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EU POLICY

Changing the Way Bio-Waste is Managed Across Europe

Publication of the Circular Economy Package by the EU Commission in December 2015 paved the way for a resource-efficient society and sustainable recycling industry across Europe. In addition to setting out an action plan, the proposal also suggested revisions to key EU waste legislation with the aim of avoiding, reusing and recycling more waste in the future. If implemented, these proposals are set to improve the way bio-waste is managed across Europe.

Bio-Waste Recycling in Europe

Currently, the majority of municipal waste generated in Europe is still disposed of through landfilling (31%) or incineration (26%), with less than half (43%) recycled. According to the European Environment Agency, whilst the recycling of glass, paper and cardboard, metals and plastics has increased in recent years, there has been no corresponding increase in bio-waste recycling.

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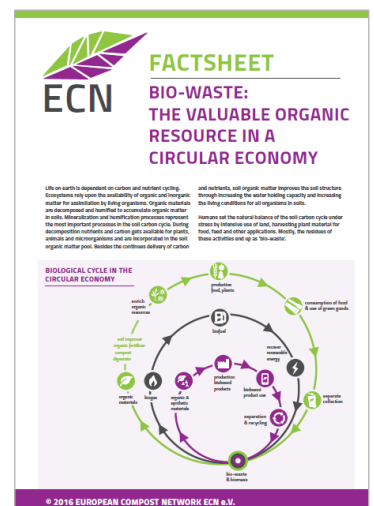
ECN'S FACTSHEET

Bio-Waste 'The Valuable Organic Resource in a Circular Economy'

ECN has been busy over the past year communicating the benefits of bio-waste recycling and improving the quality of information provided to both members and stakeholders. A new factsheet, setting out the benefits of recycling bio-waste, was published during the autumn using the new ECN logo and corporate identity.

The factsheet describes, in simple terms, what bio-waste is and how it arises. Using a series of concise infographics, it illustrates: the biological cycle and how this interfaces with the circular economy; how bio-waste can improve soils; and the need for quality assurance. The benefits of bio-waste recycling are also summarised and set alongside an estimate of the number of new jobs that could potentially be generated. The final page sets out ECN's central message that there is an

urgent need for a coherent legal framework to promote bio-waste recycling across Europe, coupled with effective quality assurance. A copy of the infographic can be downloaded from the ECN website: [here](#).





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Work by the European Compost Network indicates that in 2014, only about a third (30 million tonnes) of the 96 million tonnes of municipal bio-waste created every year was separately collected and composted and/or digested. Notably, these figures exclude the significant quantities of food residues (41 million tonnes) that are produced industrially during food manufacture.

Large differences exist in the provision of separate collection and treatment capacity for bio-waste across Europe. Countries such as Austria, Switzerland, Germany, the Netherlands, Flanders (Belgium), Sweden and Norway, have relied upon separate bio-waste collection and treatment systems for over 15 years, whilst countries, such as the UK, Italy, Finland, Ireland, Slovenia, Estonia and France have made significant advances during this period. On the other hand, considerable potential for expansion remains in a number of countries such as Bulgaria, Greece, Croatia, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Czech Republic, Hungary and Cyprus. In some instances, countries with established bio-waste collections rely predominantly upon composting green waste, leaving further potential for separate household food waste collections. Similarly, studies in regions where established separate bio-waste collections have been in place for many years, indicate that a high proportion of bio-waste (60-70 kg per inhabitant per year) remains within the residual waste stream. Both therefore suggest further potential for expansion.

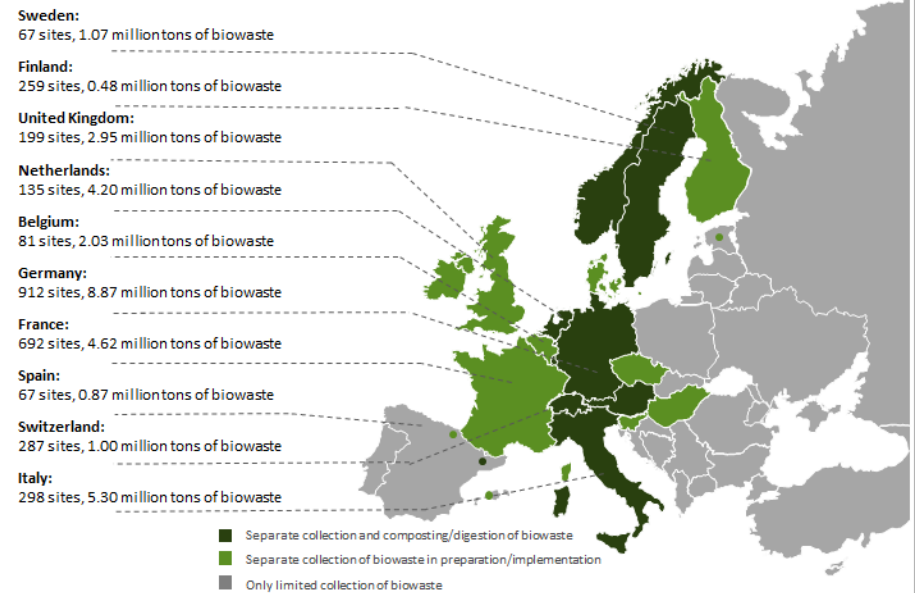
Compulsory separate bio-waste collections

Proposed changes to the EU Landfill Directive seem likely to change the management of bio-waste by:

- reducing the landfilling of municipal waste to 10% by 2030, and
- banning the landfilling of separately collected waste.

As bio-waste is the largest fraction of

Status on Separate Collection of Biowaste in Europe



Europe's municipal waste stream (comprising, on average, 37% by weight), the 10% landfill target can only be met through sustainable bio-waste management, including composting and anaerobic digestion. The proposed ban on the landfilling of separately collected waste needs to be viewed in the context of proposed amendments to the Waste Framework Directive. What is essential is the proposed amendment to Article 22 'Bio-waste', which will oblige Member States to introduce the separate collection of bio-waste as far as is technically, ecologically and economically feasible.

Notably, the separate collection of bio-waste is a prerequisite to comply with quality standards for compost and digestate, as well as contributing towards attaining a revised municipal waste recycling target of 65%. In addition, Member States will be required to introduce appropriate incentives to achieve waste prevention and recycling targets. The introduction and increase of landfill and incineration taxes are intended to contribute to the recycling of waste in accordance with the waste hierarchy.

Market for secondary raw material

In conjunction with the promotion of recycling, markets for secondary raw materials need to be created. The amendment to Article 6, 'End-of-Waste Status', will empower the Commission to adopt delegated acts defining detailed criteria for end-of-waste status for certain waste streams. Where necessary, these criteria must include limit values for contaminants in secondary raw materials in order to avoid possible adverse environmental effects. With regard to bio-waste, the Commission envisages establishing harmonised quality standards for compost and digestate in the revised EU Fertilisers Regulation.

Revisions to the EU Fertilisers Regulation

In March 2016, the Commission published a proposal for revision of the EU Fertilisers Regulation with the objective of placing secondary raw materials on the EU fertiliser market in order to protect primary raw materials. It aims to enable recycled organic fertilisers and soil improvers (composts and digestate products) access to the EU internal market so that they can compete on an equal level with mineral fertilisers.

The proposal sets out criteria covering

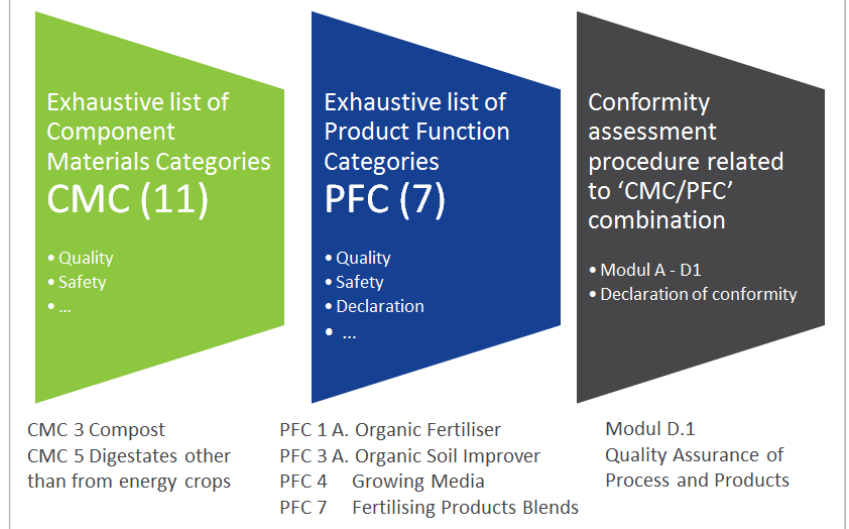


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safety, quality and labelling that all fertiliser products must meet so that they can be freely traded throughout the EU. In addition, quality requirements for specific raw materials for the production of fertilisers, soil improvers and growing media are specified in the annexes. For compost and digestate products, these specific requirements are based on the JRC Report 2014 (End of Waste Criteria for Biodegradable Waste Subjected to Biological Treatment). In addition to requirements covering the production process and product quality, only separately collected organic waste is permitted as input materials for composting and anaerobic digestion. The proposals also define a list of component material categories (CMC), of which compost is CMC 3 and non-crop digestate is CMC 5. Specific labeling requirements are also set out for product function categories (PFC), which are subdivided into fertilizers, soil improvers, growing media, liming materials and bio-stimulants. Manufacturers of these product groups will need to demonstrate that their products comply with environmental and health requirements (limit values for physical and chemical contaminants) in order to display the CE mark on their products. In addition, compost and digestate products manufactured from waste must be subject to external quality control, which is recognized by each Member State through a conformity assessment.

In order to avoid creating additional barriers to the marketing of established secondary raw materials in national markets, the Commission envisages optional harmonization of the revised Regulation. This means that compost and digestate manufacturers can decide whether to label their products with the CE mark: they can either freely trade their CE-marked products on the internal market in accordance with common European rules, or simply market their non-CE marked products according to national rules.

New Structure of The Fertilising Product Regulation



Perspectives on bio-waste treatment in Europe

Implementation of the proposed changes to the Waste Framework Directive is urgently required to achieve sustainable environmental management systems across Europe. In order to ensure that high-quality secondary raw materials (composts and digestate) are consistently manufactured, clear, unambiguous guidelines are required, mandating the separate collection of bio-waste, without any 'ifs' or 'buts'.

The European Compost Network welcomes and supports the discussion currently underway within the European Parliament, whereby MEPs are proposing the separate collection of bio-waste by the end of 2020 in all Member States and to set a 65% municipal bio-waste recycling target. This will be of particular relevance to Member States that have yet to meet their biodegradable municipal waste landfill diversion targets; incentives need to be created so that Member States can invest in a sustainable circular resource economy.

Assuming that an additional 60 million tonnes of municipal bio-waste could be collected and composted/anaerobically digested across Europe, up to 50,000 new jobs in Europe could be created. This is

particularly relevant in areas of high unemployment, such as southern Europe, where bio-waste treatment capacity is currently small and the potential is significant. Renewable biofuels could also be used to strengthen rural areas, regardless of whether agricultural anaerobic digestion or composting plants are built.

To ensure that a credible resource policy is established in Europe based on saving primary resources and replacing them with secondary raw materials, harmonized EU waste and product legislation is required. Against this background, ECN welcomes the initiative of the Commission to revise the EU Fertilisers Regulation. After many years of debate, this will finally define EU-wide quality standards for composts and digestate products, allowing these bio-based secondary raw materials to be produced without distorted competition in the EU market as soil improvers, organic fertilisers and growing media.

ECN is actively involved in these discussions, and we will continue to follow and influence the ongoing discussions in the Council and Parliament.

The full paper '*Bio-Waste Recycling in Europe*' can be accessed [here](#).



COP22

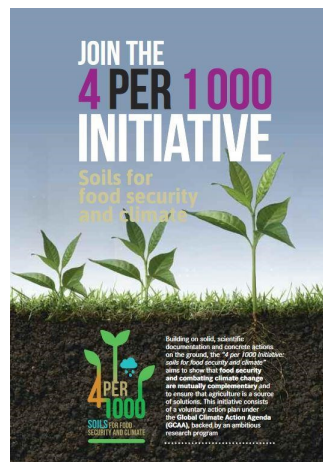
European Compost Network signed the 4% Initiative: Soils for Food Security and Climate

The European Compost Network has taken the opportunity to join the '4% initiative: Soils for food security and climate'. The initiative aimed at increasing carbon sequestration in agricultural soils has been launched under the Lima Paris Agenda for Action. This multi-stakeholder partnership, led by France, was launched in 2015 as part of the Conference of Parties (COP) 21 Paris agreement.

Recognising that a "4‰" [four per 1000] annual growth rate of the soil carbon stock would make it possible to stop the present increase in atmospheric CO₂, the initiative aims to bring together states, governments, local authorities, banks, researchers, farmers, private companies and NGOs to put this into practise. It intends to promote a number of programmes that improve the ways in which soils are managed as well as establishing an international research and scientific co-operation programme.

Overall, the 4‰ initiative aims to demonstrate that agriculture, and agricultural soils in particular, can play a crucial role where food security and climate change are concerned, setting out three main outcomes:

- Ensure food security and increase soil fertility;
- Adapt agriculture to climate change; and
- Mitigate greenhouse gas emissions.



At the ECN Board meeting on 28 December the ECN Chair Henrik Lystad (middle) signed in attendance of the Vice-chairs, Mait Kriipsalu (left) and Massimo Centemero (right), the declaration of intention to support the 4‰ initiative. With the production of high quality composts and digestate the ECN members provide an important source of external organic matter to maintain and improve the organic matter content in European soils.

Stakeholders are invited to join the initiative, either to engage in research or to become involved in projects, such as training and local practical solutions.

Further information about the 4‰ initiative and how to join can be found: [here](#).

EU PARLIAMENT

Reforming the Single Market for Fertilising Products

On 12 October 2016 the Committee for Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO) and the Policy Department of the European Parliament organised the first stakeholder conference on the new proposal for a 'Fertilising Product Regulation'.

The workshop was chaired by the resigned rapporteur MEP Adam Szejnfeld (EPP, PL). Besides several members of the European Parliament more than 80 external participants followed the discussion. The European Compost Network was actively

involved in the round table discussion and used the opportunity to present its position on the new fertilisers proposals.

Please find the ECN position paper on the proposal for a Fertilising Product Regulation: [here](#).

The ECN presentation is available for download [here](#).

If you missed to follow the debate, you can access all documents and also the [webstream](#) on the [IMCO's website](#).

The debate will be followed up in the responsible Committees of the European Parliament in the next months.





SOIL SCIENCE

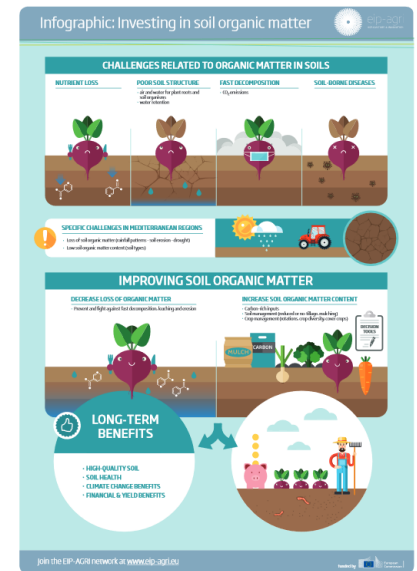
Soil Organic Matter Matters

A brochure summarising the ways in which farmers can improve soil organic matter has been published by the European Innovation Partnership 'Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability' (EIPAGRI) programme. It was the result of a research project that investigated ways in which farmers could improve soil organic matter content in the Mediterranean region in a cost-effective way.

The brochure first describes the important role soil organic matter plays in maintaining a healthy soil, including a description of its chemical, physical and biological roles. It then sets out some of the challenges specifically linked to Mediterranean regions and the problems associated with loss of soil organic matter. Solutions are presented to help farmers reduce carbon loss and

increase soil organic matter content through the addition of organic matter and reduced tillage.

'Voices from the Field' summarises the views of two Mediterranean farmers. Carla Konsten, a farmer in Italy, describes the conversion of her farm to an organic system, and the benefits she gained by making and using compost on her farm. Throughout the brochure, links to reports and further resources resulting from the EIPAGRI programme are provided, including suggestions for establishing potential Operational Group projects (funded through the European rural development programmes). The final page contains an infographic detailing some of the challenges relating to organic matter in soils and the ways in which soil organic matter content can be increased.



The report can be downloaded: [here](#)

Further information about the EIPAGRI programme and soil organic matter can be accessed: [here](#).

ORBIT - RESEARCH STUDY

Demonstrating Compost Can Increase Soil Organic Carbon

Researchers in Belgium have demonstrated how the application of compost over a four-year period can increase the levels of soil organic carbon without increasing the risk of nutrient leaching.

The research, presented at ORBIT 2016, describes a field experiment in which plots were treated with either pig/cattle slurry and plant-based farm compost (0 and 2 tonnes carbon/ hectare/ year). The amendments were supplemented with nitrogen (N) fertiliser so that all plots received the same quantity of N. The trial had a four-year rotation with forage maize, potato, spring barley and leek, as well as the cover crops winter rye, white mustard

and Italian ryegrass. Crop yields and soil physical, chemical and biological properties were determined, as well as nutrient leaching.

The experiments showed a statistically significant correlation between increases in soil organic carbon and the application of compost; smaller increases were noted with cattle slurry. The compost amended plots also showed significant increases in soil total nitrogen levels. Notably, the plot that received repeated compost applications showed a decrease in soil bulk density and increase in soil porosity, indicating improved soil structure. In addition, there was also an increase in the total microbial biomass in the soil where compost had been applied.

The researchers also measured nitrogen and phosphorus (P) levels in the soil in order to comply with Flemish regulations and to assess potential nutrient leaching. After four years of compost application, no increase in N and P leaching was observed. Effects on crop yield and disease suppressiveness were inconclusive.

The paper by D'Hose et al. is included in the ORBIT2016 proceedings. The proceedings of ORBIT2016 can be ordered by Prof. Thrassyvoulos Manios from the Technological Educational Institute of Crete for € 60.

Email contact: tmanios@staff.teicrete.gr





WRAP PROGRAMME

Compost Stability Reviews Published

The UK's Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) has recently published two research reports on compost stability with the aim of reviewing the suitability of the UK stability test method specified in the compost quality standard, PAS 100. The work was carried out by a consortium of researchers led by Dr Mary Dimambro of Cambridge Eco Ltd. The project was undertaken in two phases and aimed to inform WRAP, the English waste regulatory authority, the Environment Agency, and the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA).

The first report, summarising Phase 1, was carried out by Cambridge Eco Ltd, Garden Organic and Phil Wallace Ltd. It comprised a literature review addressing the operational parameters affecting the stability of composts manufactured in in-vessel systems; how compost stability affects storage and its use in agriculture and as a growing medium; and the different types of stability test methods used across Europe. The findings of this review were then used to design the practical (both laboratory and on-site) research in Phase 2 of the project. The second report, summarising Phase 2, was carried out by Cambridge Eco Ltd, the Open University, Heriot-Watt University and Phil Wallace Ltd. It set out to determine: whether the UK compost stability test (defined in PAS 100) was fit for purpose; whether the stability baseline needed to be changed; whether stability limits needed to be set for non-PAS 100 compost; and, the financial implications of any proposed changes. The stability of compost samples from ten in-vessel composting sites was assessed using five stability tests; the UK stability method (which is based on evolved carbon dioxide), a modified DR4, Dewar self-

heating, oxygen uptake rate (OUR) and static respiration. Processing time of the composts ranged from 25-126 days.

The experiments showed that the PAS100 method was effective at testing samples with wide ranging activities, leading the researchers to conclude that the PAS 100 method should be retained.

Comparison of the UK test method and stability threshold with the proposed stability thresholds in the revised EU Fertilisers Regulation, indicated that the UK threshold may need to be increased from 16 to 20 mg CO₂/g organic matter/day; however further data would be needed to validate this. The data also suggested that the UK's recommended stability limit for growing media should be retained.

In the UK, composts not certified to the PAS 100 standard can only be applied to agricultural and horticultural soils under strict criteria. Based on the results of this research, the researchers concluded that: 'there is insufficient evidence to support a stability test requirement for non-PAS composts'.

As no changes to the current UK test method were proposed, there would not be any financial implications for the UK composting industry. However, the researchers did make some suggestions for future research, which included correlating the UK stability level with the stability methods proposed in the EU Fertilisers Regulation.

Copies of both reports can be accessed: [here](#).

The publication in the journal 'Waste Management' is available [here](#).





NEW CORPORATE IDENTITY

Website in new design will be launched in January

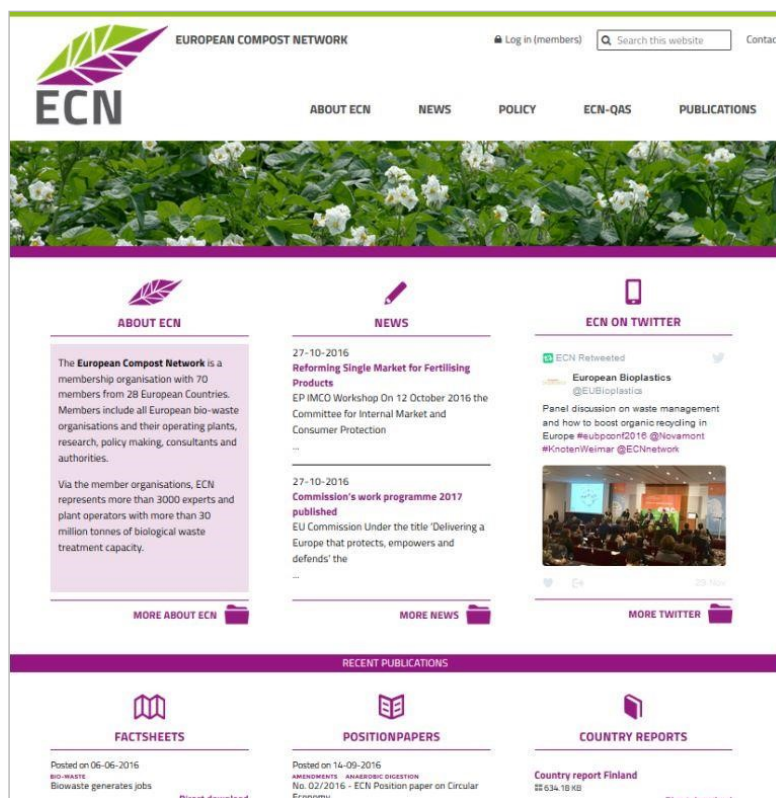
The logo and the layout of documents has been redesigned during the last month. To get a corporate design the website of ECN is 'under construction' in the moment and will be launched in the fresh, new design in January 2017.

Most of the building of the new site is done. During the next weeks the relevant content will be prepared, updated and uploaded to the new website. Most of the content will move from the current site to the new one.

The internal part for members will remain, but won't comprise all the documents which are provided in the moment, as all the important information for members is spread through Emails and Newsletters.

A new feature is the incorporation of social media channels and the publication database with a comfortable search functionality.

We hope you like it.



ECN's Work Priorities 2017

On 28 November 2016 the ECN Board agreed on the work priorities in 2017. These priorities will focus on three core themes:

- Strengthen the role of bio-waste in EU policies and strategies by maintaining and improving ECN's presence and lobbying work in Brussels and supporting national lobbying work activities
- Implementing ECN's communication strategy, including new communication tools (social media) by setting up a knowledge share point for ECN Members;

- Setting up guidelines for the use of compost (digestate) in growing media with reference to ECN-QAS.

With regard to the ongoing discussion of the EU Circular Economy Package, including the revision of the Waste Framework Directive and the EU Landfill Directive ECN, and the EU Fertilising Product ECN will focus on following up the policy work in four task groups:

- TG Circular Economy
- TG Fertilisers
- TG BREF
- TG Soil and Organic Matter

In conjunction with the Annual meeting 2017 in May a policy workshop will be organised in Brussels. Please reserve the dates 8-9 May and 15-16 May 2017 for this annual event.

The detailed ECN's work schedule 2017 will be published in January.

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



THE NETHERLANDS

Dutch Manifest: 'Organic matter: Life in Dutch Soils!'

On 26 September 2016, a coalition of Dutch parties presented the manifest 'Organic matter: life in Dutch soils!' to the Dutch parliament. The coalition included major agricultural and industry associations, NGOs and scientific research institutes. ECN member BVOR together with farmers' organization LTO initiated this manifest. Also the Dutch Waste Management Association was amongst the signatories.

The manifest calls upon the Dutch parliament to use the present evaluation of the Dutch fertilizer law to improve the position of organic matter in legislation. This improved position shall do justice to the many benefits of improved organic matter in soils, e.g. in relation to soil fertility, biodiversity, climate change mitigation and the circular economy. An improved position for organic matter is

necessary as currently organic matter in Dutch soils is under pressure, and in many cases declining. This is the result of fertilizer legislation which primarily focuses on reducing nitrogen and phosphorus emissions, thus reducing options for farmers to feed soils with required quantities of organic matter. The manifest partners ask for legislation which focuses on integrated, sustainable soil management, ensuring high productive soils in the future.

The presentation of the manifest was followed by a roundtable meeting in the parliament, during which scientists, industry and parliament delegates exchanged views on the importance of organic matter in soils and a facilitating legislative framework.

For further information you may contact Arjen Brinkmann (brinkmann@bvor.nl) from BVOR. The english version of the manifest is available [here](#).



STUDY

Increasing Compost Use in Germany

A study investigating how to increase the uptake of environmentally friendly fertilisers in Germany suggested that, in general, farmers were sceptical and could benefit from improved information to increase their knowledge and understanding of eco-innovations.

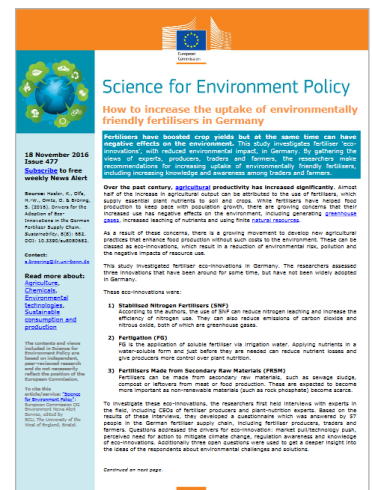
The researchers sought the opinions of experts, producers, traders and farmers to identify ways in which the use of environmentally friendly fertilisers could be increased using interviews and questionnaires. These included stabilised nitrogen fertilisers, fertigation (applying soluble fertiliser in irrigation water) and fertilisers made from secondary raw materials (such as compost).

The results demonstrated that groups perceive the use of these fertilisers differently, with farmers being the most sceptical, suggesting that their use is most likely to be driven by 'technology push' rather than 'market pull'. Overall, less than 30% of traders and farmers knew about the benefits of using fertilisers made from secondary raw materials.

The researchers concluded that the main barrier to adoption was cost, although seminars and workshops could help improve knowledge and understanding of these products among traders and farmers.

The research has been summarised by the European Commission's Science for

Environmental Policy service and can be accessed: [here](#).





ISWA ANNUAL CONGRESS

Bio-Waste Strategies Discussed in Serbia

Over 1,300 delegates from 74 countries attended the 2016 International Solid Waste Association's annual congress in Novi Sad, Serbia in September. Organised by the Serbian Solid Waste Management Association, it was held over three days with many parallel sessions on all aspects of waste and the circular economy.

The ISWA Working Group on Biological Treatment had organised two sessions: one on low-cost bio-waste treatment on 19 September; and one on local approaches to bio-waste management on 20 September.

The first session focussed on low-cost and low-tech solutions to minimise bio-waste collection and treatment costs. The session presented decentralised solutions and highlighted case studies from a number of countries. These included: Lidija Tomas from the city of Novi Sad, who explained how there was currently little, if any, biological treatment capacity in Serbia. She described a study examining how a combination of home and centralised composting could be rolled out to help the country meet its landfill diversion targets. Overall, she suggested that Serbia could meet its 2023 landfill diversion target by implementing home composting in rural areas, whilst a mix of home and centralised composting would be required to meet the 2026 targets.

Raman Plana from Spain described a decentralised composting case study in Leintz-Gatzaga (ES), which involved a community composting initiative. He emphasised the importance of social input and how it is important that citizens understand what composting is and how they can contribute. The training of master composters was also found to be a key success factor in Leintz-Gatzaga.

Michele Giavini explained the SCOW Project (which has been described in a previous edition of ECN News), whilst Luca Torresan

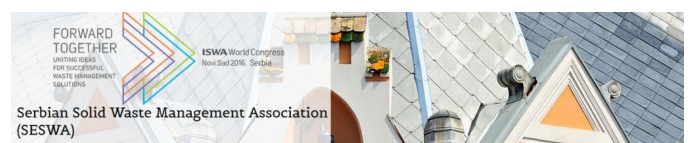
provide examples of home composting in Chile and the use of containers for separately collecting bio-waste using RFID technology.

Finally, Gabriella Otero described a pilot project in Sao Paulo, Brazil, involving home composting and low-tech composting plants. The initiative involved selecting 2,000 families to participate, with each receiving a worm composting kit. Communication involved a dedicated website and Facebook group, enabling residents to ask each other questions and feel part of the project.

The second session focussed on local practical solutions that have a global impact. Tom Frankiewicz, from the US Environmental Protection Agency, spoke about the Global Methane Initiative's project to tackle rising methane emissions and waste generation in Chinese cities. Delegates also spoke about the role and benefits of anaerobic digestion (David Wilken), the Italian compost and digestate quality assurance scheme (Marco Ricci) and a circular economic approach for the management of organic solid waste (Alessandra Cesaro). Charbel Abou Khalil concluded the session with an in-depth analysis of on-site treatment of food waste and wastewater generated at a fruit and vegetable market in Nahr Ibrahim, Lebanon.

Overall, the two sessions were upbeat and demonstrated the significant potential small-scale schemes can have on local environmental quality.

Copies of the presentations can be accessed through the congress website: [here](#).





ANNOUNCEMENTS

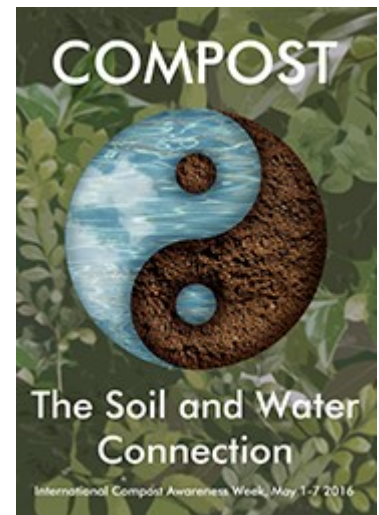
International Compost Awareness Week 7-13 May 2017

International Compost Awareness Week (ICAW) was started in Canada in 1995. Since then, this annual week of awareness raising has been embraced by compost organisations across the world, including ECN. Next year's theme 'Compost! Healthy Soil, Healthy Food' is scheduled for the 7-13 May, and plans are already underway to promote the initiative.

The US-based Composting Council Research & Education Foundation (CCREF) will be co-ordinating next year's initiative. It has already started a poster competition,

encouraging 'artists throughout the world to create a design sharing the importance of composting and using compost'. The winning poster will be displayed by companies and organisations nationwide and displayed at COMPOST2017, the US Composting Council's annual conference in Los Angeles in January. Further information on the competition can be accessed: [here](#).

Information about the Australian activities during the International Compost Awareness Week is available [here](#).



The winner poster from the 2016 contest

RAMIRAN 4-6 September 2017

The 17th International RAMIRAN conference will be held in Wexford, Ireland, on the 4-6 September 2017. RAMIRAN stands for the 'Recycling of Agricultural, Municipal and Industrial Residues in Agriculture Network'. It holds a conference every two years focussing on environmental issues relating to the use of livestock manure and other organic residues in agriculture.

The 2017 conference will be organised by the Irish Agricultural and Food Development Authority (Teagasc) and will be held at Wexford, in the south east of Ireland.



The overall theme of RAMIRAN 2017 is the 'Sustainable Utilisation of Manures and Residue Resources in Agriculture'. Abstracts are sought under the following conference themes:

- Advances in technologies
- Crop nutrition
- Gaseous emissions
- Soil & water quality
- Adoption and impact

Abstract submission will be open until the 28th February 2017.

Further information about registration and submitting abstracts can be accessed: [here](#).



19-20 December 2016

GRAZ (AT)

biogas 2016

Am 19. und 20. Dezember 2016 findet bereits der 12. österreichische Biogaskongress, dieses Jahr im Steiermarkhof in Graz statt. Die ARGE Kompost und Biogas Österreich veranstaltet auch in diesem Jahr den beliebten österreichischen Biogas-Branchentreff. Die Veranstaltung wird unterstützt durch klimaaktiv, der Klimaschutzinitiative des Ministeriums für ein lebenswertes Österreich.

[>> Further information](#)

23-26 January 2017

LOS ANGELES (CA, USA)

25th Annual Conference and Trade Show of the US Composting Council

Join the Silver Anniversary of the world's largest composting conference and exhibition for the organics management industry organised by the US Composting Council. Hear the latest about collecting organics, manufacturing and using compost, and producing renewable energy from organics.

[>> Further information](#)

8-9 Februar 2017

OFFENBURG (DE)

9th biogas - expo & congress

This congress focuses on the development of the biogas-markets in Germany, France and Switzerland.

The extensive congress programme and the trade fair offer the latest technical know-how, news from practice and a platform for exchanging experiences.

[>> Further information](#)

5-7 April 2017

LEIPZIG (DE)

terratec 2017

terratec is refining its profile and repositioning itself as a trade fair for disposal, recycling and resource management.

[>> Further information](#)

25-27 April 2017

WITZENHAUSEN (DE)

29th Kasseler Abfall- und Bioabfallforum

Held since 1990, every year more than 1,000 participants and around 70 exhibitors make use of the event to inform, discuss and hold presentations. A comprehensive volume on the forum proceedings contains all the results.

[>> Further information](#)

7-13 May 2017

USA, CANADA

International Compost Awareness Week

This annual week of awareness raising has been embraced by compost organisations across the world, including ECN. Next year's theme 'Compost! Healthy Soil, Healthy Food' is scheduled for the 7-13 May, and plans are already underway to promote the initiative. The US-based Composting Council Research & Education Foundation (CCREF) will be co-ordinating next year's initiative.

[>> Further information](#)

10-12 May 2017

ADELAIDE, (AUS)

**AORA National Conference 2017
Recycled Organics: Healthy Soil, Healthy Food in a circular economy**

The conference will include: Training, case studies and a social networking function, the

main conference with international keynote speakers, panels, concurrent streams and tours of compost sites, compost use and winery visit.

[>> Further information](#)

16-18 May 2017

HANNOVER (DE)

**Waste-to-Resources -
International Symposium MBT, MRF &
Recycling 2017**

Having participants from up to 40 countries previously, Waste-to-Resources is world's largest conference on MBT & MRF. Since 2013 it is a joint event of Wasteconsult international and the German association of MBT operators (ASA).

[>> Further information](#)

4-6 September 2017

WEXFORD (IR)

RAMIRAN 2017

The 17th International RAMIRAN ('Recycling of Agricultural, Municipal and Industrial Residues in Agriculture Network') holds a conference every two years focussing on environmental issues relating to the use of livestock manure and other organic residues in agriculture.

[>> Further information](#)

14 September 2017

KNITTELFELD, STEIERMARK (AT)

International Practitioner Day Composting

The 5th event of that kind takes place at a composting site and new technologies for this sector will be presented.

[>> Further information](#)