

ECN STATUS REPORT ON EUROPEAN BIO-WASTE MANAGEMENT PUBLISHED

Overview of bio-waste collection, treatment & markets across Europe presented at the 7th Nordic Biogas Conference (NBC) in Oslo

On the occasion of the 7th Nordic Biogas Conference, which will take place from 9 to 11 April 2019 in Oslo, ECN has published a "Status Report" on the current management of bio-waste in 18 European countries. In fact, a recent publication of the European Union's Circular Economy Package and the bio-waste targets set in the revised Framework Directive on Waste, have intensified the need for an improved overview of the state of bio-waste management across Europe.

This report summarizes how European countries collect bio-waste, process it in biological treatment plants and market various compost and digestate products.

The new European Compost **Network's Chair**, Kristel Vandenbroek, commented: "As bio-waste accounts for between 20-60% (average 37%) of the municipal solid waste stream, its sustainable management will play a key role in making the circular economy happen. We are proud that ECN is recognised as an authoritative voice for Europe's biological waste management sector through supporting separate collection and high-quality recycling of organic resources. With the adoption of Europe's Circular Economy Package, including revisions to the waste directives and the expected adoption of the new European Fertilising Product Regulation, the framework for a viable circular bioeconomy has been set."



Kristel Vandenbroek,
Chair of the European
Compost Network

Based on the published data, calculations about compost/digestate production, carbon and nutrients has been made. The results show that bio-waste contribute to carbon and nutrient recycling. Sustainable bio-waste management will play a key role in Europe's nascent circular economy.

This report is a first step towards providing a pan-European status summary, Not only does it establish a baseline against which future developments can be assessed, it can also be used by policy makers and practitioners to determine what interventions and future developments are necessary for making a circular bio-economy viable.

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Notes to editors:

1. The European Compost Network (ECN) is the leading European membership organisation promoting sustainable recycling practices by composting and anaerobic digestion of organic resources and guarding over the quality and safe use of the recovered organic fertilisers/soil improvers.
2. The ECN Status Report 2019 on European Bio-waste Management can be downloaded from ECN's website: www.compostnetwork.info
3. This report is based on a co-operation between ECN and the Working Group on Biological Treatment of Waste of the International Solid Waste Association (ISWA WG BTW), establishing a joint survey in 2017 and 2018.

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