

Secondary raw materials – Compost and digestate from bio-waste

Market participants' interests and the new
regulatory framework for fertilising products

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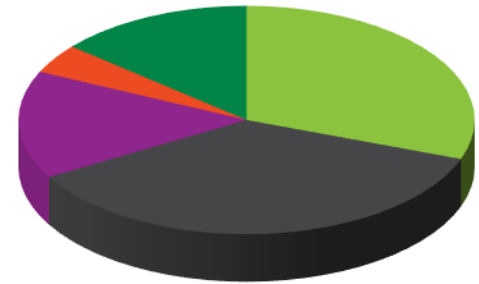


ECN

European Compost Network

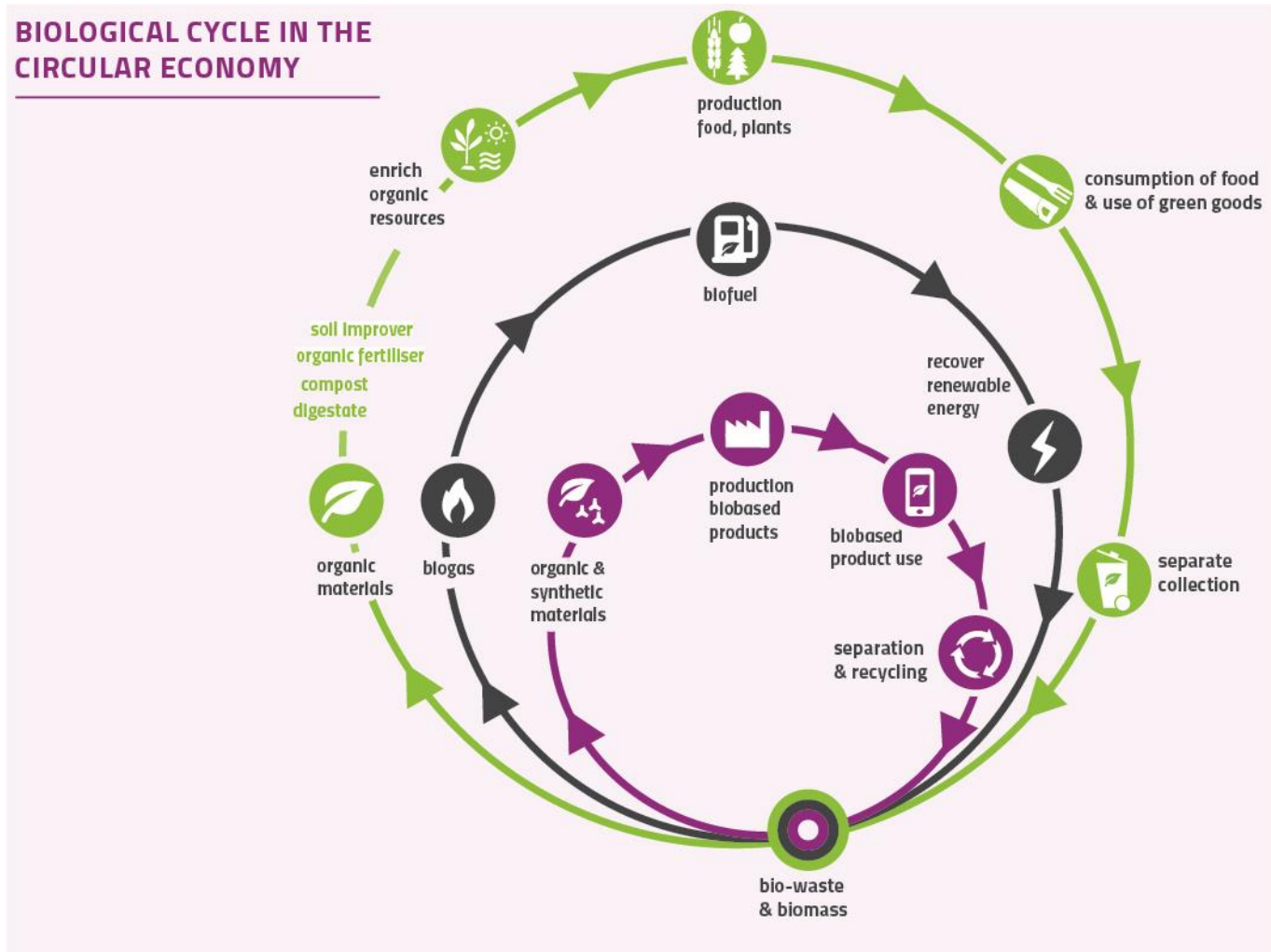
Status of ECN Membership

- 72 Members from 27 European Countries
- ECN represents more than 3.000 treatment plants (composting and anaerobic digestion) with more than 30 M tpa treatment capacities
- Compost production of 12-15 M tpa, used as
 - Organic Fertiliser
 - Soil Improver
 - Mixing component in Growing Media



- Biowaste Organisations (22)
- Companies (26)
- Academic Institutes (11)
- Governments (3)
- Non-profit Environmental Organisations (10)

Bio-waste in the Circular Economy



Potential sources for compost and digestate

Input for composting and anaerobic digestion plants

- Organic fraction (green and food waste)
- Garden wastes
- Crop residues
- Manures
- Commercial & industrial (e.g. food and green waste)

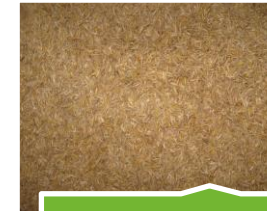
MSW



Food waste



Garden waste



Crop residues




Manures

Source: ISWA 2015

Application of compost and digestate

- **Soil application:** production of organic fertilisers and soil improver
- **Application in horticulture:** replacement of peat in growing media
- **Carbon sequestration:** maintaining and improving organic matter in soils

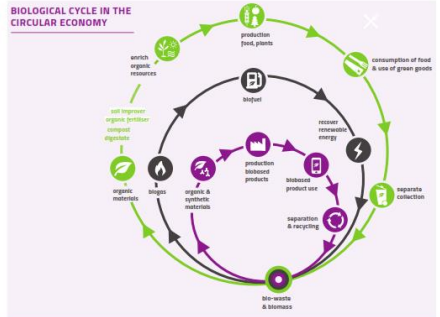


FACTSHEET
**BIO-WASTE:
THE VALUABLE ORGANIC
RESOURCE IN A
CIRCULAR ECONOMY**

Life on earth is dependent on carbon and nutrient cycling. Ecosystems rely upon the availability of organic and inorganic matter for assimilation by living organisms. Organic materials are decomposed and humified to accumulate organic matter in soils. Mineralization and humification processes represent the most important processes in the soil carbon cycle. During decomposition nutrients and carbon gets available for plants, animals and microorganisms and are incorporated in the soil organic matter pool. Besides the continuous delivery of carbon and nutrients, soil organic matter improves the soil structure through increasing the water holding capacity and increasing the living conditions for all organisms in soils.

Humans set the natural balance of the soil carbon cycle under stress by intensive use of land, harvesting plant material for food, feed and other applications. Mostly, the residues of these activities end up as 'bio-waste'.

BIOLOGICAL CYCLE IN THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY



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Resource Potential of Bio-waste - Compost and Digestate

Input materials



Food waste



Garden waste



Crop residues



Manures

Photo: ISWA 2015

Resource potential of biowaste

- 125 Mio t bio-waste
- 50 Mio t compost
- 11,4 Mio t Organic matter
- 455.000 t Nitrogen (N)
- 390.000 t Potassium (K₂O)
- 227.500 t Phosphorus (P₂O₅)

Product application

- **Agriculture:** organic fertilisers and soil improver
- **Horticulture:** replacement of peat in growing media
- **Environment:** carbon sequestration and saving of primary resources

Fertilising Product Regulation – Circular Economy

- **General support** on the objectives of the new Fertilising Product Regulation
- **Boosting organic recycling** by integration of organic fertilising products (compost and digestate)
- Introducing harmonised EU rules as **quasi end-of-waste criteria** for products diverting from organic waste materials
- **Creating access to CE marking and free trade for recycled organic fertilising products** across EU through introduction of **quality assurance** procedures



ECN Position – New Fertilising Product Regulation

Aspects for further considerations

- **Lack of harmonised criteria** for all ‘Product Function Categories’
 - Inorganic fertilisers – organic fertilisers - liming materials – soil improver - growing media
- Need for a **specific input list** for animal and digestate
- Suitable **treatment process requirements** are needed, Animal By-Products Regulation versus proposal for Fertilising Product Regulation



Download ECN Position:
www.compostnetwork.info



Further Information

ECN Homepage:

www.compostnetwork.info

- Factsheets
- ECN News
- Country reports
- ECN-QAS Manual

