, ECN, indicated that of c. 80 million tonnes of bio-wastes produced in Europe today (sewage sludge, household and food processing organic waste), only c. 24 million tonnes are currently recycled. If this waste is estimated to contain 1.5 g P/kg, this means around 64,000 tonnes of phosphorus lost every year.

Dr Siebert indicates that there are at present some 14,000 anaerobic digestion plants in Europe, with 71,000 jobs. Current growth is over 12 % per year. Biowaste composting creates around 1 job per 800 tonnes of biowaste/year, and offers a potential total of 100,000 sustainable jobs in Europe.

**Nora Goldstein**, BioCycle, USA, indicated that the U.S.A. produces around 36 Mt/y of municipal household food waste and 34 Mt/y of yard trimmings. Only around 3% of food waste is currently recycled. The American Biogas Council estimates that there are currently some 2,000 AD and landfill gas recovery operations in the USA but that the potential is around 12,000 plants.

**Allison Costa**, US Environment Protection Agency, US AgStar programme and Global Methane Initiative, indicated that there are currently around 250 anaerobic digester plants operating on manure in the USA, with a potential of c. 8,000 for dairy and swine manure only.

**David Wilken** (German Biogas Association) indicated that there are currently nearly 8,000 biogas plants operating in Germany but most are using energy crops and only around 250 are using wastes. Regions with excess animal manure nutrients now need to process digestates to produce transportable fertilisers. Digestate can be upgraded by composting and by solid/liquid separation, which modifies the nutrient partition.

### Recycling food waste

**Michele Giavini**, ARS ambiente and Italian Composting Council CIC, Italy, indicated recent Italy policies include attractive subsidies for biogas production on condition that it is used to power transport vehicles and an additional subsidy if nitrogen is recovered from digestate or if it is used as a bio-fertiliser. Consequently, food waste collection is developing rapidly in Italy.

He estimates that food waste digestion could contribute 0.82 % of Italy's total transport fuel requirements (compared to 5.5 % currently supplied by biofuels and a national target of 10 % from biofuels).

### Policy and regulation

Enzo Favoino, Zero Waste Europe, explained that "zero waste" is a methodology or a progress path, rather than an absolute number.

Experience in Europe shows that losses from mixed collected solid municipal waste can be reduced by 65% (recycled fraction) by sorting, further reduced to 70-75% by adding transparent plastic bag separation of food wastes in households and further to 80% by adding PAYT (Pay As You Throw) collection systems.

**Dominic Hogg**, Eunonia, England, outlined work currently underway to propose new Member State recycling targets under the Waste Framework Directive revision process. He underlined the difficulties posed by the absence of coherent data collecting, with different definitions of waste streams, recycling, collection, loss, and different monitoring methods, resulting in non-comparable data between Member States.

**Kiara Zennaro**, Renewable Energy Association, England, presented the currently underway update of the BAT-BREF for "waste treatment", under the Industrial Emissions Directive (successor of the IPPC Directive). This covers anaerobic digestion and composting (installations above specified capacities). The BAT-BREF specifies operational criteria including best available technologies and emissions limits. Work started on this topic in June 2013 and a first draft is currently under preparation.

**Jack O'Keefe**, Larchmont Consulting, explained the difficulty of financing manure anaerobic digestion development, because projects are often led by small players such as farmers or cooperatives. He suggested that a co-operative industry wide approach should be considered to help smaller projects to obtain funding.

**Jan Stambasky**, European Biogas Association, also underlined the necessity of stable and strong public policies to support anaerobic digestion development. Renewable energy FITs (Feed in Tariffs) and Feed In Premiums (Green Certificates) are effective, whereas quotas have not shown to be so to date. The reform of the EU's CAP (Common Agricultural Policy) is also important, and the CAP Rural Development Policy (RDP) funding is expected to continue to fund biogas investment from livestock manures, farm by-products or from crops which are not competing with food production.

### Compost and digestate quality criteria

**Susan Antler**, Compost Council of Canada, indicated that key drivers for development of composting and anaerobic digestion are paucity of landfill capacity and regulations obliging diversion of organics from landfill. Compost benefits from federal guidelines for contaminant levels and for acceptance as a fertiliser product in Canada.

**Kristel Vandenbroek**, Vlaco, Belgium, presented Flanders' experience promoting bio-waste recycling, making waste a resource and in particular promoting composting. Vlaco has developed quality control assurance certificates for composts and anaerobic digestates (digestate as liquid, solid, dried & pelletised). In 2012, over 200 quality control certificates were delivered for different products from 80 installations.

**Marie Thelen-Jüngling**, (German Quality Assurance Organisation for Compost BGK), indicated that quality standards today cover nearly 500 composting plants, and over 100 digestates, corresponding to 6 million tonnes of organics processed per year in Germany.

### Recovery of added-value products

**Christian Garaffa**, Novamont, Italy, presented the biorefinery model of Novamont for the production of Mater-Bi, a biodegradable and compostable polymer used to make bags used for household organic waste collection. High food waste captures are essential to divert organic waste for biogas and compost production and biobags are a key tool in achieving high participation and capture rates, especially in metropolitan areas.

**Adrie Veeken**, Attero, Netherlands, presented opportunities, how the organic waste sector is moving towards bioeconomy. The company processes 40 % of Netherlands solid municipal wastes through incineration, composting, digestion and/or separation. The company is currently looking at innovative material recovery processes including using bacteria to produce volatile fatty acids which can then be used to produce poly hydroxyl alkanate (a biodegradable polymer with characteristics comparable to polypropylene), production of fly larvae (dried to produce high-protein and nutrient-rich animal feed), precipitation of struvite from digestate (to recover phosphorus).

**Nils Finn Lumholdt**, Osle Waste-to-Energy Agency, presented the advanced anaerobic digestion plant developed and now operated by the city. Input is separately collected organic wastes. This is sorted, then subject to thermal hydrolysis (KAMBI THP process, 130 °C at 140 atm.) to break down cellular material and maximise availability for methane production. The plant includes digestate evaporation and odour treatment. 1 kg of food waste input generates 0.13 litres of diesel equivalent as biogas, used to power the city's buses. The plant is situated on a site where landfill gas covers energy needs. Liquid digestate is used on c. 100 local farms. Operating cost is 70 €/tonne food waste treated.

### Returning carbon and nutrients to soil

**Florian Amlinger**, Austria Compost & Biogas Association underlined the importance of soil as climate change carbon stock. Humus in compost is important because it can store nutrients and reduce nutrient losses, improve water retention and so drought resistance, provide a support for soil microbial biodiversity. Carbon in digestate is not present as humus, so that composting of digestate solids is important to ensure that they have a real soil carbon value.

**Dr. Munoo Prasad**, Compost Research and Advisory (Ireland), presented a simple test kit developed to enable farmers to rapidly and cheaply, if approximately, test ammonia nitrogen concentrations in digestate (using colour strips costs <1 € each). This is important because ammonia levels may change significantly during storage.

**David Tompkins**, WRAP (Waste and Resources Action Programme), England, presented on a number of field trials of different digestates on sports fields, perennial wood and energy crops, use with compost to constitute new soil on mine restoration sites, use in growing media. Challenges identified were that ammonia in raw digestate could 'burn' plants, high variability, instability, bacterial growth on storage and irrigation equipment, potential loss of the nitrogen to air. Conclusions suggest the need for digestate to be completely stable (fully digested) and consistent. Composting of the digestate is an effective solution to improve its use characteristics.

Further information on AD Europe 2014: [here](#)

### Acknowledgement

This article is an shorten version of an review prepared by Chris Thornton, European Sustainable Phosphorus Platform (ESPP). We thanks Chris Thornton for providing us the review. Further information on the ESPP can be found [here](#).

## New report sheds light on wide ranging benefits of EU waste policy

The [European Environmental Bureau \(EEB\)](#) has published a comprehensive [report on resource efficiency](#) and waste policy with the title 'Advancing Resource Efficiency in Europe'. This report should contribute to the debate in Europe about the benefits of future waste policy and target setting initiated by the Commission in the context of the EU resource efficiency strategy.

The report comes out as the Commission is finalising a major [Waste Targets Review](#) that is expected to align key targets in upcoming legislation with goals outlined in its overarching strategy document - the Resource Efficiency Roadmap. The EEB recommends adopting indicators such as material use, land, water and carbon at EU level, to identify and measure the positive role waste policy plays in becoming more resource efficient.

The EEB calls on the European Commission to limit overall disposal and energy recovery options, particularly incineration, for all biodegradable waste and to set specific targets for preferable options within the waste hierarchy [1], such as waste prevention, re-use and recycling.

The EEB's Senior Policy Officer for Waste and Products, Stéphane Arditi, said:

***"Landfill bans alone will be insufficient if we want to create a resource-efficient Europe. We need clear direction towards options further up the waste hierarchy that also move away from incineration."***

Using data available in the public domain and conservative estimates, the report finds that a scenario for EU resource efficiency involving ambitious targets for food waste reduction, re-use of textiles and furniture, and recycling, could help prevent the equivalent of around 415 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> by 2030. This equates to taking 4 in 10 cars off European roads [2]. A strong policy in food waste reduction could also help avoid cropland use of 57,000 km<sup>2</sup> by 2030 – an area larger than Croatia.

In combination with a food waste reduction target EEB is in favour to set a separate collection target for bio-waste to force biological waste management through composting and anaerobic digestion.

Additional to the environmental and resource efficiency benefits, the EEB report points out the potential of creating 750,000 new jobs by 2025 [3], and 860,000 by 2030, if the EU adopts ambitious new policies and targets for the prevention and recycling of waste as part of its upcoming Waste Targets Review [4].

Piotr Barczak, the EEB's Waste Policy Officer, commented:

***"This report underlines the massive potential for advancing resource efficiency in Europe. If the EU is ambitious, it could help create work for one in every six currently unemployed, young Europeans. It underlines that good environmental policies create jobs - and lots of them."***

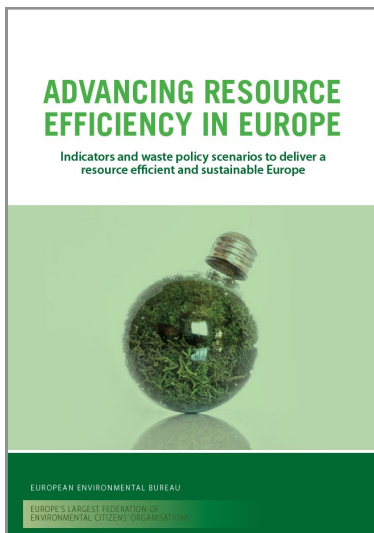
The report also includes proposals in relation to national measurement. Member States have a number of mechanisms at their disposal to meet the ambitious proposal scenario outlined in this study. These include tax incentives for recycled or re-used goods, levies on disposed products, variable charging schemes for households, such as 'Pay As You Throw', and reinforced Extended Producer Responsibility. These mechanisms should be combined in an appropriate way to ensure the more environmentally-friendly options in the waste hierarchy are more attractive for producers, consumers and municipalities.

The EEB report 'Advancing Resource Efficiency in Europe' can be downloaded [here](#).

More information on this EEB initiative can be found [here](#).

Twitter: [https://twitter.com/Green\\_Europe](https://twitter.com/Green_Europe)

Based on EEB PR 07/04/2014



[1] See report <http://bit.ly/1ebetOq>, page 11

[2] Based on conservative estimates of GHG equivalence from car use and ACEA estimates of the numbers of cars in the EU in 2008 - [http://www.acea.be/news/news\\_detail/vehicles\\_in\\_use/](http://www.acea.be/news/news_detail/vehicles_in_use/)

[3] This is based on the number of full time jobs that an ambitious scenario of per 1000 tonnes of recycling, and furniture and textile re-use, would create. The jobs would be created in the waste management chain and include logistics, repair, sales, and recycling.

[4] [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/target\\_review.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/target_review.htm)



## Field Visit on Separate Collection of Bio-waste in Milan



Field visit of ISWA WG MWBT: Jane Gilbert, Jiao Tang, Maro Ricci Jürgensen, Antonio Brivio, Nils Finn Lumholdt (L to R)

ECN Managing Director Stefanie Siebert participated at the first 2014 meeting of the ISWA WG on Biological Treatment, hosted by the Italian Composting and Biogas Association in Cavenago, Milan, Italy and chaired by Marco Ricci – Juergensen from CIC, the Italian Biogas and Composting Consortium. ISWA Working Group members from Norway, UK, France, Austria, and Italy also attended.

Due to the convenient location, the WG members also attended a field visit to see the new separate collection for food waste system introduced in Milan since winter 2012. The visit was led by Mr. Antonio Brivio of AMSA and Marco Ricci, who consulted AMSA during the design and start-up of the new collection scheme.

### Separate collection since 20 years in the Lombardy Region of Italy

In Italy, the first systems for residential food waste collection began 20 years ago in the Lombardy Region and were later spread with increasing speed around the northern and central Regions, followed by the southern regions in recent years. The first cases involved communities with between 5-10,000 inhabitants and in 1998 this extended to areas with high population density (more than 3-4,000 inhabitants/sq km) and metropolitan areas (e.g. City of Cinisello Balsamo, Milan). Today, residential food waste collection has been implemented in many provincial capitals, often with separate collection systems (SSO) that guarantee high performance and quality for food waste capture rates. The separate collection of biowaste from municipal solid waste represents Italy's largest recycling industry, where more than 4,5Mt/yr of biowaste is collected, producing 1,3Mt/yr of quality compost which is used in agriculture, landscaping, and other activities.

### Residual food waste collection in Milan

In November 2012 the city of Milan began the collection of residential food waste. Previous to this the collection of food waste in Milan was only available to non-domestic entities, such as restaurants, schools, supermarkets and hotels.

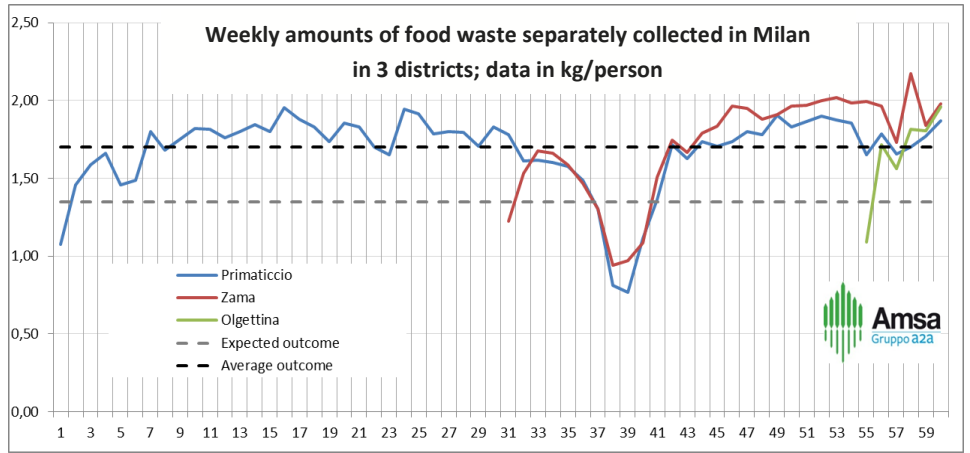


### Information and kitchen caddies provided to households

Households are given a **ventilated kitchen caddy** to use in the kitchen (eg, under the sink) along with a roll of certified compostable bags for the first few weeks. Organics are collected in the compostable bags and placed in a kerbside wheelie bin, which is picked up twice per week.



Bio-bin with ventilated kitchen caddy



**Composting and anaerobic digestion**

The collection and transport services are performed by AMSA (Milan’s Public Waste Management Company, A2A Group). The collected food waste is brought to a transfer station where it is loaded into heavy-duty trucks that transport the food waste to anaerobic digestion and composting facilities for the production of biogas and composting.

**90 kg food waste per inhabitant are collected**

The collection system has demonstrated extremely good results to date both in terms of collection and diversion from disposal. A rate of 90 kg of food waste per inhabitant per year is collected and recycled and an analysis of residual waste show that 86% of the total food

waste arising in Milan households is captured by the dedicated collection scheme. Quality analysis of collected bio-waste shows an average non-compostable content (in fresh matter) of 4.3%, which is a remarkably good result. The SSO collection system covers 77% of the Milan population, accounting for nearly 1 million inhabitants. By June 2014, the scheme will be extended to 100% of the city, thus Milan will be among the first metropolises in Europe to have extensive SSO collection.

For further information about Milan or the ISWA MWBT please contact: Marco Ricci-Jürgensen; CIC - Consorzio Italiano Compostatori, e-mail: ricci@compost.it web: [www.compost.it](http://www.compost.it)

**Compostory.org**

**Podcast Series on Separate Collection in Milan**

A new episode of the audio podcast series ‘The Organic Stream’ has been released on [compostory.org](http://compostory.org). In the podcast ‘Zero Waste Italy and Milan: Case Study’ expert Enzo Favoino talks about the separate collection program currently being rolled out in Milan for organics.

Compost.org is dedicated to providing an unprecedented online learning platform for local governments, agriculture and businesses in an effort to bring their influencers up to speed on relevant subject matter.

‘The Organic Stream’ is a weekly podcast series where experts and key figures in the recycling sphere share stories from the field.

The podcast can be accessed through the following link: show on Itunes: click [here](#) or from Compostory.org: click [here](#)



#5 Zero Waste Italy and Milan: Case Study  
Enzo Favoino (Zero Waste Europe)

# Management options for different composting strategies

Bio-waste has so far been managed by very different policies in European countries, ranging from little to no action in some to very ambitious actions in others. Existing legislative instruments at regional/national level, if existing at all, have not yet reached the intended objectives.

The ACR+ report aims to highlight the different possible composting strategies that can be considered by local authorities and other public/private stakeholders dealing with bio-waste.

The information is presented in an easy, accessible way and is meant to provide best available bio-waste composting strategies. This publication is of particular interest for those countries that are still heavily reliant on landfilling of bio-waste.

Not all of the composting strategies described in this report have been developed in the same way or with the same intensity in individual countries. This report therefore does not reflect the current bio-waste management situation in the EU but rather the possible decentralised and centralised options of treating bio-waste.

There is no single best strategy and it is recommended by the report that a mixture of different composting strategies may be adopted by decision makers at local and/or regional level.

It should be noted that the report does not consider anaerobic digestion. In addition, the bio-

waste prevention measures focus only on home & community composting. Anaerobic digestion and other bio-waste prevention measures, such as closed loop gardening techniques, food waste avoidance, food waste donations, animal feeding, etc. will be described in upcoming ACR+ technical reports in 2014 and 2015.

The report is available in English and can be downloaded (for ACR+ members free of charge) [here](#).

Non-members can order the report at the ACR+ secretariat: [info@acrplus.org](mailto:info@acrplus.org).

Based on ACR+ PR 20/02/2014



19 June 2014, Brussels

## Conference on 'Land as a resource'

The European Commission will host a conference on 'Land as a resource' in Brussels on 19 June 2014, with the objective of highlighting the importance of good land management to address European and global challenges, particularly in view of an increasing world population.

The conference will be opened by Janez Potočnik, Environment Commissioner, with a key-note speech by Lester E. Brown, Director of the Earth Policy Institute (Washington, D.C.). More information about the sessions and speakers can be found in the [conference programme](#).

The conference is part of the European Commission's work in preparation of a [Communication on land as a resource](#), foreseen for 2015.

The participation to the conference is free of charge but will be limited to 400 people. If you wish to attend the conference please fill in the on-line registration form to register for an invitation. Please note that registrations are [now open](#).



EU Commission

## Proposal for Revision of the Organic Farming Regulation published

On the 24<sup>th</sup> March 2014, the European Commission published a new proposal for the revision of the EU Organic Farming Regulations. One of the key proposals is that organic farming only uses materials that have produced in organic farming. This will have an impact for the composting and digestion sector producing high quality composts and digestate from bio-waste which are currently used for improving the organic matter content and the soil fertility of organically farmed soils.

The proposal focuses on three main objectives: maintaining consumer confidence, maintaining producer confidence and making it easier for farmers to switch to organics. The aim is that organic farming remains close to its principles and objectives, so that public demands in terms of environment and quality are met. The Commission proposes in particular:

- to strengthen and harmonize rules, both in the European Union and for imported products, by removing many of the current exceptions in terms of production and controls;
- to reinforce controls by making them risk-based;
- to make it easier for small farmers to join organic farming by introducing the possibility for them to sign up to a group certification system;
- to better address the international dimension of trade in organic products with the addition of new provisions on exports; and finally
- to simplify the legislation to reduce administrative costs for farmers and improve transparency.

### Strengthen the internal production cycle

The proposal, which will now be submitted to the European Parliament and to the Council, builds on the findings of a broad consultation process that started in 2012 and which included a series of hearings with EU and international experts on organic production. A public

consultation carried out in 2013 met a strong interest from the public (with 45 000 replies, mostly from "consumers" rather than "producers"). It highlighted the public's concerns with environmental and quality issues and showed a clear demand for strengthened and more uniform organic rules throughout the EU.

### Compost and digestate from bio-waste are beneficially used in organic agriculture

A proposal is to restrict the use of products that only have been generated in organic farming. This means, with regard to the use of organic soil improvers and fertilisers produced from exogenous organic resources, that applying recycled quality assured organic products (e.g. compost and digestate from bio-waste) will be restricted. This will not only have a harmful effect on the compost market in Europe, but also on the fertility of the organically farmed soils.

The European Compost Network (ECN) will follow-up on the revision process of the EU Organic Farming Regulation in the next months.

The proposal on the revision of the EU Organic Farming Regulation can be downloaded [here](#).

Further information is available on the Commission's [organic farming website](#).

Based on EC PR 25/03/2014



## Technical proposal for end-of-waste criteria published - follow-up actions postponed

The EU Commission's Joint Research Institute IPTS published in January the [final report](#) on 'End-of-waste criteria for biodegradable waste subjected to biological treatment (compost & digestate): Technical proposals'. Since then the European Compost Network (ECN) has been waiting for commencement of the regulatory measures by the Commission. An ECN delegation met on April 2nd with the Head of Waste Unit of the Directorate-General for Environment, Mr. Julio Garcia Burgués. At this meeting it was determined that it is unlikely that the Commission will come up with a proposal for an End-of-Waste regulation for composts and digestate.

ECN appreciates the ambitious work of the Joint Research Centre on the report on the development of end-of-waste criteria for compost and digestate. Since 2007, the ECN has been actively involved in European-wide policy discussions on the end-of-waste criteria for biodegradable waste.

ECN fully supports the outcome and the proposed criteria on compost and digestate that was developed after much discussion with Member States, stakeholders and experts. For further information the ECN summarised the outcome of the report in the [ECN INFO PAPER 01 2014](#).

Now, it is up to the Commission to initiate the final step by opening the 'comitology process'. In ECN's view there is an urgent need to finalise the end-of-waste criteria for compost and digestate, so that revisions to the EU Fertiliser Regulation, which impact upon the marketing of compost and digestate as organic fertilisers and soil improvers in Europe, can be finalised.

### No further actions are expected

On the 2nd April 2014 an ECN delegation (Stefanie Siebert, Aloys Oechtering, Florian Amlinger, Unico Van Kooten) had the opportunity to meet with the Head of Waste Unit in DG Environment, Mr. Julio Garcia Burgués and with the responsible waste officer, Bartosz Zambrzycki, about future measures on improving bio-waste management in Europe. Mr. Burgués expressed that for the moment the Commission is not considering to follow-up the process on end-of-waste criteria for compost and digestate within the Waste Framework Directive. DG Enterprise and Industry has started to work on the revision of the EU Fertiliser

Regulation by including organics fertilisers, soil improvers and growing media into its scope. The JRC IPTS technical report on setting end of waste criteria for compost and digestate will be used to set product criteria for waste derived compost and digestate within the revision of the EU Fertiliser Regulation. Therefore, DG Environment will wait for the first draft proposal on the future EU Fertiliser Regulation that is expected for the beginning of 2015, before any further environmental legislative approaches will be initiated.

### Need for improving of bio-waste management in Europe

A precondition for establishing a market for high quality compost and digestate in Europe is to improve recycling of bio-waste throughout Europe. In order to achieve this goal there is a need to set up separate collection targets for bio-waste collection and recycling. With regard to the target review process, the Commission is considering to phase out landfilling of biodegradable waste and setting more ambitious recycling targets within the remit of the Waste Framework Directive (WFD). In ECN's view these ambitious targets can only be achieved by more bio-waste recycling.

Therefore it is essential to establish clarity on recycling by setting separate collection targets for bio-waste and establishing the framework for European product quality criteria for organic waste derived products in the context of the Waste Framework Directive.



## Results of the consultation on waste related targets published

In January 2014, the European Commission published the results of the public stakeholder consultation on the Review of European Waste Management Targets, which was held between the 4<sup>th</sup> June and 9<sup>th</sup> September 2013.

The Targets Review Project has been commissioned by DG Environment of the European Commission. The project is aimed at identifying the issues and proposing possible solutions to implementing the targets in the Waste Framework Directive, the Landfill Directive and the Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive. The basis for the review of the targets is twofold: on the one hand it is to respond to the review clauses set out in the Directives and, on the other, to bring these targets in line with the Commission's ambitions of promoting resource efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

### Summary of results

A total of 670 people responded to the consultation. The majority of responses were from European citizens (48%).

In relation to the Waste Framework Directive the stakeholders are supportive of increasing monitoring and validation of municipal waste reports submitted by the Member States. It was proposed that only one calculation method, based on the quantity of collected municipal waste, should be established. The majority of Stakeholders are in favour of increasing the recycling rate of municipal waste. Additionally the Stakeholders suggested setting up separate recycling rates for specific waste streams.

This is in line with the ECN proposal to set up a separate collection target for recycling (compost and anaerobic digestion) of bio-waste.

Based on the scored options the following eight measures were proposed by the Stakeholders:

1. Introduce waste prevention and/or reuse targets;
2. Resource efficiency should be considered when setting targets;
3. There should be a clear distinction between different types of recycling (e.g. closed-loop vs. open-loop);



4. Construction & Demolition recycling targets should include backfilling under certain clearly defined conditions;
5. Targets should encourage/mandate separate collections (of dry recyclables and/or food waste) and the issues of separate collections should be clearly resolved by the European Commission;
6. Targets should be specified on a kg/capita basis and reduced over time;
7. All organisations collecting and recycling waste should report on quantities received/processed and there should be better reporting of end destinations; and
8. Introduce recycling targets for commercial and/or industrial waste.

The full report on the results of the Stakeholder consultation can be downloaded [here](#).

## New Statistics on Municipal Waste Management in EU28

On the 25 March 2014, EUROSTAT published updated statistics on the management of municipal waste in 2012. The data shows that 42 % of treated municipal waste was recycled or composted in the EU28.

Furthermore, 492 kg of municipal waste was generated per person, while 480 kg of municipal waste was treated per person. This municipal waste was treated in different ways; 34% was landfilled, 24 % incinerated, 27% recycled and 15% composted.

More than 50% of the overall municipal waste recycled or composted in the EU28 was in Germany, Austria and Belgium. The treatment methods differ substantially between Member States. Recycling and composting forms an increasing proportion of the waste treatment activities carried out in Member States. In 2012, 65% of the

waste treated in Germany was by recycling and composting. Similarly, recycling and composting were the techniques used to treat 62% of the waste treated in Austria and 57% of the waste treated in Belgium. Other countries where recycling and composting featured highly when treating waste include the Netherlands (50%), Luxembourg (47%), the United Kingdom (46%), Ireland (45%) and France (39%).

The full news release from Eurostat can be downloaded [here](#).

Source: Eurostat PR 25/03/2014

### Green Week 2014

## Circular Economy, Ressource efficiency & Waste

**The 2014 edition of Green Week, the biggest annual conference on European environment policy, will take place from 3 to 5 June at The Egg Conference Centre, Rue Bara, in Brussels. The theme will be Circular Economy, Resource Efficiency & Waste.**

A circular economy is the logical solution for a resource-constrained world. It's a place where almost nothing is wasted, where the re-use and remanufacturing of products has become standard practice, and where sustainability is built into the fabric of society. In 2014 the Commission will set out new proposals enabling Europe to unlock the potential of the circular economy, underlining the need to change our way of thinking about design. There will also be a focus on better waste management, and on how it can help the EU use its resources more efficiently.

Green Week offers a unique opportunity for debate and exchanges of experience and best practice. Over the past decade, the conference has established itself as

an unmissable event for anyone involved with protecting the environment. The 2013 edition attracted some 2.100 participants from government, business and industry, non-governmental organisations, academia and the media.

The 2014 programme is available now. Just go to [programme](#). Green Week is open to the public and participation is free of charge.

Green Week also has an area for exhibitors and satellite events take place all around Europe. Applications for a stand in the [exhibition](#) are open now. Applications for [satellite events](#) are also open.

Based on:

<http://www.greenweek2014.eu/>

## ORBIT 2014

The 9<sup>th</sup> International Scientific Conference **ORBIT 2014, "New challenges, new responses in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century"** will be held in **Gödöllő, Hungary on the 26-28, June, 2014.**

The conference is being organised by Szent István University (Gödöllő) and the Hungarian Quality Compost Association in co-operation with ECN. It aims to encompass several aspects and offer the opportunity to explore many current and relevant issues covering organic resources and biological treatment, including compost, biochar, digestate sciences and applications. It will provide an interactive forum for the exchange of ideas and joint discussions on recent scientific and practical results, including current issues related to technological processes, analysis and characterisation, sustainable uses and certification, regulation and marketing aspects. More than 100 abstracts were submitted, these will be presented in 12 sessions. The final scientific programme will be published on the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2014.

### Accommodation

ORBIT 2014 Conference will be held in the Knowledge Transfer Center, next to Szent István University, Gödöllő. Rooms are available in the Student Hostel within Szent István University Campus, which is located behind the conference venue. Thus, we highly recommend the participants to choose the accommodation in the Student Hostel due to its convenient location, good prices and high standard facilities (<http://www.sziekollegium.hu/en/>).

Furthermore, there are [hotels](#) in Gödöllő City Centre, about 25-30 minutes walk to the conference venue.

### Further ECN events related to ORBIT 2014

During the ORBIT2014 several ECN events will take place:

#### ECN WG3 'Integrated Waste management'

25th June 2:00 to 7:00 pm

Chair: Enzo Favoino

#### ECN WG5 'Eastern and starting countries in biological waste management'

26th June 9:00 to 10:30 am

Chairs: Grigor Stoyanov, Mait Kriipsalu

#### ECN Annual meeting 2014

27th June 4:00 to 7:00 pm

Chair: Aloys Oechtering

The invitations and agenda will be send to the ECN members end of May.

Further information on ORBIT 2014:

[www.orbit2014.com](http://www.orbit2014.com)

DAY	DATE	PROGRAMMES
1st day	25th June	<b>Pre-conference Programme:</b> Guided tour in Royal Palace, Gödöllő
2nd day	26th June	<b>Scientific Programme:</b> Morning: Opening Ceremony, Plenary Session, Lunch Afternoon: Oral Sessions and Poster Sessions Evening: Gala Dinner in Royal Palace
3rd day	27th June	<b>Scientific Programme:</b> Morning: Oral Sessions, Lunch Afternoon: Poster Sessions and Field excursion (Waste Treatment and Recycling Park Gödöllő)
4th day	28th June	<b>Technical Tour:</b> Complex Recycling Plant with AD and Biofuel Production

12-14 June 2014, Greece

## ATHENS 2014

The **ATHENS 2014 2nd International Conference on Sustainable Solid Waste Management** will be held at **Royal Olympic Athens Hotel in Athens from 12th to 14th June 2014.**

The Conference is organized by the National Technical University of Athens, the Association of Municipalities in the Attica Region – Solid Waste Management, EPTA SA, the Municipality of Athens & the Municipality of Kifissia in collaboration with the European Compost Network.

Indicatively, Julio Garcia Burgues (DG Environment, European Commission), Florian Amlinger (European Compost Network), Franco Cecchi (University of Verona), Stephen Smith (Imperial College), Francisco Omil (University of Santiago de Compostela) & Keith Riley (University of Southampton) will be keynote speakers of the ATHENS 2014 Conference. There is no registration fee. Advanced registration is strongly recommended.

More information is available [here](#).





05-09 May 2014, Munich (DE)

**IFAT 2014 - Worlds leading Trade Fair, for  
Water, Sewage, Waste and Raw Materials**

Clean drinking water, effective recycling and a responsible approach towards valuable resources.

Further information: [here](#).

8 May 2014, Munich (DE)

**VKU's Day of European Partner Associations in  
the Waste Management Sector**

This year's "Day of European Partner Associations" will have the motto "Making EU waste policy work – Which Role can municipalities and regions play in getting to a common understanding and implementation of EU waste legislation?" and will have a closer look at the waste structures in other EU member states. Further information: [here](#).

3-5 June 2014, Brussels (BE)

**Green Week Conference 2014 - Circular  
economy - saving resources, creating jobs**

The 2014 edition of Green Week, the biggest annual conference on European environment policy, will take place from 3 to 5 June at The Egg Conference Centre, Rue Bara, in Brussels. The theme will be Circular Economy, Resource Efficiency & Waste.

Further Information: [here](#)

19 June 2014, Brussels (BE)

**Land as a resource**

The European Commission will host a conference on 'Land as a resource' in Brussels on 19 June 2014, with the objective of highlighting the importance of good land management to address European and global challenges, particularly in view of an increasing world population.

Further Information: [here](#)

26-28 June 2014, Gödöllő (HU)

**ORBIT 2014**

9<sup>th</sup> Conference on Organic Resources and

Biological Treatment

The conference is organized by Szent István University (Gödöllő) and the Hungarian Quality Compost Association in co-operation with the European Compost Network e.V. (ECN). It aims to encompass several aspects and offer opportunity to explore many current and relevant issues of organic resources and biological treatment, included compost, biochar, digestate, sciences and applications.

Further information: [here](#).

22-24 September 2014, Halifax (Canada)

**24th Annual National Compost Conference**

The Compost Council of Canada is currently accepting submissions of papers for their 24<sup>th</sup> National Compost Conference to be held in Halifax, Nova Scotia. The conference annually provides some of the most extensive opportunities for learning and networking available nationally for those engaged in organics recycling and compost marketing and utilization, providing a national forum. Participants include representatives from all levels of government (particularly with interests in Environment, Agriculture, and Economic Development), industry (organic waste generators, compost system manufacturers and designers, facility operators, consultants and others) and academia.

Further Information: [here](#)

12 November 2014 Venice (IT)

**Venice Symposium 2014**

The aim of the Venice 2014 Symposium is to focus on the advances made in the application of technologies for energy recovery from biomass and waste and to encourage discussion in these fields. The fifth edition of the Symposium will be held in the stunning island of San Servolo in the Venetian Lagoon.

Further information [here](#)

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