

## **Study Tour and Training Course on Bio-Waste Recycling in Austria 2019 - again a success**

For the 3rd time, from 16 to 20 September '100NGO' and the Austrian Compost & Biogas Association organised this international training, managed by Florian Amlinger. 22 Participants from Greece, Estonia, Czech Republic, Italy, India, Philippines and Austria experienced an intensive mix of seminars and site visits meeting practitioners in collection, municipal recycling schemes, composting and anaerobic digestion. Participants appreciated to learn about the importance of smart waste legislation and standards as an important driver for starting and maintaining source separation, as well as for supporting quality orientated technical standards for design and operation of composting plants and the establishment of compost and digestate markets.

The the Biogas plants and open windrow composting plant of the City of Vienna was visited. The managers of two waste management associations explained their experience in successfully organising and financing door to door separate collection and cooperative models between municipalities and farmers in collection and composting. The decentralised on-farm composting scheme with 20 composting plants serving 37 communities or 56.524 inhabitants could be demonstrated as cost-effective and high performing model for semi-urban and rural environments.

The tour provided practical insights on design and operation of one of the most advanced 60.000 t biogas plants processing mainly manure, crop residues and waste from agro-industries. Upgraded bio-methane is fed into the natural gas grid and used as car fuel. As well as on four composting plants from 2500 to 100.000 tons capacity - all working with open windrow composting in combination with lectures on the biology and process conditions of composting. We visited the European pioneer in professional Vermi-Composting, who organises and participates in high level scientific research projects in sustainable soil management. Lectures and demonstrations on innovative analytical methods to determine compost maturity by experts from Bioforschung Austria gave a deeper insight into the complexity of identifying compost and humus quality.

A detailed overview on organisation of the Quality Assurance Scheme of the Compost & Biogas Association was given. Also, the International Practitioner Day including the worlds biggest machines show of biomass treatment and composting was visited.

The positive response of all participants make us confident to continue this format of practical know-how transfer also next year.

Link: [program of study tour 2019](#)