

ECN Work Schedule 2025

Work priorities for 2025

- 1. Maintaining and improving ECN's presence and network in Brussels.**
- 2. Promoting Soil Health by stressing the importance of compost and digestate for soil fertility and its role in carbon farming practices.**
- 3. Promoting biowaste management in Europe's Circular Bioeconomy by defining policy recommendations for implementing separate collection of biowaste and its management. This includes best practices for improving the quality of separately collected biowaste and as well setting guidelines for quality compost and digestate.**
- 4. Promoting the use of quality assured, recycled organic materials, such as compost and digestate for classic soil improving and fertilizing purposes, and for new ones, e.g., use as component material in growing media**
- 5. Maintaining and improving ECN's communication strategy.**
- 6. Diversifying activities for members to increase resources.**

Area Policy Work

<u>POLICY INITIATIVES</u>	<u>SPECIFIC TASKS</u>	<u>RESPONSIBILITY</u>
Fertilising Products Regulation FPR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Taking part in Commission's Expert Group on Fertilising Products and monitoring the implementation of regulation. ▪ Following the developments of requirements for the inclusion of new Component Material Categories CMC in the Annex II of the FPR regulation. ▪ Following the evaluation of the EU FPR ▪ Following the implementation of the conformity assessment procedures for fertilising products by participating to the Coordination group of Notified Bodies. ▪ Addressing the Commission for the harmonisation of FPR and ABPR provisions concerning treatment parameters for the placement of compost and digestate on the internal market. ▪ Responsible: DG GROW, F.2 Unit – Bioeconomy, chemicals, cosmetics ▪ Taking part in working groups of Technical Committee on soil improvers and growing media (TC 223) mandated to develop new EU Standards for organic fertilising products – Standardisation process. ▪ Taking part in the EU Fertilisers Market Observatory 	<p>SI / IL</p> <p>TG FERT / SI</p> <p>TG FERT / TG QAS / SI</p> <p>TG FERT / TG QAS / SI</p> <p>TG FERT / TG ABPR</p> <p>TG QAS / SI</p> <p>SI / IL</p>
Nitrate Directive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Following the evaluation of the Nitrate Directive ▪ Evaluation on the implementation of the Nitrate Directive in Member States ▪ Supporting the use of the recycling of nutrients from various sources, including compost and digestate ▪ Key objective to investigate the potential for simplification, burden and cost reductions with a focus on increased coherence with other legislation and developments in farm practices and technology 	<p>TG FERT / TG SOM</p> <p>SI/IL/AC/AG</p>
Animal By-Products Regulation ABPR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Following the delegated act on amending the ABPR (1069 scientific evaluation of the new application on alternative time-temperature profiles in the Scientific Committee of EFSA). 	<p>SI / IL / WvA</p> <p>TG ABPR / SI</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following the amendment on the delegated act for determining the end point in the manufacturing chain for ABP-derived materials Responsible: DG SANTE Figuring out potential possibilities for further alternative processes under the ABPR Addressing the Commission for the harmonisation of FPR and ABPR provisions concerning treatment parameters for the placement of compost and digestate on the internal market and determining the end point in the manufacturing chain for compost and digestate 	<p>TG FERT / TG ABPR</p> <p>TG FERT/ TG ABPR</p>
Common Agricultural Policy CAP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring and regularly reporting about the implementation of the national CAP Strategic Plans especially their contribution to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate change mitigation Efficient natural resource (including soil) management Halting and reversing biodiversity loss Monitoring adoption of eco-schemes where compost and digestate are used. Responsible: DG AGRI 	<p>TG SOM / AG</p> <p>TG SOM / AG</p>
CIRCULAR ECONOMY		
Circular Economy Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring the Circular Economy Act whose main objective is to create market demand for secondary materials and establish a single market for waste Commission's goal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decarbonisation of the economy to shift to a more sustainable pattern of production and consumption, retaining the value of resources in the economy for longer Focussing on enforcement and implementation of existing legislation related to environment, biodiversity and zero-pollution, taking into account the importance of simplification and dialogue with stakeholders Type of act: Regulation. Timeline: proposal by the end of 2026. 	<p>TG CE /AG/SW/SI</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Responsible: DG Environment, ENV.B Circular Economy ▪ Liaising with DG ENV/CE and appointed MEP rapporteur/shadow rapporteurs in ENVI committee. 	
Waste Framework Directive WFD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Following the developments with reference to the Circular Economy Act: possible revision of the WFD: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reform End of Waste and by-product criteria ○ Harmonise, digitalise and expand selected Extended Producer Responsibility schemes ○ Targeted, impactful and implementable public procurement criteria for EU circularity ○ Recycled content in selected products ○ Improve bio-waste collection and use, and phosphorus valorisation from sewage sludge ○ Enhance separate collection, and reduce landfilling, including through economic instruments ▪ Following the developments on the proposed revision of the WFD and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Advocating for the setting of preparing for reuse/recycling targets for the municipal biowaste stream, as well as for biowaste originating from commercial and industrial activities, as laid down in art. 11 (6) by 31/12/24. ▪ Monitoring the early warning mechanism of the Commission ▪ Responsible: DG Environment, ENV.B, B.3 Unit From Waste to Resources. ▪ Liaising with potentially appointed MEP rapporteur/shadow rapporteurs in ENVI committee. ▪ Presenting the guidelines of the Life BioBest project 'Guiding the mainstreaming of biowaste recycling practices in Europe' ▪ Final Life BioBest project event in Brussels; 05/06/2025 	TG CE / SI / AG / SW TG SEP / SW
Bioeconomy Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monitoring and supporting the EU Bioeconomy Strategy and its links with circular economy ▪ Revision of the 2018 EU Bioeconomy Strategy by the end of 2025 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The review will take into account 	TG CE / AG / SW / SI

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the current societal, demographic and environmental challenges, reinforcing the bioeconomy's industrial dimension its links to biotechnology and biomanufacturing to contribute to a stronger EU economy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commission's goal: Developing a more circular and resource-efficient economy, driving forward the industrial development of clean technologies, reaping the full benefits of the bioeconomy Responsible: DG Environment, ENV. B, Unit B.1 Circular Economy, Sustainable Production and Consumption 	
Sewage Sludge Directive (SSD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring possible initiative for a revision of the SSD under the Circular Economy Act. Responsible: DG ENV, ENV.B, Unit B.3 From Waste to Resources 	AG / SI
Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation PPWR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following the implementation of the adopted PPWR, especially art. 9 dedicated to compostable materials. Supervising the revision of EN 13432 and the future development of a standard for anaerobic digestability. Responsible: DG ENV, ENV.B, Unit B.3 From Waste to Resources 	TG COM / SW / MR
CLIMATE ACTION		
Certification Framework for Carbon Removals and Carbon Farming (CRCF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following the work of the Expert Group on Carbon removals regarding the delegated act on the certification methodology for carbon farming. Liaising with Expert Group on Carbon Removals and support them in finding an appropriate methodology to certify compost and digestate (e.g., ECN-QAS). Responsible: DG CLIMA 	TG SOM / AG TG SOM / AG
Sustainable Carbon Cycles and Carbon Farming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring other possible initiatives on carbon farming. Participating and preparing the Carbon Farming Summit 4-6/03/2025 	AG / SI / AC AC / SI / (AG)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Moderation of Joint session on Exploring carbon farming approaches: integrating circular solutions from biomass production & treatment to soil health and carbon sequestration ○ ECN/CIC presentation on 'The beneficial use of recycled organic fertilisers and soil improvers in carbon farming' 	
Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry Regulation (LULUCF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Monitoring the implementation of the regulation in the National Energy and Climate Plans NECPs. ■ Responsible: DG CLIMA 	AG
Renewable Energy Directive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Monitoring the implementation of the regulation in the National Energy and Climate Plans NECPs. ■ Following the discussion on the Union Database for biofuels (UDB) in cooperation with EBA & FEAD ■ Responsible: DG ENER 	AG AG AG
Industrial Emission Directive (IED)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Analysing possible changes in the waste treatment sector and following the draft proposal for revising the 'guidance on the practical arrangements for the exchange of information' ■ Contributing to the description of best available techniques in the EU FertiCovery Project 	SW / SI / AG TG SEP / SW
BIODIVERSITY		
Soil Monitoring Law (SML)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Promoting ECN position paper on soil health, disseminating it and reach out to DG ENV to demonstrate the positive effects on soil health parameters arising from the application of high-quality compost and digestate. ■ Following the legislative process on the soil monitoring law (trilogue) ■ Liaise with MEP rapporteur/shadow rapporteurs on the file, monitor conclusions of the Council to detect possible need for intervention in MS. ■ Responsible: DG ENV, ENV. D, Unit D.1 Land Use and Management 	TG SOM / AG / AC AG / AC

Nature Restoration Law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring the implementation of the adopted regulation. Responsible: DG ENV, ENV D Biodiversity 	AG
Water Resilience Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring possible new initiatives under the strategy Responsible: DG ENV, ENV.C, Unit C.1 Sustainable Freshwater Management 	AG
FARM TO FORK STRATEGY		
Legislative Framework on Sustainable Food Systems (SFS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting the inclusion of consumers' awareness on separate collection and information and recycling potential of unavoidable food loss and waste. Legislative proposal left pending in the previous mandate. Responsible: DG SANTE, DG AGRI, DG ENV, DG MARE 	TG SEP/ SW / AG
Food Loss and Food Prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring other possible initiatives on food loss and prevention under the Farm to Fork Strategy, reinforcing the future targets to be included in the WFD. 	AG / SW
Organic Farming Regulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring the implementation of Regulation amending and correcting Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/1165 authorising certain products and substances for use in organic production with inclusion of a broader definition of biowaste in accordance with WFD. Monitoring eventual new relevant initiatives. Engaging with Organic International (IFOAM) for future collaboration. Promoting the use of compost and digestate in organic farming. 	TG FERT / SI AG / SI AG / SI AG / SI
ZERO POLLUTION		
Microplastics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring possible new initiatives on plastic pollution of soils. Monitoring possible new initiatives on compostable plastic and degradability. 	AG / SW AG / SW
PFAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following the EU-wide proposal to restrict PFAS which is currently reviewed by ECHA. Following the sectors under evaluation by ECHA Committees. 	AG / SI AG

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring possible new initiatives from the Commission. 	AG
Urban Wastewater Framework Directive (UWFD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring the implementation of the newly adopted directive. 	AG

Area Quality Assurance

<u>Activities</u>	<u>SPECIFIC TASKS</u>	<u>RESPONSIBILITY</u>
Benchmarking ECN-QAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New conformity assessments of National Quality Assurance Schemes according to ECN-QAS and renewal of conformity assessed NQAO (2 reviews in 2024) Exchange on the ongoing developments of quality criteria in national quality assurance schemes in relation to the current policy discussions (stability, contamination, conformity assessment procedures under the FPR) 	TG QAS / SI TG QAS /TG FERT / SI,
EU standardisation work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ECN liaison with CEN/TC 223 'Soil improvers and Growing Media' for the development of analytical methods for compost and digestate Active involvement in the standardisation work in relation to the EU Fertilising Product Regulation Project leader of WI Self-Heating Test 	TG QAS / SI SI TG QAS /TG FERT / SI, SI

Area Research and Market Development

<u>Activities</u>	<u>SPECIFIC TASKS</u>	<u>RESPONSIBILITY</u>
EU LIFE BIOBEST Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ ECN involvement in LIFE BIOBEST project 'Guiding the mainstreaming of best biowaste recycling practices in Europe' <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Duration: 01.01.2023-30.06.2025 ○ ECN involvement M1-M26 ○ Project Account management <p><u>Project work</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ WP3 Best practices and guidance - Guideline to promote quality compost and digestate ○ WP 4 Networking and co-creation – Reviewed policy recommendations ○ WP 5 Policy and regulatory recommendation for bio-waste – Proposition for quality standards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Participating in events., conferences and workshops for dissemination of the project results and guidelines ■ Final project event 05/06/2025 	<p>SI /AG /AH / SW Project Manager SW</p> <p>SW</p> <p>ECN members / SW/ AG / SI</p>
EU Interreg CORE project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ ECN involvement in as Advisory Partner in the EU Interreg project Composting in Rural Environments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Duration: 01.03.2023-31.05.2027 <p><u>Project work</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Communication (Project website, social media, project brochures, project videos) ○ Technical advisory for selecting good practices of project partners and facilitating 8 thematic seminars 	<p>SI / IM Project Manager SI</p> <p>IM / SI</p> <p>SI</p>

BRIT-EU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Cooperation project with Technical University Hamburg-Harburg (TUHH) for the development of an integrated information and management tool for the potential analysis of biowaste in the EU <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Duration: 01.12.2024-31.05.2026 <u>Project work</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Data collection on biowaste management ○ Interactive map on separate collection of biowaste ○ Communication & Dissemination 	SW / IM / TG SEP Project Manager SW
EU FertiCovery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ EU HORIZON project ‘Best available techniques to recover or recycle fertilizing products from secondary raw materials’, 8 Project partners (btg NL, EBA, Greenovate, NTUA, UNITO, PWR, CARTIF) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Duration: 01.01.2025-31.12.2027 <u>Project work</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Selection on best available techniques for recycling and recovery of organic materials ○ Data collection on secondary materials ○ Market potential of secondary organic materials ○ Policy recommendations 	SW /AG /TG SEP Project Manager SW & AG
CEN/GROW Mandate 564 WI 00223104	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ SI Project leader for harmonised standard ‘Self heating test’ according to EU Fertilising Products Regulation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Duration: 04.11.2022-30.11.2025 <u>Project work</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Development of harmonised standard ○ Supporting the interlaboratory trial ○ Evaluation of the interlaboratory reports and comments ○ 	SI
<u>Project acquisition (under development)</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ For the further development ECN is looking for additional funding through project work 	SW

Area Communication and Events

<u>Activities</u>	<u>SPECIFIC TASKS</u>	<u>RESPONSIBILITY</u>
ECN Publications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ ECN E_Bulletin (10-12 editions per year) ■ Updating Country reports (update by ECN members) ■ Policy briefings ■ Position papers ■ Factsheets/Issue papers ■ Press releases 	SI / AG / SW / IM SI / IM AG / SW / SI) AG / SW / SI / Board AG / SW / SI / TGs AG / SW / SI / IM
Online Presence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ ECN's website update ■ Social media update (Facebook/Twitter) 	IM / SI IM / SI / AG / SW
Webinars & Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Conferences & trade fairs (e.g. Kasseler Abfallforum, Carbon Farming Summit, RAMIRAN, Cyprus 2025, Ecomondo) ■ ECN workshops on dedicated topics 	SI / AG / SW SW / AG / SI
SOS Soil Initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Supporting the SOS by organising a webinar under the title 'Save Organics in Soil' at the World Soil Day (05/12/2025) 	TG SOM /AG
Awareness Campaigns	Supporting members by awareness campaigns <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Promoting the participation in the International Compost Awareness week (5-11 May 2025) ■ Promoting the participation in the World Soil Day (05/12) ■ Promoting and supporting members in organising events 	SI / AG / SW / IM
ECN meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Board meetings (3-4) ■ Annual meeting (04/06/2025 in Brussels in connection with final Life BioBest project event 05/06/2025) ■ TG meetings/webinars ■ Member policy update meetings (2 policy update webinars) 	ECN Board / SI (AG, SW) AG / SW / IM / SI

Participating in technical working group meetings and platforms of the European Commission Networking with other organisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ EC Expert Group on Fertilisers ■ EU Fertilisers Market Observatory ■ EC Industry Emission Forum ■ CEN TC 223 	IL / SI SI / IL SI SI
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Networking with the International Compost Association (ICA) (3-4) ■ Networking with EEB WG Circular Economy, WG Soil, WG Agri ■ Regular exchange meetings with EBA, MWE, FEAD, EUBP, ESPP 	SI AG AG / (SI)

Abbreviations

TG - Task group, TG ABPR - Animal By-Products Regulation, TG CE – Circular Economy, TG COM – Compostable Materials, TG Fert – Fertilisers, TG QA – Quality Assurance, TG SEP - Separate Collection, TG SOM – Soil & Organic Matter, TF – Task Force, TF COM – Communication & Events

Task Group Chairs: AC, Alberto Confalonieri, IL – Irmgard Leifert, MR – Marco Ricci-Jürgensen, WvA - Wim Vanden Auweele

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