



# Re-Thinking the Circular Economy Package

In a surprise move towards the end of last year, the European Parliament announced that it planned to withdraw its Circular Economy Package and replace it with more ambitious proposals by the end of 2015. The move stunned many in the environmental sector, and led to uncertainty over revisions to streamline European waste regulation.

The European Commission's Circular Economy Package 'Towards a Circular Economy: A Zero Waste Programme for Europe' was launched in July 2014 by former Environment Commissioner, Janez Potocnik. It set out proposals to increase recycling/re-use of municipal waste to 70% in 2030; phase out landfilling by 2025 of recyclables, including bio-waste; and, reduce food waste generation by 30% by 2025. The proposal was widely supported by European environmental organisations, including ECN. If implemented it had the potential to result in an additional 50 million tonnes of bio-waste being recycled and the creation of at least 100,000 jobs.

Following the scheduled five-year change of commissioners, president-elect Jean-Claude Juncker announced a more streamlined focus to tackle the big political challenges Europe is facing. Axing of the Circular Economy Package in December, was just one of 80 existing

proposals that will be withdrawn or amended for 'political or technical reasons'.

## Environmentalists against withdrawal

The move sparked fury, with a coalition of environmental organisation, including ECN, voicing their concerns over the abolition of the package. In a joint statement, they called on Members of the European Parliament to support a resolution on the Commission's 2015 Work Programme which urged the Commission to proceed with the ongoing legislative co-decision process. "Given its potential for green job creation, improvements to resource security, environmental protection and inclusive development, a withdrawal of the package would represent a missed opportunity and a significant delay to its eventual implementation", they said. In a further statement headed by six

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environmental organisations, including Friends of the Earth Europe and the European Environment Bureau, they called into question “the legality, substance and democracy of the decision”. Despite this, parliamentarians failed to reach consensus on the way forward in January.

### **New approach should promote markets for recycled products**

It appears that these voices may well have been heard. Speaking at the Circular Economy Conference on 5 March, the new Environment Commissioner, Karmenu Vella, announced that “The Commission has decided to undertake a thorough reflection on how the objective of circular economy can be reached in a more efficient way that is fully compatible with the jobs and growth agenda”. “Continuously advancing waste management remains a priority of course, through incentives and support for waste reduction as well as high-quality separation and collection systems. The latter ensure that resources stay within the circle and are available for future use.”

In addition, he stated that: “I want to assure you that we will keep our EU wide goals on recycling levels. Our success will be measured by how well policies are implemented on the ground. So we will have to set smart, realistic objectives and focus on implementation.”

It is anticipated that the package will prepare a roadmap for further action on the circular economy, considering two aspects:

- Upstream: in the production and use phase, before products become waste; and
- Downstream: after products are no longer waste, looking at what can be done to encourage and develop a market for the recycled products.

Meanwhile ECN received a response by the Commission on its letter to President Jean-Claude Juncker (sent in December 2014) to hold the waste package on the work programme of the Commission. Mr. Karl Falkenberg, General Director of DG Environment, responded, that *‘the Commission is fully aware of the importance of environmental and economic challenges related to the circular economy’* and that the Commission will set the circular economy in a *‘more ambitious and effective approach’*. This approach will support *‘better product design and sustainable consumption’* as well as *‘facilitating the development of markets for recycled products’*.

ECN will be following these developments, and we will advise our members as soon as they are published.

The ECN letter to EU President Jean-Claude Juncker is available [here](#).

**24-25 June 2015, Brussels - Save the date!**

## **EU Policy Workshop and ECN Annual Meeting**

**The European Compost Network is planning to hold its Annual meeting in combination with a EU Policy Workshop on the 24 and 25 June 2015 in Brussels (BE).**

The policy workshop (24 June) will focus on the development on the Circular Economy and product policy to facilitate the marketing of compost and digestate in the Europe. Key speakers from the European Commission and the European Parliament are expected to give an update on the planned initiatives. The workshop will include a discussion of the different policy works in the task groups of ECN.

The Annual Meeting is scheduled from 9:00–12:00 h on the 25 June 2015. Invitation and agenda will be delivered in time.

Further information on the ECN work schedule 2015 is available [here](#).

# Implementing Compulsory Separate Bio-Waste Collection Schemes

The German Waste Management Act of 2012 placed an obligation on waste producers and waste management authorities to collect bio-waste separately by the end of 2014. A study, commissioned by the Federal Environment Agency in Germany, reviewed the ways in which this Act could be implemented and provided recommendations for improving bio-waste collection services. The full report was published in German, with a summary of the key findings also made available in English.

The study examined the extent and ways in which bio-waste from private households was collected using bio-waste bins, and analysed some of the concerns expressed by waste management authorities about expansion of collection services. It included food, kitchen waste and garden (yard) waste collected from households in either bins or bags.

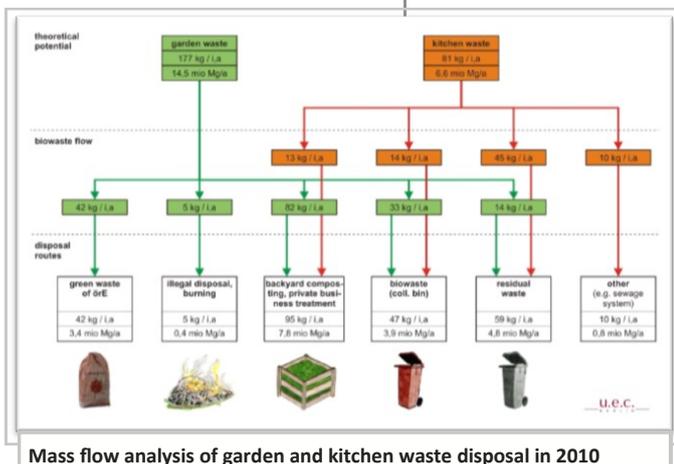
## Baseline data for 2010

Baseline data for 2010 indicated that 4.2 million tonnes of bio-waste was collected using a bio-waste bin, with a further 4.6 million tonnes of garden waste collected from households, parks and landscaping activities. However, the quantity of bio-waste collected per person in 2010 varied considerably across Germany. In 2010, private households in 286 districts had access to a comprehensive separate collection system that used bio-waste bins and was operated by

mandated waste management authorities. Separate collection systems for private garden waste, however, were in place in most districts. Only seven districts did not have the possibility of disposing of garden waste separately through mandated waste management authorities. The survey of waste management authorities, covering the period 2011-12, indicated that a large majority (83%) of all areas that offered a comprehensive separate waste collection system, also obliged householders to use bio-waste bins. Most waste management authorities allowed private households to opt out of the bio-waste collection system, for example, if they composted their own waste at home. This was found to be more prevalent in rural areas.

The authors analysed the fate of green and food wastes in 2010 and illustrated this in a mass flow diagram (see below). They found that 35% of the theoretical bio-waste potential (approximately 21.1 million tonnes per annum [tpa]) was collected by mandated waste management authorities in 2010, whilst roughly 23% (4.8 million tpa) went into residual waste. Another significant amount was disposed of in private gardens and in unrecorded private businesses treating bio-waste.

Waste analyses indicated that most of the organic material disposed of in area, 77 districts offered no bio-waste bin service at all. While 39 districts offered separate collection in some parts of the waste management area, 77 districts offered no bio-waste bin service at all. In residual waste consisted of kitchen and food waste, therefore the authors concluded that further separation efforts should focus on kitchen waste.



### Anticipated changes during 2015 and 2016

Until 2010 quantities of collected bio-waste had stagnated at around 4.2 million tpa, although this amount had been steadily rising since 2010 due to the Waste Management Act of 2012. Anticipated changes to collection schemes in 39 districts in 2015 and 2016 included the:

- Introduction of separate bio-waste collections using bins in 13 districts;
- Increase in the coverage of collections in 12 districts;
- Abolition of separate collection using bio-waste bins in two districts; and
- Ongoing decision-making processes in 12 districts.

Depending on the outcome of these processes, the amount of bio-waste collected through bio-waste bins in Germany in 2015 is expected to total between 4.7 and 4.9 million tonnes. At the same time, it is noteworthy that 57 to 69 districts would still not offer bio-waste bin collections through mandated waste management authorities in 2015. Overall, estimates of the total quantities of bio-waste that could potentially be collected, suggested that between 6.4 and 9.1 million tpa was possible, assuming collection coverage of 70% or 100%, respectively.

### Concerns about further expansion

Despite the fact that bio-waste collections are now widespread across Germany, a number of waste management authorities did express some reservations about introducing bio-waste bins. The most common concerns centred on competition with existing home composting, cost implications and low population densities.

#### Drivers and targets

The authors concluded that, rather than setting explicit diversion targets, successful separate collection schemes need to be tailored to local waste management needs.

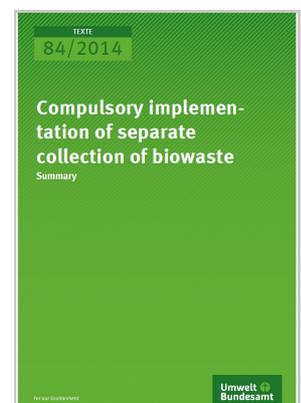
Collection bin volume was also found to be a critical factor: the greater the volume, the greater the quantities of bio-waste collected. A minimum capacity of between 10 to 20 litre / inhabitant / week, depending on the structure of the area, was found to be necessary in order to collect a minimum of 50 kg / inhabitant / year.

### Main recommendations

The findings of the research project led to a number of recommendations regarding the design of separate bio-waste collection systems in Germany, including:

- Requiring mandated waste management authorities to collect both kitchen and garden waste;
- Making the use of the bio-waste collection bins by householders mandatory;
- Setting minimum standards should householders wish to opt-out of the collection scheme;
- Ensuring that bio-waste recycling be carried out so that high quality is achieved; and
- Preventing environmentally damaging disposal of garden waste through illegal dumping or burning.

The authors also made recommendations regarding opt-out criteria where householders choose to compost their bio-waste at home; a minimum garden size of 50 m<sup>2</sup> per resident was suggested.



A full copy of the report in German can be accessed: [here](#)

A copy of the English summary can be accessed: [here](#)

# Manifesto for Sustainable Food Waste Management in the Mediterranean Basin

A manifesto calling for improved management of food waste was launched in Barcelona in February by an EU-funded initiative called SCOW. The launch was attended by representatives from over 24 organisations, who debated its contents and provided technical input during a one-day workshop.

SCOW stands for the Selective Collection of Organic Waste in Tourist Areas, and is a project funded by the European Neighbourhood Partnership Instrument Cross-Border Co-operation in the Mediterranean programme, which aims to reinforce co-operation between the European Union and partner countries located along the shores of the Mediterranean Sea.

The SCOW project aims to develop low cost, low tech, high quality biowaste collection and recycling models in territories with tourist areas and agricultural activity. Its goal is to implement innovative and sustainable biowaste management systems through effective collection and waste treatment strategies based on decentralised, small-scale composting plants that are located near to where the waste is generated and the compost can be used.

The manifesto focuses on food waste collection and recycling, as this is the largest fraction of the municipal solid waste stream in Mediterranean countries, whose effective collection and treatment can bring many environmental benefits to the region.

## European experts and ECN signed the Manifesto

The manifesto sets out ten key principles, which aim to underpin the development of effective separate biowaste collection and treatment programmes, with the overall aim of

promoting the manufacture of quality compost and digestate. A group of experts involved in the European Project SCOW signed in Barcelona a manifesto that outlines the strategies for the improvement in food waste management in the Mediterranean area. Signatories have agreed to commit to promote and spread these principles when interacting with policy makers and other stakeholders as well as to incorporate and implement these strategies wherever possible. The European Compost Network ECN supports the initiative of the SCOW project partners and has signed as one of the first European associations the manifesto as well.

## Join the Manifesto

The document remains open to new signatures by other entities and experts of the Mediterranean zone. If you are interested in receiving information about the manifesto and sign it, you can contact with BCNecologia, leader partner of the project, through the next e-mail address: [nohales@bcnecologia.net](mailto:nohales@bcnecologia.net) or via the specific website for signing the Manifesto:

<http://www.biowaste-scow.eu/Manifesto-for-food-waste-management>

## Further information on SCOW

The manifesto is one small part of the SCOW project, which involves partners from Spain, Italy, France (Corsica),

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John van Haeff, Chair of ECN, signing the manifesto on proper food management

Palestine, Israel and Malta. Other activities include a biowaste survey and development of a database of good practice example projects.

SCOW project website: [www.biowaste-scow.eu/](http://www.biowaste-scow.eu/)

## SUMMARY OF MANIFESTO PRINCIPLES

1. Drivers - to support the introduction of appropriate drivers for the prevention, reuse, separate collection and recycling of bio-waste.
2. Targets - to support the introduction of targets for food waste collection and recycling.
3. Collection schemes: food waste vs. green waste - to support separate collection schemes of bio-waste, focusing specifically on food waste.
4. Separate collection models: kerbside vs. bring schemes - to support the development of environmentally and economically effective food waste collection schemes, giving preference to kerbside systems wherever feasible.
5. Impurities - to support collection schemes that minimise impurities at source, and to implement appropriate quality controls during collection.
6. Participation - to support initiatives to spread knowledge and awareness about bio-waste collection and recycling to the maximum possible extent.
7. Type and size of composting facilities - to support all kinds of initiatives aimed at developing bio-waste recycling capacity, so that it is economically and technically sustainable over the long term.
8. Compost quality and marketing - to support initiatives to promote the production of quality assured compost from separately collected bio-waste, and to develop sustainable, local compost markets.
9. Regional co-operation - to support local authorities and other stakeholders in actively joining a knowledge platform promoting bio-waste management in Mediterranean countries.
10. Monitoring and benchmarking – to encourage both regional and national environmental authorities to commit to monitor activities and promote the inclusion of bio-waste recycling within environmental strategies, and to disseminate good practice examples.



*Note: Each of the ten principles is accompanied by a short introduction outlining its rationale, as well as suggestions about how they can be implemented in practice. Threshold values for cadmium in mineral fertilisers should be set.*

**Please sign the Manifesto [here](http://www.biowaste-scow.eu/).**

# Calculation of Contaminant Accumulation in Soil Due to Long Term Compost Application

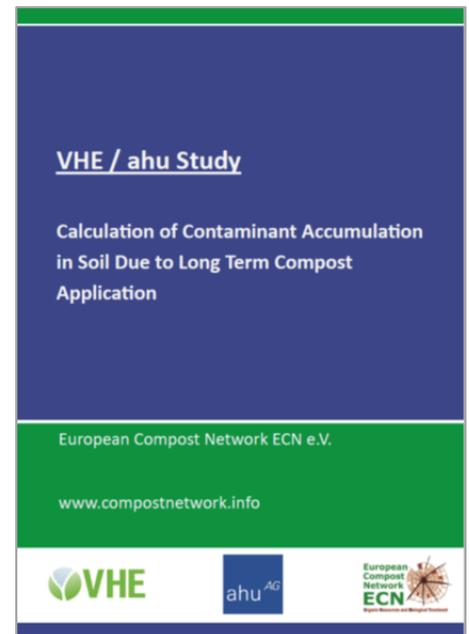
A recent study published by the German humus association, VHE, modelled the accumulation of compost contaminants in soils. The research was carried out by Dr Silvia Lazar and Dr Silke Höke of ahu AG in Germany, who used a mathematical approach to estimate contaminant concentration build up in soils by taking into account the mineral fraction of compost.

The mineral fraction (ash residue) in compost accounts for about 60% of its dry mass and, unlike the organic matter fraction which is mineralised over time, it remains in the soil permanently following compost application. This stable mineral fraction contributes towards soil structure and therefore effectively dilutes any contaminants that are applied to the soil in the compost.

The researchers used this basis to calculate the increase in the soil horizon that would occur following long term compost application. They estimated that the upper soil horizon would be increased by 3.6 cm following regular compost use over 100 years. Due to increasing the depth of the upper soil horizon (i.e. soil build up) the concentration of contaminants from compost would be significantly lower compared with calculations based solely on the application of contaminants on their own. Similarly, at higher background soil concentrations, reduction in the concentrations of contaminants in the soil are possible due to the application of compost.

The model suggested that when the average cadmium (Cd) concentration in compost was assumed to be 0.42 mg / kg dry matter (this is the median concentration measured by the German compost quality organisation, BGK, in 2010) and the stable long-term mineral soil content in compost was 51%, the soil Cd concentration would never exceed 0.82 mg / kg dry matter.

This is an important conclusion, as it implies that long term compost applications will not result in ongoing increases in contaminant concentrations. A limit will always be reached, which is due to the diluting effect of the stable fraction. This is because the



increase in contaminant concentration is non-linear and will, in mathematical terms, tend towards an asymptote, which is the upper concentration limit.

Comparable calculations that did not take into account the effect on the soil horizon of the stable fraction in compost, estimated increases in Cd soil concentrations to be linear. The concentration of Cd in soil would therefore continue to increase following every compost application.

Interestingly, when high background soil concentrations were taken into account in the model, the stable fraction of the compost had a diluting effect, and, in effect, reduced soil contaminant concentrations.

An English version of the German study has been published by ECN, and is available on the [ECN website](#).

# Organic Waste in Circular Economy

More than 350 leading experts and decision makers in the field of phosphorus management followed the invitation by the German Phosphorus Platform and the European Sustainable Phosphorus Platform to join the second European Sustainable Phosphorus Conference (ESPC2015) on the 5-6 March 2015 in Berlin, Germany. The European Compost Network organised and chaired a successful round table on 'Nutrient recycling in compost and digestate'.

The conference was introduced by Mr Florian Pronold, the German Parliamentary State Secretary for the Environment. The following key note speakers referred about actions taken by the Germans Länder and by the European Commission for promoting a sustainable use of phosphorus in respect to a circular economy.

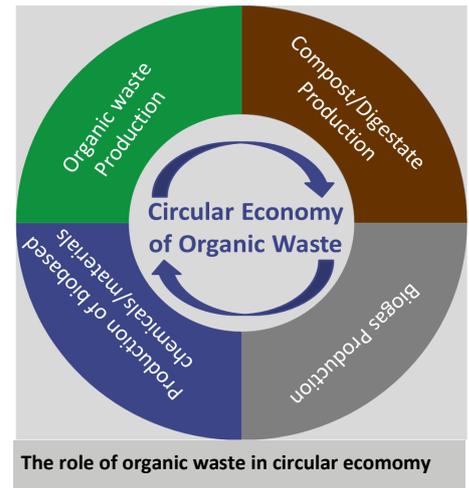
The first day was dominated by presenting success stories and business cases, on phosphorus management.

Main topics of the conference were:

- EU policies on phosphorus management,
- Follow-up the inclusion of phosphate rock on the EU Critical Raw Materials list ,
- Agricultural phosphorus efficiency and sustainable intensification,
- P from farm to fork: Phosphorus sustainability in the agricultural market and the food industry,
- Phosphorus, global food security, geopolitical dependencies, boundaries,
- Regions implementing sustainable phosphorus management,
- The need for societal change, and how to achieve it.

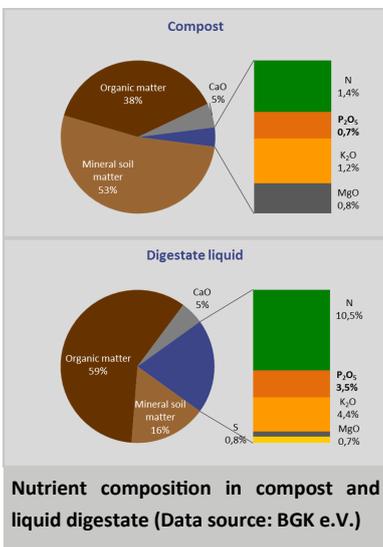
## Nutrient recycling in compost and digestate

On the second day 17 round table discussions on specific topics took place. The European Compost Network organised and chaired two sessions on 'Nutrient recycling in compost and digestate'.



Adrie Veeken, Attero NL, presented the role of bio-waste in the phosphorus cycle. With the potential of 88 million tonnes of bio-waste in municipal solid waste and the huge amount of food waste (89 million tonnes per a) a major source for nutrient recycling is available. This feedstock could be used to produce high quality compost and digestate, renewable energy (like biofuels and biogas) and further upgraded bio-polymers for the biobased economy. Compost and digestate, used as organic fertiliser and soil improver, can mainly replace mineral fertilisers and maintain organic matter in agricultural soil. Fabrizio Adani, University of Milan, focussed on the role of nitrogen in organic fertilisers, like digestate and compost.

Following the two introduction presentations the participants of the round table discussed the role of organic waste, especially of bio-waste, for phosphorus recycling and in respect to



close the nutrient cycle in a resource-efficient society.

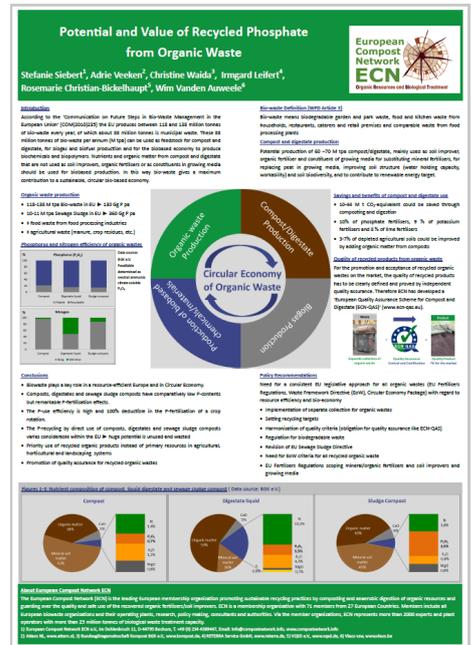
### Conclusions and policy recommendations

As an outcome of these round table discussions the participants agreed on several conclusions, which should be taken as recommendations into considerations for improving the European policy on P-recycling and circular economy:

- Organic waste recycling contributes to P-recycling.
- Direct use of compost and digestate according to good agricultural practice should be stimulated.
- P-efficiency according to P-availability, P-stock in soils etc. should be respecting by fertilising soils with compost and digestate.
- Separate collection of bio-waste is a prerequisite for good quality compost and digestate.
- Recycling targets for bio-waste in the Waste Framework Directive will enhance the recycling of waste.
- A landfill ban or taxing unsustainable treatment methods (landfilling, incineration) for biodegradable waste should be implemented.

- Process control and quality criteria are needed for recycled bio-waste.
- Awareness campaigns for P- and nutrient recycling are needed.
- Organic matter is as important as nutrient recycling of bio-waste.

The summary of the conclusions on nutrient recycling in compost and digestate is available [here](#).



The ECN poster presentation can be downloaded [here](#).

Further Information on ESPC2015: [here](#)

## UK Feedstock Quality Package Launched

The Organics Recycling Group (ORG) of UK's Renewable Energy Association announced the release of its 'feedstock quality package' in November, which aims to improve the quality of feedstocks collected and delivered to composting sites in the UK.

The package consists of:

- A position statement which outlines a range of measures that compost producers and their waste suppliers should take to minimise problems arising from physical contaminants in feedstock for composting.
- An updated input specification template for garden wastes and commingled garden/food wastes, which

compost plant operators can use in tenders and contracts with municipalities.

- A visual assessment guide that should help site operatives carry out visual assessments of loads of input materials delivered to a composting site and identify whether a load requires rejection or cleaning up before is shredded and composted, particularly with regard to light plastics. The limit levels in the guidance are consistent with those in the position statement.

Copies of the guidance are available at the ORG website: [here](#)

## ECN Successful in Getting EU ABP Regulations Changed

ECN has been successful in getting changes made in the regulations around marketing of compost/digestate. Stefanie Siebert and Percy Foster attended a meeting in 2014 with the European Commission to discuss the conditions around compost/digestate marketing.

The key changes that have been made in the regulations are:

- Premises retailing compost/digestate in bags less than 50kg such as landscapers and garden centres are exempt from ABP regulations (no haulier registration, no need to register premises). The only condition that applies is the compost/biogas operator supplies a commercial document.
- Users of compost/digestate where no farmed animal are kept are exempt from registration/haulier registration. Examples of who this applies to are landscapers using compost in landscaping projects and farmers who only grow crops (e.g. vegetables, barley, and wheat).
- Growing media in bags with less than 5% content of compost/digestate made from category 3 or 2 materials or up to 50% processed manures are exempt from ABP regulations.

The actual technical amendments to the regulations are:

In EU Regulation 142/2011 – Article 20 (4)- the following points (e) and (f) are added:

(e) Users of organic fertilisers or soil improvers at premises where farmed animals are not kept

(f) Operators handling and distributing organic fertilisers or soil improvers exclusively in ready to sell retail packaging of no more than 50kg in weight for use outside the feed and food chain.

Article 22, paragraph 2 is replaced by the following:

2. The placing on the market of the following is not subject to any animal health conditions:

(b) ready to sell growing media, other than that imported, with a content of less than

(i) 5% category in volume of derived products of category 3 materials or of category 2 material other than processed manure;

(ii) 50% in volume of processed manure

### Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT)

In addition to the marketing changes, there is also changes for MBT plants. The changes are that plants which are only handling catering waste, there is no processing standard to be met and the outputs can only be recovered or disposed (incineration, landfill) in accordance with environmental regulations.

The actual technical amendment is in Annex V which state that in point 3, point (b) is replaced by the following:

“(b) considers that the digestion residues or compost are unprocessed material and obliges operators to handle them in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009, with this Regulation or, in the case of compost or digestion residues derived from catering waste, to recover or dispose of in accordance with the environmental legislation.”

### Amendment to REG No 142/2011

The Commission Regulation (EU) 2015/9 of the 6th January 2015 amends Commission Regulation (EU) No 142/2011 and came into force on the 23 February 2015. Regulation 2015/9 can be accessed: [here](#)

### Frequent Asked Questions

The European Commission will also be soon publishing a set Frequent Asked Questions. When this is published, this will be circulated to members.

## IEA Report

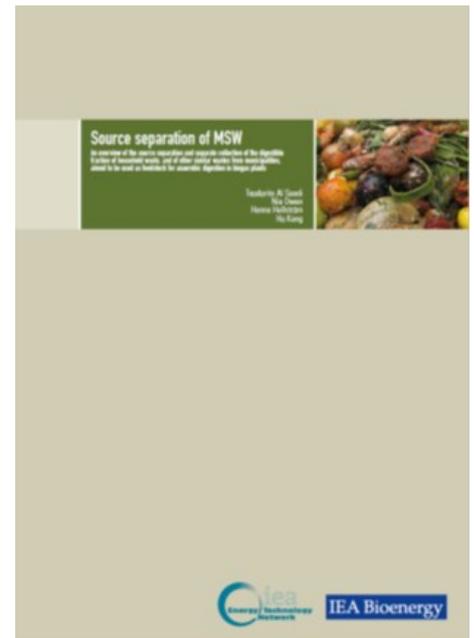
# Report on the Source Separation of MSW

**A report published by Task 37, a working group of the International Energy Authority, provides an overview of source separation and separate collection of the digestible fraction of household and other similar wastes used as feedstocks in anaerobic digestion plants.**

The report is intended to provide municipalities and policy makers with guidance on the separate collection of digestible wastes from households and commercial sources, so that clean materials can be obtained to produce quality digestate.

The authors set out the rationale of the report and the global importance of managing food wastes, which includes a separate chapter on some of the main policy drivers in place internationally. Examples are given of drivers in place outside of the EU, including examples from Switzerland, South Korea and Hong Kong.

The report mainly focusses on the benefits of anaerobic digestion. It provides an in-depth description of the different types of separate collection schemes, including an appraisal of different bins, caddy liners and collection strategies. Collection schemes in Sweden, the UK and South Korea are used as examples; notably, little reference has been made to Italian food waste collections, which have a long and proven track record.



The report contains a useful chapter on some of the many factors that need to be considered when setting up a separate collection scheme. It includes information on pre-set up timescales, the importance of conducting a feasibility study, as well as communications and evaluation plans. There is also a short chapter dedicated to economic considerations.

A copy of the report can be accessed: [here](#)

## Practical Guide on Separate collection

Compostplus has recently published a manual on separate collection of biowaste in France. 20 municipalities contributed to enhance this manual by sharing their experiences on separated collection of biowaste. The content aims to educate the municipalities about why to implement separate collection of biowaste, how to succeed and how to optimize it. It's a perfect tool to encourage its development, because it is written by municipalities for other municipalities.



The development of the manual has been supported by ADEME, Agency of the Environment and Energy Control, and prefaced by the ministry of the Ecology. The period of the publication falls at the right time, because biowaste management is presently under discussion in the project of the Energetic Transition Law. And with the support of the Ministry of Ecology, France is about to make source separation of biowaste compulsory by 2025.

This manual will help deputies and senators to better understand the issues and to convince them that this new industry doesn't imply additional cost for municipalities, but on the contrary, it is one of the last solution that allows them to optimize the waste public service and better control its costs. The part dealing on cost shows that the average global cost per inhabitant of the municipalities involved in the Compostplus network is the same as the national average, which is 89€ per inhabitant and year. Nevertheless, the network average rate for recycling is 51%, against 36% for the national rate. Those performances clearly demonstrate that separate collection of biowaste allows municipalities to better recycle without spending more!

The manual can be read online: [here](#)

### Quality Assurance Scheme for compost developed

In addition to this manual on promoting separate collection Compostplus has developed quality assurance system for compost (ASQA). ASQA stands for "Amendement Sélectionné Qualité Attestée" and means "soil improver

selected and quality testified". It is an integrated Quality Assurance System (QAS) gathering requirements on the product, the process and the management. It includes as well requirements taken from the national law.

ASQA has been created in order to satisfy farmers' needs, especially in terms of product quality and traceability. Actually, the national law requirements, led by the U 44 051 standards, are not sufficient enough to prevent risk contamination because of the lack of external control. The set of requirements has been built by a representative working group gathering all the technical stakeholders from producers to users. Public and private companies were involved in that collaborative work.

For the composting plants, ASQA is a way to improve its social acceptability and to better valorise the products. From a national point of view, the use of ASQA should globally improve the image and the confidence toward composting industry, thank to the quality product enhancement and to more transparency. For the future Compostplus is considering to apply for conformity assessment of the ASQA in the European Quality Assurance Scheme for Compost and Digestate (ECN-QAS) of the European Compost Network.

On the 8-9 October 2015 Compostplus will organise its biennial conference called "*Territories and Biowaste*" in Colmar that gathers more than 150 people from municipalities, institutions, industries and associations all over France.



## Seattle Food Waste Ban

The American city of Seattle in Washington State prohibited the disposal of food waste and compostable paper from residential, commercial and self-haul waste from 1 January 2015.

This new law affects both businesses and residents, and complements a similar law brought into effect in July 2014, which also bans dry recyclables from being disposed of in the residual waste bin. Instead both single- and multi-family residents and businesses must place compostable food soiled paper towels, paper napkins, pizza boxes and food waste in a separate bin for composting. The law also affects residents and businesses who take their own waste to a transfer station (so-called 'self-haul garbage') instead of using the city's collection service. Garden waste from households and businesses has already been banned from disposal for a number of years.

The ban will be enforced through a series of notices, followed by fines. Residents will be informed of significant amounts



(more than 10%) of recyclables and compostables in the residual waste bin through a notice placed on their bin. Two warning notices will be given, and if it continues after 1 July 2015, then a \$1 fine will be added to their waste bill. A similar system will be used in multi residential apartments, where the apartment owners or property managers will be informed. Businesses will also be given two warnings, followed by a \$50 fine. All single and multi-residential properties will be provided with a free recycling service, meaning that it is cheaper to recycle than continue disposing of all waste in one bin.

Further information about the scheme can be accessed: [here](#)



## Irish Compost User Guides Published

The Irish market development programme, rx3, published a number of information factsheets to support compost users. The aim of the factsheets is to help users identify issues of relevance, and provide consumers with the resources to select appropriate products for their needs.

Northern Ireland

## New Legislation for Collection of Food waste

The new legislation will stop separately collected food waste being accepted at landfill sites from 1 April 2015.

It also stops businesses, like hotels and staff canteens, disposing food waste down the drain and into the sewer network by 1 April 2017. Food businesses will have to keep their food waste separate from other waste and make

There are four separate factsheets in this series: agriculture, amateur gardening, commercial horticulture and landscaping. The focus is on the benefits and ways in which quality compost can be used.

Copies of the guides can be downloaded from the rx3 website: [here](#)

sure that their waste contractors collect and transport the food waste separately. The result of all this is that the food waste that is separated out from other waste will be sent for recycling at in-vessel composting or anaerobic digestion plants, generating good quality compost, energy and green jobs.



REFERTIL NEWS

## Compost Research Supports EU

A group of European research organisations is investigating advanced solutions for the transformation of the bio-waste streams from EU municipalities, food industries and farms. The REFERTIL project is co-funded by the European Union, Seventh Framework Programme, and aims to provide policy support to the European Commission during revision of the Fertilisers Regulation.

including the effects of applying biochar. Samples of compost and biochar were assessed, inter alia, for phytotoxicity, plant pathogen suppression and pathogen content. The results suggested that: *“compost and biochar could be a reliable alternative to chemical fertilizers, with both short term (nutrients) and long term effects on crops and soil. Agronomical evaluation should inform ... suitable crops and conditions of use.”*

The project has analysed over 200 compost samples and conducted composting trials in Spain and Hungary,

A summary of the work is available from the RERTIL website: [here](#)

NEWS from ECN

## Vlaco Awarded First Quality Assurance Certificate for both Compost and Digestate

The Flemish Quality Assurance Organisation for Compost and Digestate, Vlaco, has become the first European Quality Assurance Organisation to be awarded the European Compost Network’s updated Quality Assurance Scheme for Compost and Digestate (ECN-QAS). With this conformity label, Vlaco is now entitled to award the European quality label for compost and digestate to their participating composting and digestion plants.



John Van Haeff (Chair of ECN, left) and Stefanie Siebert (ECN Quality Manager, right) award the certificate to Kristel Vandenbroek (Vlaco, middle).

ECN launched its Quality Assurance Scheme for compost in 2010, setting out quality requirements for both the composting process and the final compost product. This was updated in October 2014 to include anaerobic digestion and its resultant product, digestate.

ECN’s Quality Manager, Dr Stefanie Siebert, commented: “Following this successful conformity assessment, Vlaco is leading the way towards a harmonised market for compost and digestate across Europe”.

Further information about the ECN-QAS can be accessed: [here](#)  
Information about Vlaco can be accessed: [here](#)

## Study tour on effective foodwaste recycling

Collection of food and garden waste in urban areas and in suburbs areas, recovery in Biogas (AD) and recycling into Compost and organic fertilizers

**Date:** 22-23 September 2015 (24 sept EXPO 2015 visit).

**Location:** Milan, Lombardy, Italy

**Organisation:** CIC – Italian Composting and Biogas Association

### Topic

Separate collection of food waste has more than 20 years of experience in Italy. Many Cities are now running separate collection schemes by using compostable liners, mainly made of bioplastics. Food waste is collected both at large producers (i.e. the Ho.Re.Ca. sector) and at households, including also families living in high-rise buildings and flats. In some cities and areas the density of inhabitants, served by separate collections, exceeding 7000 persons/sqkm.

Both composting and AD are standard facilities for food waste recycling in Italy and CIC has established a National Quality Assurance Scheme for composting plant, actually certifying more than 30% of the Italian Compost Production.

### Content and visits

- Guided technical tour on separate collection in Milan City and suburbs
- Visit of a large Composting and AD plant accepting food waste collected with compostable biobags
- Workshop with CIC focusing on current situation about biowaste management in Italy and quality surveying of foodwaste applied in Milan City
- The Workshop will be at EXPO2015 exhibition

### Dates

Tuesday 22 Sept 2015

Wednesday 23 Sept 2015

Thursday 24 Sept 2015 (EXPO 2015, [www.expo2015.org](http://www.expo2015.org))

### Location

The Study tour will depart from and arrive at the Milan City

By Air: airports: Milano Malpensa, Milano Linate (City Airport), Milano Bergamo

By Train: Milano Centrale

### Contact

Study tour Update at <http://www.compost.it/english-version.html>

Contacts: [cic@compost.it](mailto:cic@compost.it)

This year has been assigned International Year of Soils (IYS 2015) by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation. This falls within the framework of the Global Soil Partnership and is in collaboration with Governments and the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

The IYS 2015 aims to increase awareness and understanding of the importance of soil for food security and essential ecosystem functions. A number of specific objectives have been set, which aim to:

- Raise full awareness among civil society and decision makers about the profound importance of soil for human life;
- Educate the public about the crucial role soil plays in food security, climate change adaptation and mitigation, essential ecosystem services, poverty alleviation and sustainable development;
- Support effective policies and actions for the sustainable management and protection of soil resources;
- Promote investment in sustainable soil management activities to develop and maintain healthy soils for different land users and population groups;
- Strengthen initiatives in connection with the SDG process (Sustainable Development Goals) and Post-2015 agenda;

- Advocate for rapid capacity enhancement for soil information collection and monitoring at all levels (global, regional and national).

The FAO soils website contains some useful information, including a communications toolkit and links to resources. A dedicated publication, Healthy Soils Are the Basis for Healthy Food Production, is also available to download.

Further information can be accessed at the FAO soils



## RAMIRAN 2015

# Registration open

**16<sup>th</sup> International Conference Rural-Urban Symbiosis, 8-10 Sept 2015, Hamburg (DE)**  
**RAMIRAN 2015 is focusing on closing the loop linking rural production and urban consumption systems and on the development of more sustainable solutions for the handling of residues.**

Agriculture produces bioresources for food and increasingly also for material and energy provision. The majority of agro-products are used in urban areas where they are connected with waste and wastewater generation. On the one hand, these residues are actually disposed or inefficiently treated, on the other they have value for agricultural production.

The registration is now open and a preliminary key speaker programme is available yet.

Registration can be done [here](#).

The draft programme of the opening session is available [here](#).





**Publisher:**

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Issue-No.: 01\_15

Date: 17.03.2015

20-24 April 2015, Murcia (E)

**III. International Symposium on Organic Matter  
Management and Compost Use in Horticulture**

The present edition will cover different aspects including nutritional issues and the implication on global food security, different environmental and health issues associated to the use of compost in agriculture, and also a reflection on novel organic amendments and future needs to ensure its safe use and commercialisation. A specific session will be devoted to the interaction of biochar and organic matter.

Further information: [here](#)

1 May – 31 October, Milano (IT)

**EXPO 2015 -- Feeding the Planet, Energy for life**

Expo Milano 2015 will talk about the problems of nutrition and the resources of our planet. The idea is to open up a dialogue between international players.

Further information: [here](#)

12 May 2015, Brussels (BE)

**WasteReuse Forum**

This conference is designed to be a day of exchanges and discussions focusing on two main subjects: sustainable agriculture as well as the reuse of agricultural waste.

Further information: [here](#)

3-5 June 2015, Brussels (BE)

**EU Green Week 2015**

Green Week offers a unique opportunity for debate and exchanges on nature and biodiversity policy. Green Week is open to the public and participation is free of charge.

Further information: [here](#)

7-9 September 2015, Antwerpen (BE)

**ISWA 2015 - World Congress**

ISWA 2015 Antwerp will guarantee a balanced mix of internationally renowned keynote speakers, representatives of institutions and

agencies worldwide that determine waste and materials policy, interesting insights into the latest scientific and technological developments in the sector.

Further information: [here](#)

7-9 September 2015, Vienna (AT)

**SUSGRO 2015**

In modern horticulture, sustainability should be achieved along the whole production cycle. The acquisition and processing of growing media constituents, preparation of substrates as well as their final use should take into account the three pillars of sustainability: economic, environmental and societal.

In this symposium, world-wide scientific and technical advances in approaches towards these aims will be presented and discussed between researchers, industry and end-users

Further information: [here](#)

9 September 2015, Münchendorf (AT)

**4<sup>th</sup> International Practionner Day (IPT 2015)**

ARGE Kompost & Biogas Austria is organising this event on a compost site near Vienna. Participants of the **SUSGRO 2015** will attend the IPT 2015 meanwhile an excursion.

Registration and further information: [here](#)

8-10 September 2015, Hamburg (D)

**RAMIRAN 2015**

This event is focusing on closing the loop linking rural production and urban consumption systems and on the development of more sustainable solutions for the handling of residues.

Registration and further information: [here](#)

16-18 September 2015, Québec (CAN)

**Organics Recycling & Compost Conference**

25<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of Compost Council Canada. Call for abstracts is open until 30th April.

Further information : [here](#)