ECN NEWS

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FROM THE EDITOR

ECN's NEW CORPORATE IDENTITY

Since ECN's inception in 2002, we have established a solid reputation within Europe, based upon our expert knowledge and extensive network of members. Our new logo was launched at the annual meeting in May, with the aim of complementing our ongoing policy and advocacy work.

The original 'spider's web' logo has been in use ever since ECN was launched, and was looking somewhat tired and out-of-date. ECN's board agreed that a newer, fresher look was required to help represent our ongoing activities. After much debate, our new logo was agreed.

ECN's new logo

The 'leaf' motif represents organic growth and networking – a reflection of differing opinions and points of view. The green colour symbolises the organic nature of our sector, reflecting all that is good about bio-waste, whilst the purple colour has been selected to represent innovation within the green economy. Together they provide a fresh and distinctive look for ECN. Our website and documents will be updated to incorporate the new logo before the end of the year.

We hope you like it!

ECN'S FACTSHEET

Biowaste Generates Jobs

ECN's recently published infographic illustrates employment potential across Europe's biowaste processing sector. It is aimed at policy makers, politicians and non-technical stakeholders, and shows that by capturing the two-thirds of biowaste that is currently not utilized, an additional 60,000 jobs could be created.

The infographic has been developed for ECN members to use, and has been designed using the new logo and colour scheme. Job estimates are split between rural and urban areas using simple graphics, and suggest that the total number of jobs across Europe could exceed 90,000.
A copy of the infographic can be downloaded from the ECN website: here

EU CIRCULAR ECONOMY

European Biowaste Recycling Target Proposed

Following a pause of almost a year, the European Commission published its long-awaited 'Circular Economy Package' in December, setting out proposals to revise, inter alia, the Waste Framework and Landfill Directives. These include a revised target for recycling municipal waste as well as setting a binding target to reduce the amount of municipal waste landfilled. Since then, ECN has been busy advocating the separate collection and recycling of biowaste, resulting in positive changes being recently proposed by the European Parliament.

The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) is the leading legislative committee of the European Parliament. As its remit includes climate change, air and water pollution, waste management and the protection of biodiversity, it has the task of reviewing the Commission's proposals. Rapporteur Simona Bonafè (Socialists & Democrats), summarised the committee's views on the proposed revisions to the Waste Framework Directive in its report, published on 24 May.

Proposals by the European Parliament

The Committee proposed a total of 165 amendments be made, of which ten relate specifically to biowaste (see box). Overall, the amendments aim to strengthen waste prevention measures and develop an efficient secondary raw materials market. In her justification, MEP Bonafè stressed the need for separate waste collection systems, noting that the 'current provision for exemptions on technical, environmental and economic grounds have in practice led to this requirement not being fully applied'. With regard to biowaste, Ms Bonafè went further, stating: 'Your rapporteur has placed the emphasis on the need for specific measures for the reprocessing of organic waste, which is not yet subject to appropriate provisions. A target for the recycling of 'bio-waste' is essential so as to promote the recovery of organic materials and support the creation of a market for compost and digestate as well as for biogas. To this end, the separate collection of bio-waste should be made mandatory by 2020 and supported with suitable economic instruments. Your rapporteur has therefore provided for the introduction of a specific methodology for calculating the organic recycling rate.'

"A target for the recycling of 'bio-waste' is essential"

ECN's position

These changes reflect ECN's position. We believe that strict requirements are needed to ensure separate collection of bio-waste, which has to be implemented by the Member States across Europe. In this context, the formulation in Article 22 that 'Member States shall ensure separate collection where technically, environmentally and economically practicable and appropriate' leaves too much room for interpretation. This is not necessary, as experience across Europe shows that separate collection of bio-waste is feasible in both urban and rural areas, under various geographic and climatic conditions.

DRAFT PROPOSALS BY THE RAPPORTEUR OF THE ENVICOMMITTEE

- A new definition of biowaste, making reference to compostability;
- A new definition of organic recycling;
- Setting a target of 65% of biowaste to be recycled by 2025;
- Requiring obligatory separate bio-waste collections;
- Removing the 'technically, environmentally and economically practicable and appropriate' requirement;
- Making reference to quality standards;
- Making reference to quality assurance; and
- Making specific reference to the bioeconomy.

European Parliament

CONTINUE PAGE

The importance of bio-waste in the context of overall MSW recycling targets may be further enhanced by setting a separate target for recycling of bio-waste. We suggest setting a recycling target for bio-waste from MSW at 65% for 2025, combined with the set-up of appropriate incentive schemes.

Next steps

The ENVI Committee met on the 24 May and again on the 21 June to discuss these amendments with the Commission.
The deadline for submitting further amendments was 1 Julyand a follow-up depabe in the ENVI Committee is scheduled on 8 September. The final vote will be take place in the ENVI Committee on 6-7 November.

Further information

A copy of the rapporteur's draft report suggesting changes to the Waste Framework Directive can be accessed: here.
Information about the legislative procedure can be accessed: here.
A copy of ECN's Position Paper on the EU Circular Economy Package, which set out our detailed arguments can be accessed: here.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED BIO-WASTE SPECIFIC AMENDMENTS TO THE WASTE FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE BY THE ENVI COM RAPPORTEUR MEP SIMONA BONAFÈ

Amendment 23 – Change to Recital 20 requiring obligatory bio-waste collection

Separate collection of bio-waste from municipal waste should be made obligatory and a recycling target should be laid down for bio-waste from municipal waste to attract infrastructure investments towards recycling facilities for bio-waste and to boost markets for compost and digestate.

Amendment 24 – Insertion to Recital 20 making specific reference to the bioeconomy

The bioeconomy plays a crucial role in guaranteeing the availability of raw materials across the Union. A more efficient use of municipal waste could create an important incentive for the bioeconomy supply chain. In particular, a sustainable management of bio-waste offers the opportunity to substitute fossil fuel-based feedstocks with renewable sources for the production of materials and commodities.

Amendment 44 – Change to Article 3 (4) defining bio-waste and making reference to compostability

"bio-waste" means biodegradable garden and park waste, food and kitchen waste from households, restaurants, caterers and retail premises, comparable waste from food processing plants and other waste with similar biodegradability and compostability properties that is similar in nature and composition.

Amendment 50 – Insertion of a new definition of 'organic recycling' into Article 3 (17)

"organic recycling" means the aerobic (composting) or anaerobic(biomethanization) treatment, under controlled conditions and using microorganisms, of the biodegradable parts of waste, which produces stabilized organic residues or methane. Landfill shall not be considered to be a form of organic recycling.

Amendment 110 – Amendment to Article 11 to require the separate collection of bio-waste

Separate collection shall be set up for at least the following: paper, metal, plastic, glass, wood, textile and bio-waste.

Amendment 136 – Insertion of a paragraph in Article 22 setting a target to recycle bio-waste

Member States shall take the necessary measures to ensure that, by 2025, the organic recycling of bio-waste from municipal waste shall be increased to a minimum of 65 % by weight. The weight of bio-waste recycled shall be understood as the weight of the input waste entering an organic recycling process in a given year.

Amendment 137 – Change to Article 22, removing 'technically, environmentally and economically practicable and appropriate' requirement

Member States shall set up systems for the separate collection at source of bio-waste by 31 December 2020 to ensure the relevant quality standards for compost and digestate and to attain the [bio-waste recycling] targets.

Amendment 138 - Change to Article 22, removing 'as appropriate' proviso

This is to ensure that Member States implement measures to ensure that organic waste from organic recycling is reprocessed into compost and digestate with qualitative properties that enable its use as a secondary raw material.

Amendment 139 – Change to Article 22, making reference to quality standards

The organic recycling in order to produce compost and digestate which meet relevant quality standards.

Amendment 140 – Insertion into Article 22, making reference to quality assurance

The measures referred to in paragraph 2 shall include adequate incentives for the treatment of bio-waste, including traceability and quality assurance schemes aimed

EU FERTLISING PRODUCT REGULATION

CE Marked Compost and Digestate Proposal

Proposals by the European Commission to introduce a new 'Fertilising Products Regulation' were published in March. It introduces criteria for organic and waste-based fertilisers, including compost and digestate, and sets a new legislative framework for CE marked fertilising products.

The proposal has been the result of many years' work by both the Commission and ECN. It will replace the current Fertilisers Regulation (which focusses almost exclusively on inorganic fertilisers), and is the first deliverable of the Circular Economy Package announced last December. The CE mark stands for 'Conformité Européene' (European Conformity) and means that manufacturers claim compliance with a relevant European health, safety or environmental protection legislation.

CE mark a prerequisite for the EU Market

The proposed Regulation aims to create a level playing field for all fertilising products, whilst also ensuring that high safety and environmental protection standards are met. It establishes rules for the free movement of all CE marked fertilising products across the EU, although harmonisation is optional and member states may opt to comply with national rules instead.

Quality, Safety and Labelling

The criteria for all CE fertilising products aim to address quality, safety and labelling. It also modernises the declaration of conformity and conformity assessment procedures, enables derived animal-by-products to move freely on the single market as fertilising products, and includes recovery rules for biowaste transformed into composts and digestates. Notably, if these products are incorporated in CE marked fertilisers, they are no longer considered to be waste within the meaning of the Waste Framework Directive. This allows waste-derived products to freely circulate within the EU.

Quasi End-of-waste criteria for compost and digestate

Quality criteria for composts and digestates have been based on the technical proposal [JRC 2014] on *'end-of-waste criteria for biodegradable waste subjected to biological treatment (compost & digestate)'* carried out by the Joint Research Centre; Institute for Prospective Technical Studies in Seville. They include a list of input materials, general requirements on treatment processes, and limit levels for contaminants and impurities as well as stability criteria for compost and digestate. The Regulation sets out an exhaustive list of component material categories ('CMC') and product function categories ('PFC'), each having its own set of criteria. Compost has been assigned CMC 3 and digestate CMC 5. When sold as a soil improver, it would be assigned to PFC 3 (a), Soil Improver - Organic.

ECN's position

ECN welcomes the proposed Regulation and submitted detailed comments to the Commission in May. Overall, we are supportive of the end-of-waste criteria, as this will remove legislative uncertainty in many member states. The capacity for member states to retain their own national standards is also welcomed by avoiding unnecessary market disruptions. However, we recognise that some of the proposals set out by the JRC in 2014 have not been translated into the proposed Regulation. We have sought clarification with regard to input materials used for producing compost/digestate materials falling within the scope of the end-of-waste criteria as well as the CE marked fertilising products.

CE CRTITERIA FOR FERTILISING PRODUCTS

- **Quality – such as minimum nutrient content, organic matter content, neutralizing values that are specific to each category of fertilising products;**
- **Safety – such as maximum limits for heavy metals, including cadmium, for organic contaminants, for microbial contaminants and for impurities specific to each category of fertilising products; and**
- **Labelling – such as the actual nutrients content and their forms which will allow the farmers to modulate the use of the fertilisers depending on the plant needs.**

Trade mark for certified quality assurance organisations, compost and digestate products according to ECN-QAS, registered at the European Register of Community Trade Marks 'OHIM 2012/210: TM No 011007168'

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We also raised issues about the requirement for the intervention of a notifying authority or accreditation body to carry oversee a national quality assurance scheme. ECN's Quality Assurance Scheme (QAS) has been developed to provide a benchmark for national quality assurance organisations. It is unclear how individual national quality assurance schemes would fit with the proposed conformity assessment procedures. We believe that there is a well-grounded need for further discussion to figure out whether the existing national quality assurance systems could remain in place and whether the ECN-QAS could work as an umbrella organisation with/without accreditation but based on acknowledged bodies.

ECN has also called for similar heavy metal thresholds for all 'Product Function Categories' to be set. We note that there is a difference between organic fertiliser, organic soil improver and growing media, apparently due to possible higher concentrations of cadmium in native, unprocessed bark materials. In addition, we also set out some queries about the Regulation's interface with the Animal By-Products Regulation (No 1069/2009), as it is unclear which temperature-time profiles would predominate. The ECN's position paper on the Commission's proposal can be assessed: here.

Next steps

The Commission has sought views on the proposals and liaised with ECN's Fertiliser Regulation Task Group in May at the GORC conference in Dublin. The Commission now intends to begin work on development of possible process and product criteria for struvite, biochar and ash-based products for use in fertilising products (see article on 'STRUBIAS Technical Working Group Convened').

The draft Regulation will now be sent to the European Parliament and Council for adoption. Once adopted, it will be directly applicable, without the need for transposition into national law, after a transitional period allowing companies and public authorities to prepare for the new rules.

Further information

A fact sheet setting out a number of frequently asked questions (FAQs) on the Fertilising Products Regulation can be accessed: here.

EU COMMISSION/JRC

STRUBIAS TECHICAL WORKING GROUP CONVENED

Following publication of the revised Fertilising Products Regulation, the European Commission has set up a technical working group for the development of possible process and product criteria for struvite, biochar and ash-based products for use in fertilising products. It is called STRUBIAS, and is a sub-group of the Commission's expert group on fertilisers.

The European Commission's Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW), with the assistance of the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission (DG JRC), has set up the technical working group for the development of possible process and product criteria for struvite, biochar and ash-based products (STRUBIAS) for use in fertilising products.
Its main objective is to provide non-binding expert advice, including recommendations and opinions, to the European Commission on possible recovery rules for nutrients (and where relevant organic matter) from eligible materials into struvite, biochar or ash-based products. Specifically, it will include the possible development of process and product criteria for struvite, biochar and ash-based products from waste materials and industrial by-products in accordance with the Waste Framework Directive.

ECN Member of the Technical Working Group 'STRUBIAS'

ECN has been appointed as a member of the STRUBIAS TWG and will attend the kick-off meeting scheduled for 6 and 7 July 2016 in Seville, Spain.

Join ECN's Task Group 'STRUBIAS'

ECN members, who are interested in the work of the STRUBIAS TWG, can join ECN's Task Group 'STRUBIAS' to follow-up this process actively. In this case, send an email with the subject 'Application for TG STRUBIAS' to info@compostnetwork.info.
In the meantime, further information can be obtained: here.

EU CONFERENCE

Benefits of Separate Waste Collection Showcased

A conference organised by the European Commission in January set out to address the main policy and practical impacts of increased recycling targets resulting from the circular economy package. It was jointly organised by Municipal Waste Europe and EUROCITIES, and attracted over 300 delegates including policy makers, associations and waste managers.

'Separate Waste Collection in the Context of a Circular Economy in Europe' was held in Brussels and addressed the main policy issues related to separate waste collection as well as discussing good practice examples from across Europe.

Local impact

Part I of the conference invited speakers to present their views on the main policy impacts. They noted that there will be no circular economy without good separate waste collection schemes. Overall, small and medium size cities tend to recycle more waste than capital or large cities, whilst the role of citizens and local authorities is important. It was suggested that what 'local authorities need to be able to play their role in the transition to a circular economy is an ambitious and comprehensive legally binding policy framework'.

Success stories

Part II of the conference covered practice, in which a number of examples of separate collection schemes in small, medium and large cities were presented. These included Milan (IT) and its separate food waste collection scheme; Manchester (UK) which has a lot of old housing stock; and Gothenburg (SE) which communicates with its citizens by using a waste indicator.

Best Environmental Practices

Part III addressed implementation. It started with a presentation by Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission on their work on 'Best Environmental Practices' in the waste management sector. This was then followed by two discussion panels, debating local governance and producer responsibility.

Conclusions

The conference was concluded by Gulio Garcia Burgués, Head of the Unit Waste Management and Recycling of DG Environment. He summarised the main findings of the conference, noting that:
Separate collection is essential;
It is perfectly doable; and
Separate collection is a flexible tool.

Information about the conference, including speakers' presentations can be accessed: here
A copy of the conference report can be accessed: here

EU COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS

EU Called On to Set Food Waste Reduction Target

The 'European Committee of the Regions' rapporteur, Ossi Martikainen (FI/ALDE), called on the EU to adopt a minimum target of reducing food waste by 30% by 2025. He encouraged local and regional authorities to take action by putting in place effective prevention and awareness programmes.

In a report, adopted on the 15 June, the Committee of the Regions (COR) acknowledged that wasting food contributes towards greenhouse gas emissions and water loss. It urges 'the Commission to consider the possibility of setting individual reduction targets for every phase of the food production chain: production, processing, selling and distribution, catering services, households and food waste treatment'. In addition, it also recommends that:

'local and regional authorities responsible for waste management develop waste sorting and recycling schemes, indicate the proportion of food waste more clearly and make the data collected universally accessible, so as to help increase the level of recycling of food waste, for instance as biogas and compost. This could also have a positive effect on the local economy, employment and local innovation'.

'When so many go hungry each day, it is simply unacceptable that so much food goes to waste. The 30% target shows that local and regional governments are ready to act. From promoting awareness-raising, to shortening the supply-chain to food collections, local and regional governments can make a difference but they need the EU to lead the way' said Markku Markkula, President of the European Committee of the Regions.

The Committee will also be participating in the forthcoming EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste, which aims to support all actors in defining measures needed to prevent food waste, sharing best practice and evaluating progress made over time. The Platform will bring together public entities (Member States/ EFTA countries, EU bodies, including the CoR, and international organisations) and actors in the food value-chain such as consumer- and other non-governmental organisations.

A copy of the report can be accessed: here
Further information about the CoR can be accessed: here
Information about the EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste can be accessed: here

EU PRESIDENCY 01.07.-31.12.2016

Slovakia to Hold EU Presidency

Slovakia will take over presidency of the European Council from the Netherlands on 1 July.

It will take responsibility for driving forward the Council's work on EU legislation, ensuring the continuity of the EU agenda, orderly legislative processes and co-operation among member states. The presidency plans and chairs meetings of the European Council, helping to ensure continuity of the EU's work, as well as representing the Council with the other EU institutions. Slovakia aims to prioritise economic growth, the digital single market, the creation of an Energy Union, migration and EU enlargement.
Further information can be accessed: here

High level conference on Green Economy
The international conference "Transition to the Green Economy" (T2gE) will be an event of major strategic nature during the Slovak Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The conference will be held from 6 to 7 September 2016 in Bratislava. The conference will bring together a broad spectrum of stakeholders.
The conference will aim to bring together policymakers from various EU countries, as well as a range of stakeholders from international organizations, academia, business, and civil society and encourage an open debate around key green economy issues. Its ambition is to improve understanding of the green economy concept, identify conclusions and pathways for transition as well as to involve and mobilise various actors and stakeholders in the discussions of possible future actions. At the end of the conference, draft conclusions, for both the national and the European level, will be approved which will be useful tool for implementation of policy in the field of green economy.
Further information can be assessed: here

FOOD WASTE

Study Suggests 20 % of European Food is Wasted

The most robust estimates of food waste arisings across the EU-28 has been published as part of the European-funded FUSIONS project. The report, published in March, sets out estimates of food waste for the year 2013 using a new FUSIONS definitional framework. It aligned existing data sets taken from national waste statistics and findings from selected research studies, then adjusted the data to reach an overall estimate of 88 million tonnes, equivalent to 173 kg of food waste per person in the EU-28. Overall, it suggests that about 20% of European food is wasted annually.

FUSIONS, stands for 'Food Use for Social Innovation by Optimising Waste Prevention Strategies' and is an EU project funded by the European Commission Framework Programme 7. The project has run since 2012 and is due to complete in July 2016. It has 21 project partners from 13 countries, with the aim of establishing 'a European Multi-Stakeholder Platform to generate a shared vision and strategy to prevent food loss and waste across the whole supply chain through social innovation'.

The report describes in detail how data were obtained from five different sectors across the supply chain, each having its own NACE (Nomenclature of Economic Activities) classification code. Quantities of food waste generated across the five different sectors split into different product categories were estimated, as well as the destinations of the food waste. The data suggested that out of the 88 million tonnes of waste food, the majority (53%) came from households.

The cost of this food waste was estimated to be about 143 billion Euros, of which two-thirds (98 billion €) was associated with households. The authors suggested that this was because households generate more edible food waste than any other sector, plus the cost of this waste also includes processing, packaging and retailing costs.

The authors highlighted the uncertainties involved, estimating 95% confidence intervals for all data. They noted that, for some sectors, there were only a relatively small number of studies of sufficiently high quality, coupled with available data for only up to a quarter on member states. One of the key recommendations is that all EU member states begin to measure food waste robustly.

A copy of the report can be accessed from the EU FUSIONS website, along with the Global Standard to Measure Food Loss and Waste: here

ESTIMATES OF FOOD WASTE ACROSS THE EU-28 IN 2012

SECTOR	FOOD WASTE (millions of tonnes)	FOOD WASTE (kg/person)	PROPORTION (%)
Primary production	9.1	18	11
Processing	16.9	33	19
Wholesale & logistics including retail & markets	4.6	9	5
Food service	10.5	21	12
Household	46.5	92	53
TOTAL	87.6	173	100

FOOD WASTE

Assessing the Economic Benefits of Biowaste Collection

A UK study has modelled the economics of separately collecting food waste from both businesses and households in England. The report, 'The Real Economic Benefit of Separate Biowaste Collections - A Business Case', was published in May 2016. It was carried out by Eunomia Research & Consulting, funded by the UK-based food waste collection company Olleco and commissioned by the Renewable Energy Association

The focus of the report was England. Although, at present, the United Kingdom (UK) is the EU member state, it is made up of four separate nations (namely, England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales), each having its own waste legislation and policies. Both Northern Ireland and Scotland have specific legislation in place requiring the separate collection of food waste, whilst Wales has a mandatory recycling target; England, on the other hand, lacks any such mechanism meaning that a significant proportion of food waste is not collected separately. The authors estimated the costs associated with different collection options for both commercial (business) and domestic (household) food waste.

Four different scenarios were modelled for commercial waste. At present, most commercial waste is paid for on a per bin basis, irrespective of the weight of the bin, which therefore acts as a disincentive to collect food waste separately. The research suggested that requiring food businesses to take up separate collections would increase the overall efficiency of collection, and would thereby reduce costs. It estimated that a business producing 500 kg of food waste a week could save in the region of £900 (€1130) every year if a mandatory system were implemented. Further additional savings were also suggested due to improved dry recycling. The authors indicated that market forces on their own would be insufficient to drive this change, noting that a 'mandatory requirement on food businesses to separate food waste will therefore enable them to make savings, which are less likely to be achieved without legislation'.

Separate collecton of food waste from housholds saves costs

Household food waste collection was modelled based on differing collection frequencies in conjunction with residual waste and dry recycling collections. As an estimated 30% of residual household waste in England comprises food waste, this represents a significant opportunity. Using previously published data, the authors suggested that introducing separate food waste collections would enable municipalities to reduce the frequency of residual waste collections, resulting in savings in the region of £10-20 (€12-25) per household per year. They suggested that municipalities 'can make direct savings by separately collecting food waste. The money saved by diverting waste from more expensive disposal or treatment options can significantly offset the costs of collection'.

Finally, the study reviewed current waste legislation, in particular the waste hierarchy and the proposed revisions to the EU Waste Framework Directive. The authors concluded that, although current legislation in England did support separate food waste collections through the waste hierarchy, it was not enforced. They suggested that 'new legislation similar to that introduced in Scotland and Northern Ireland could greatly simplify matters'.
A copy of the report can be accessed: here

PUBLICATIONS

SOIL SCIENCE

Good Agricultural Practices Can Increase Soil Carbon

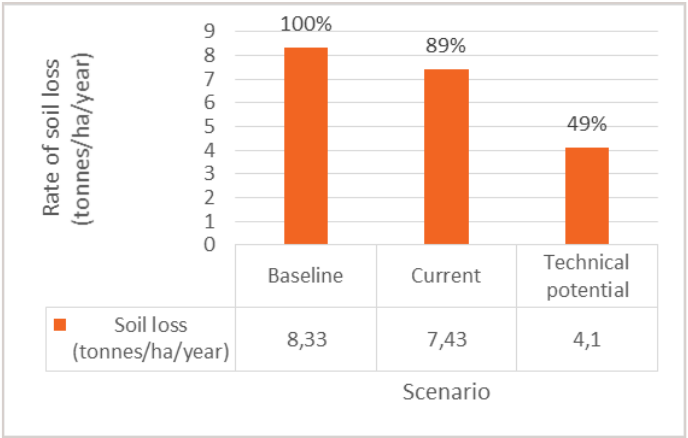
Research suggests that soil erosion in Italy could be reduced by 43% if Good Agricultural and Environmental Conditions (GAEC) were fully adopted. By reducing soil erosion, organic carbon stocks could also be increased, particularly on cultivated sloping land.

The research was carried out using an erosion model linked to an agro-ecosystem model to calculate the impact of GAEC practices on protecting soil losses and soil organic carbon stocks. Three scenarios were investigated:

- A 'baseline' scenario where GAECs were not in place;
- A 'current' scenario in which GAEC standards were implemented in 2005; and
- A 'technical potential' in which GAEC standards are implemented across all arable land in Italy.

The results (see table) indicate that soil erosion was greatest in the baseline scenario, and could be reduced by up to 51% by implementing the full 'technical potential'. Under the baseline scenario, almost a third (29%) of arable land had a rate of soil erosion greater than 10 tonnes/ha/year, which is the threshold rate at which soil erosion becomes unsustainable; this fell to only 25% in the 'current' scenario.

The modelling also suggested that soil organic carbon (SOC) levels could be increased by implementing GAEC standards. It was estimated that about 17% of the change in SOC between the 'current' and 'baseline' scenarios were due to avoiding sediment erosion. Potentially, by implementing the full 'technical potential', Italy could increase its soil carbon stocks by up to 23.3 million tonnes by 2020.



The authors concluded that modelling could assist policy makers evaluate the effectiveness of soil conservation measures both before and after implementation.

Further information about the research work on GAEC of the European Commission's website on Science for Environment Policy can be assessed here.

WRAP PROGAMME

New Video Schowcasing the Benefits of Compost Launched

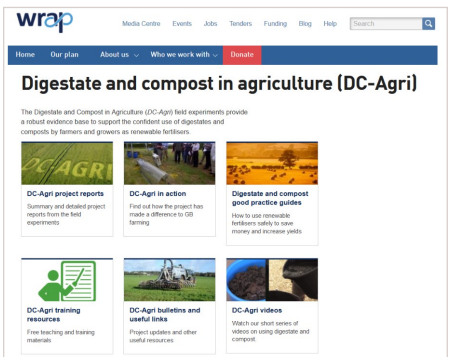
The UK-based Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) has recently launched a new video highlighting the benefits of using compost in agriculture.

The video demonstrates how repeated application of quality compost increases soil organic matter, improves soil nutrient availability and increases crop yields. It is based on results of research carried out by WRAP through the 'DC-Agri' project. This new video complements those on 'Using digestate as a biofertiliser' and 'Digestate and understanding nitrogen'.

The videos can be accessed:here

The Digestate and Compost in Agriculture (DC-Agri) field experiments provide a robust evidence base to support the confident use of digestates and composts by farmers and growers as renewable fertilisers.

Further information about the DC-Agri project, including research results and training resources can be accessed: here



ECN'S ANNUAL MEETING 2016

NEW ECN Board elected

ECN's annual meeting took place on the 2nd May in Dublin, Ireland. The annual meeting is an opportunity for ECN members to come together, network and discuss the key issues of the day. In addition, it is the main platform for ECN's Executive Director, Stefanie Siebert, to present the work that has been carried out during the previous year, and to present and seek views about the year ahead.

The annual meeting is also the time when new and existing board members are elected. This year a number of existing board members were re-elected: Percy Foster from Cré in Ireland, Kristel Vandenbroekfrom VLACO in Belgium, vzw (BE), Mait Kriipsalu from the Estonian University of Life Science and Florian Amlinger from ARGE in Austria. Grigor Stoyanov (Bulgaria) stood down from the Board after three years.
ECN also welcomed Isabelle Pace from the French Federation of Waste Management and Environmental Services (FNADE). Isabelle joined Veolia in October 2010 with the remit of lobbying for waste and resource management at the EU level. She started within the Corporate Technical Department and recently joined the Public Affairs Department where she actively follows the discussions on the circular economy package, the review process of the waste related BREFs and the Fertilisers Regulation. For the Waste Treatment BREF, she represents the Federation of Waste Management and Environmental Services (FEAD) within the technical working group of the waste treatment BREF and leads the biological sub-group on mechanical biological treatment.

The ECN Board (from left to right): Percy Foster, Isabelle Pace, Massimo Centemero, Kristel Vandenbroek, Henrik Lystad (Chair), Mait Kriipsalu, Florian Amlinger, Irmgard Leifert, Arjen Brinkmann

ECN'S PRIORITIES FOR 2016

Henrik Lystad, Chairman of the Board, set out ECN's work priorities for 2016 at the annual meeting in May. These focus on three core themes:

- **Facilitating and improving ECN's lobbying work in Brussels;**
- **Improving ECN representation in Brussels; and**
- **Improving networking on a European level.**

The Circular Economy Package and revisions to the Fertilisers Regulation remain the key policy areas. Stefanie Siebert, Executive Director, explained that to help facilitate this, ECN had commissioned a professional lobbying company in Brussels, to provide advocacy support for ECN. The contract, made possible through a donation by the Italian Composting and Biogas Association, aims to engage with relevant ministries, MEPs and stakeholders in Brussels.
ECN has published position papers on both the Circular Economy Package and Fertilisers Regulation, and will continue to promote examples of successful separate biowaste collection services and negotiate a favourable position for compost and digestate.

ECN requested that members actively engage with their respective MEPs by arranging visits to local composting plants, and meeting with national members of parliaments and ministries to draw their attention to biowaste and helping to firmly establish it within the circular economy package.

To support the work o ECN, a number of new task groups were established at the annual meeting, with the aim of involving more ECN members. The new ECN Strategy and Work schedule can be assessed: here

Should you wish to become actively involved in any of the tasks groups, please email the ECN office (info@compostnetwork.info).

ECN'S WORK AREA
AREA COMMUNICATION & EVENTS
AREA EUROPEAN POLICY
AREA QUALITY ASSURANCE FOR COMPOST & DIGESTATE
AREA RESEARCH & MARKET DEVELOPMENT

CRÉ /ECN, 3-4 MAY 2016 DUBLIN, IE

Global Organic Resources Congress

Held on the 3-4 May in Dublin, the Global Organic Resources Congress (GORC) brought together delegates from 23 different countries to discuss the latest developments, challenges and future circular bioeconomy opportunities for the organics recycling sector. It was organised by Cré and the European Compost Network, and was the fourth international conference of its kind held in Ireland.

Cré and the ECN would like to thank the GORC sponsors Novamont, CIC – Italian composting and Biogas Association, SESA, Fáilte Ireland and Environmental Protection Agency Research for their support of the event.
Focussing on the future direction of the sector, Martin Eves, Chairman of Cré, provided the welcome address to delegates. GORC coincided with International Compost Awareness Week and video messages were shown from representatives of the Compost Council of Canada, the US Composting Council, Australian Organics Recycling Association and Cré.
Presentation topics included the bioeconomy's role in the circular economy, sustainable food production, soil and nutrient cycling, the future of AD, reducing carbon emissions, plant manager experience and promising innovation in the sector. Overall GORC provided a platform for debate and discussion about the role of organic resources and the exciting role it has to play in the nascent bioeconomy.
The congress concluded with a visit to the Bord na Móna composting plant at Kilberry, Co Kildare.
A raffle was held during the conference and €700 was donated to Focus Ireland.
The proceedings will be published untl end of July and can be assessed through the conference website: www.gorc.ie

Henrik Lystad (Chairman, European Compost Network), Eric Liégeois (DG GROW, European Commission) Tony Breton (Novamont) Mr Brown Bin, Martin Eves (Chairman of Cré) and Massimo Centemero (CIC – Italian Composting and Biogas Association) at GORC.

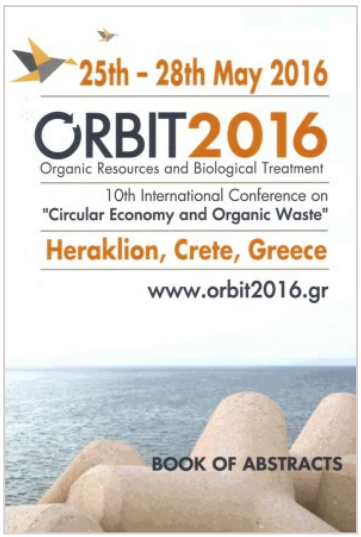
The two video messages can be assessed here:
Video address from Mairead McGuinness MEP, Vice-President of the European Commission
Video address from Phil Hogan, EU Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development
The presentation of Eric Liégeois, European Commission on EU Fertiliser Regulations is now available to view or download at this link.

ORBIT, 25–28 MAY 2016 HERAKLION, CRETE, GR

Circular Economy and Organic Waste

The 10th International Conference on Organic Resources and Biological Treatment (ORBIT) was held on the 25-28th of May 2016 at Heraklion on the Greek island of Crete. Its focus on the circular economy and organic waste management was organised by Harokopio University together with the Technological Education Institute of Crete and ECN.

ORBIT 2016 covered all aspects of the management and recovery of organic residues. The three-day conference was split into three parallel sessions totalling 17 themes, including: the separate collection of biowaste; energy recovery from biomass/biofuels; climate change, LCA and decision support tools; smart cities biowaste management applications and novel products from organic waste. A dedicated session was also held on waste management in the EU LIFE programme.
The conference organisers, Prof. Katia Lasaridi and Prof. Thrassyvoulos Manios aim to select a number of high quality papers to be published in special issues of the journals Waste and Resource Management and Global Nest Journal, subject to peer-review.
Abstracts from the conference can be accessed: here.



VLACO AT FLORALIES, BE (FLANDERS)

Tens of Thousands of Ghent Citizens Learn about Composting

Vlaco, the Flemish biowaste membership organisation, took to the streets of Ghent in April to help inspire people to green their city and practice closed loop gardening. The ten-day initiative, which was part of the annual Ghent Floralies festival organised by the Royal Society for Agriculture and Botany, showcased composting, mulch mowing and sustainable urban gardening.

Closed loop gardening in Ghent

Vlaco was based in the cobblestoned, Kina Square. Using three plots they showed how closed loop gardening can be carried out in either a classical, modern or rural setting. Demonstration sessions on using compost and digestate, making home compost in boxes and bins, keeping chickens and turning garden prunings into a wall were held.
A fourth plot was gradually developed during the festival as part of these demonstrations, sparking a great deal of interest.

In addition, Vlaco also engaged with a Save -the-Leftovers Food truck. This offered passersby snacks made with leftover food, as well as providing them with tips and recipes to help reduce their share of the 1,3 billon tonnes of food that goes to waste every year.
Vlaco's message wasn't just confined to Kina Square. In order to protect plants used in the festival, the Floralies organisers chose to use ECN-certified compost as a surface mulch.
Vlaco's message about composting and sustainable gardening was spread across the entire city of Ghent.

Demonstrating how to use compost

LIPOR, PT

Reducing Food Waste in Portuguese Restaurants

A joint initiative between the Portuguese waste management company, LIPOR, and the Portuguese Nutritionists' Association aims to reduce food waste in restaurants and schools through the 'Dose Certa' project.

'Dose Certa' means 'Right Portion' and it has been developed to enable catering establishments to serve nutritionally balanced portions. The aim is to provide consumers with the correct amount of food, so that more will be eaten and less wasted. It forms part of LIPOR's waste prevention policy, which aims to raise awareness and encourage citizens to change their eating habits.

The project is being piloted across 29 catering establishments based in the Greater Porto area of Portugal, which are contributing towards reducing food waste by up to 30%. If successful, it may be extended to include households and canteens.

Further information about the project can be accessed: here

SUCCESS STORY

Estonia Goes for Quality Assured Recycled Materials

Estonia's first compost was certified in March, a landmark that was the result of three years' worth of work by both industry and academia.

The Estonian National Waste Management Plan requires the country to recycle at least 50% of its municipal solid waste by 2020, and to ensure that landfilled waste has a biodegradable content below 20%. In order to achieve this, Estonia recognised that effective recycling of its biowaste is necessary, implementing a regulation in 2013 setting out 'Requirements for Producing Compost from Biodegradable Waste'. This is based on ECN's quality assurance scheme, and defines end-of-waste criteria for compost. Although compost quality criteria had been set in the Regulation, Estonia still needed to establish an officially recognised quality assurance system.

Work began in 2010 when the Estonian Recycling Cluster was formed by the Estonian Waste Management Association, involving 23 partners from private waste management companies, two construction companies and three academic institutions. It was co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund through Enterprise Estonia.
The Cluster set out to identify compost producers and the amount and quality of compost they produce. The Estonian University of Life Sciences carried out research to investigate the quality of 18 different composts (including chemical properties, germination tests, pot and field trials), and was able to confirm that they were of sufficiently high quality to meet the standard set in the Regulation.

First acredited Certification Centre for Recycled Materials in Europe

The Cluster then began work to develop a national certification body. Despite a number of setbacks, the Estonian Certification Centre for Recycled Materials was formed in 2013, and subsequently developed its own certification scheme for compost. Following this, both the certification body and the certification scheme needed to be accredited by the Estonia Accreditation Centre.
In 2015, the first official certification event was performed at a selected composting site in the presence of the Accreditation Centre resulting in successful accreditation in February 2016.


EESTI AKREDITEERIMISKESKUS
ESTONIAN ACCREDITATION CENTRE
EA MLA liige
EA MLA Signatory

AKREDITEERIMISTUNNISTUS
ACCREDITATION CERTIFICATE

Eesti Akrediteerimiskeskus kinnitab käesolevaga, et
The Estonian Accreditation Centre hereby confirms that

SA Taaskasutatavate Materjalide Sertifitseerimiskeskus
Certification Centre of Recycled Materials

vastab EVS-EN ISO/IEC 17065:2012 nõuetele kui sertifitseerimisasutus
conforms to the requirements of EVS-EN ISO/IEC 17065:2012 as a certification body

komposti sertifitseerimise valdkonnas
in the field of compost certification

Akrediteerimisulatus on esitatud tunnistuse lisas
The scope of accreditation is specified in the annex

Registreerimisnumber: PC026
Registration number:

Akrediteering kehtib kuni: 16.02.2021
Accreditation is valid until:

Tallinnas, 17.02.2016

Kristina Saarnit
Juhataja Director

Käesoleva tunnistuse kehtivust ja akrediteerimisulatust saab kontrollida EAK veebilehelt www.eak.ee
Validity of the current certificate and accreditation scope can be checked from the EAK web site www.eak.ee

First Compost Certified in Estonia

As a result of this work, Väätsa Landfill Ltd became the first composting company in Estonia to have its compost independently certified in March 2016. The Estonian Certification Centre for Recycled Materials is now turning its attention to other secondary materials, with the aim of developing a scheme for certifying anaerobic digestate.

Further information canbe assessed: here

WRAP

Household Waste Collections Guide Published

In March the UK's Waste and Resource Action Programme (WRAP) released an updated version of its 'Household Food Waste Collections Guide'. Originally published in 2009, this updated guide summarises findings from more recent studies and pilots conducted by WRAP and others, and is aimed at local authorities (municipalities).

The guide is split into twelve sections, and includes information on the different options and systems for collecting food waste, and highlights issues to consider when planning and implementing a new food waste collection scheme.
It also provides advice to local authorities with existing weekly separate food waste collections on how to increase participation and capture through effective promotion and communication activities.

The guide is available to download as separate chapters: here.

A one-page summary document can be accessed: here.

SCOTLAND

Circular Economy Investment Fund

Zero Waste Scotland, the organisation funded to support delivery of the Scottish Government's circular economy strategy and the EU's Europe 2020 growth strategy, is investing European Regional Development Funds to help small and medium businesses be resource efficient and create a more circular economy.

The funding is available between 2016 and 2018 through structured grant calls and procurements to priority commercial and industrial sectors. These are:

- The bioeconomy (food and drink);
- The built environment (construction and demolition); and
- Energy infrastructure (oil and gas decommissioning, renewables, transmission).

In addition, funding will also be available for key activities such as reuse, remanufacturing, repair and reprocessing. The funds are open to small to medium sized enterprises (less than 250 employees/turnover less than £35million) and non-profit organisations (charities and social enterprises) in Scotland. Zero Waste Scotland specifically wishes to fund the following activities:

- Exploring market feasibility for new circular economy products;
- Development and adoption of innovative business models for new circular economy products and services; and
- Development and uptake of innovative technologies, products and services to support a circular economy.

Interested parties are requested to complete an outline proposal form. Further information about the fund can be accessed: here.

ITALY

State of the Art of Composting and Anaerobic Digestaion in Italy

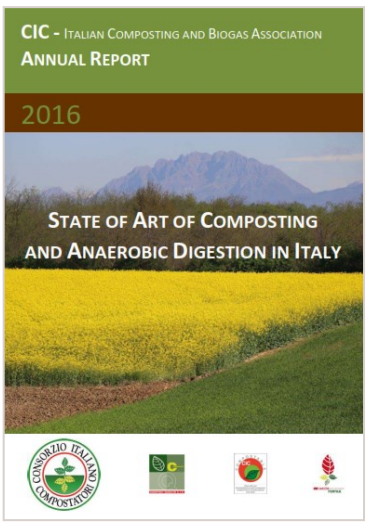
The Italian Composting and Biogas Association (CIC) has published its Annual report 2016.

Since the very beginning CIC's mission has been to enhance recycling and prevention of biowaste, share knowledge and know-how between CIC's associates, enhance compost quality and market, perform technical training for the composting sector, assist government bodies in improving biowaste recovery.

In Italy, national waste legislation has foreseen ambitious targets, namely a 65 % Source Separation and Recycling Level (SSL) for each municipality. Today, biowaste, and particularly food-waste from residential source separation, is clearly addressed as the first waste fraction to tackle for municipalities planning to reach the very high SSL targets. These high SSL levels have been easily achieved by hundreds of municipalities on Italy through the so-called 'kerbside collection programs', focusing on food waste collection with the typical Italian scheme.

This approach is clearly described in the latest published Annual Report of CIC and can be seen as a guidance for several other European countries to improve separate collection and the organic recycling of biowaste to high quality compost and digestate.

The Annual Report 2016 of the Italian Compost and Biogas Association is available here.



EVENTS

6-7 September
BRATISLAVA (SK)
Transition to the Green Economy
The international conference "Transition to the green economy" (T2gE) will be an event of major strategic nature during the Slovak Presidency of the European Council. Conference will bring together a broad spectrum of stakeholders. Its ambition is to improve understanding of the green economy concept, identify conclusions and pathways for transition as well as to involve and mobilise various actors and stakeholders in the discussions of possible future actions.
>> Further information

19-21 September
NOVI SAD (SRB)
ISWA World Congress
The Serbian city of Novi Sad is the venue for the International Solid Waste Association's 2016 annual congress. Organised by the Serbian Solid Waste Management Association, it will be held on September 19-21st and will host a number of biowaste-specific sessions. The circular economy and its impact across the wastes management industry is a theme that will run across the whole congress. The ISWA Working Group on Biological Treatment has organised two sessions: the first on Monday 19th September will focus on 'Low Cost Biowaste Treatment', whilst the second on Tuesday 20th will focus on 'Biowaste Treatment and Management'. The chairs of the working group are Dr Marco Ricci Jürgensen and Dr Jane Gilbert, both ECN members.
A meeting of the Working Group on Biological Treatment will also be held on Sunday 18 September from 15.00 to 18.30 h. Should any ECN member wish to join this meeting, please contact Paul Stegmann at ISWA (pstegmann@iswa.org) before the beginning of September.
>> Further information

20-21 September
STUTTGART-BAD CANNSTATT (D)
BIOABFALLFORUM 2016
Im Rahmen des diesjährigen Bioabfallforums sollen unter dem Motto ‚Strategien und Technologien für eine zukunftsorientierte Bioabfallverwertung" aktuelle Themen für eine zukunftsorientierte Bioabfallverwertung diskutiert werden. Sowohl politische und rechtliche Aspekte als auch Erfahrungen aus der Praxis stehen im Mittelpunkt der Tagung. Das Bioabfallforum 2016 greift unter anderen die Themen ‚Bioabfall als Ressource", ‚Bioabfall und Energie", ‚Bioabfallverwertung als Baustein für den Ressourcen- und Klimaschutz", ‚politische und gesetzliche Rahmenbedingungen" sowie ‚Praxiserfahrung und Öffentlichkeitsarbeit" auf.
>> Further information

20-21 October
SALZBURG (AT)
ERFA 2016
Veranstaltet vom Österreichischen Wasser- und Abfallwirtschaftsverband (ÖWAV), dem Kompostgüteverband (KGVÖ) und der ARGE Kompost & Biogas findet der ERFA 2016 vom 20-21 Oktober in Salzburg statt. Im Fokus stehen u.a. die EU Düngemittelverordnung und Biokunstoffe im biologischen Kreislauf.
>> Further information

8-11 November
RIMINI (IT)
ECOMONDO—Green and Circular Economy
The technology platform for the Green and Circular Economy in the Euro-Mediterranean area. The ideal place to meet Green and Circular Economy operators, strike new business deals, generate value and acquire new customers. The largest showcase in the Euro-Mediterranean area for advanced and sustainable technology for processing and recycling all kinds of waste; treating and reclaiming water, waste water and polluted marine sites; efficient use and transformation of raw and processed materials and the promotion of renewable raw materials.
>> Further information

16-17 November
SMICTOM des pays de Vilaine (FR)
Territoire et Biodéchets
Les 6èmes Journées Territoires et Biodéchets seront accueillies cette année par le SMICTOM des Pays de Vilaine, lauréat du 1er appel à projets ZDZG et producteur d'un compost de biodéchets triés à la source certifié utilisable en Agriculture Biologique.
>> Further information

17-18 November
LEIPZIG (D)
Humustag
Der Humustag und die Mitgliederversammlung 2016 der Bundesgütegemeinschaft Kompost (BGK) finden am 17. und 18. November im Leipzig statt.
>> Further information
