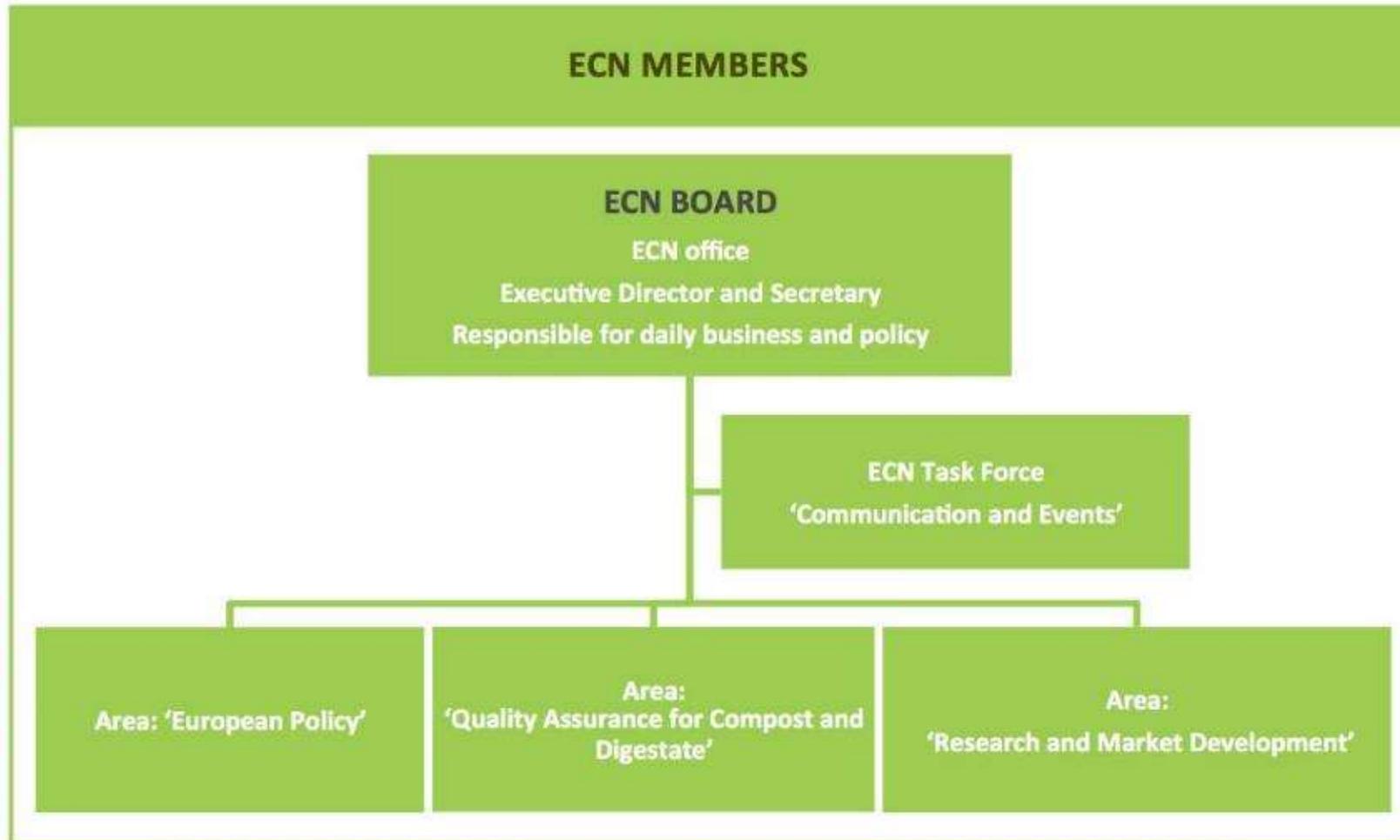


ECN Work Schedule 2026

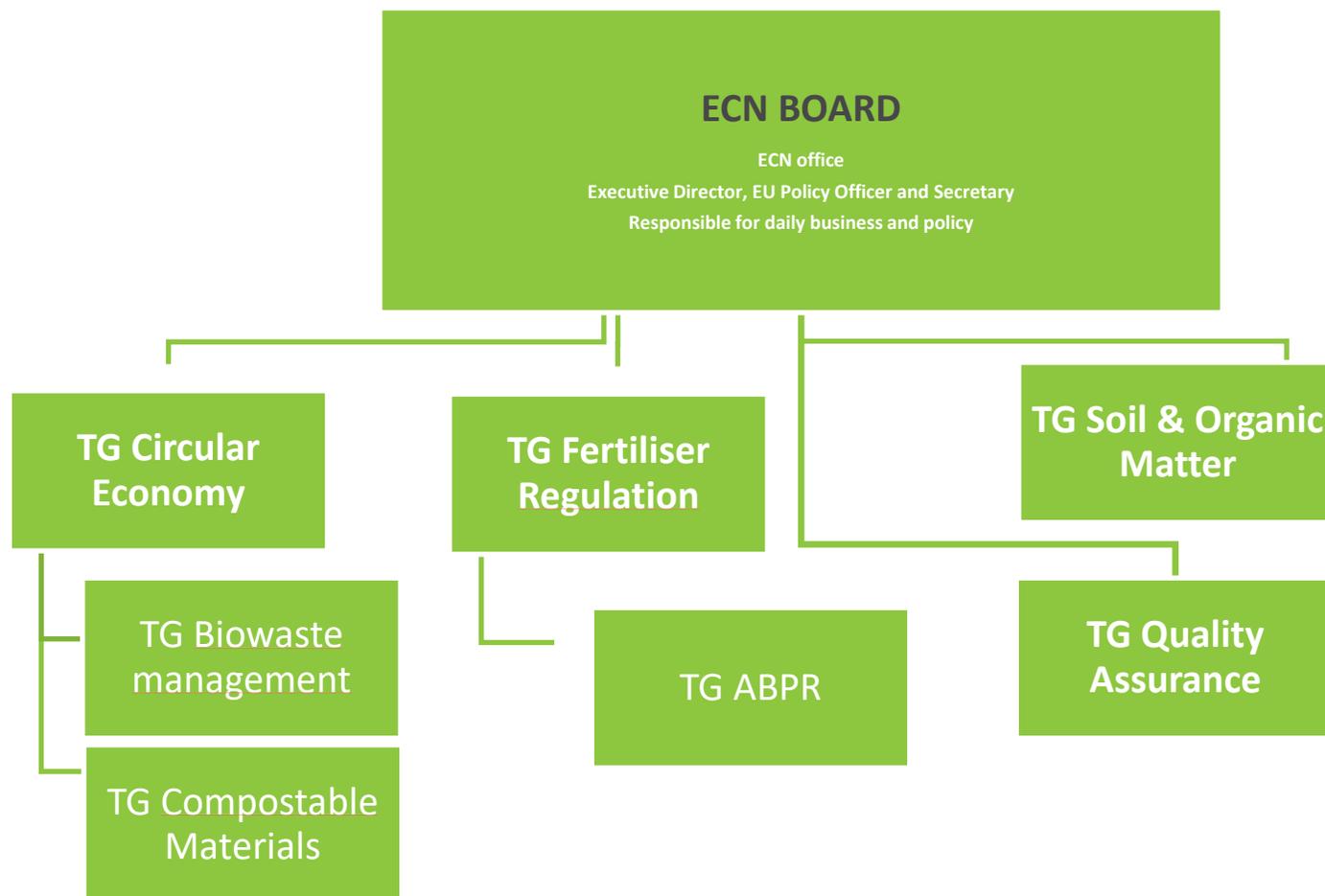
Work priority areas for 2026

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.

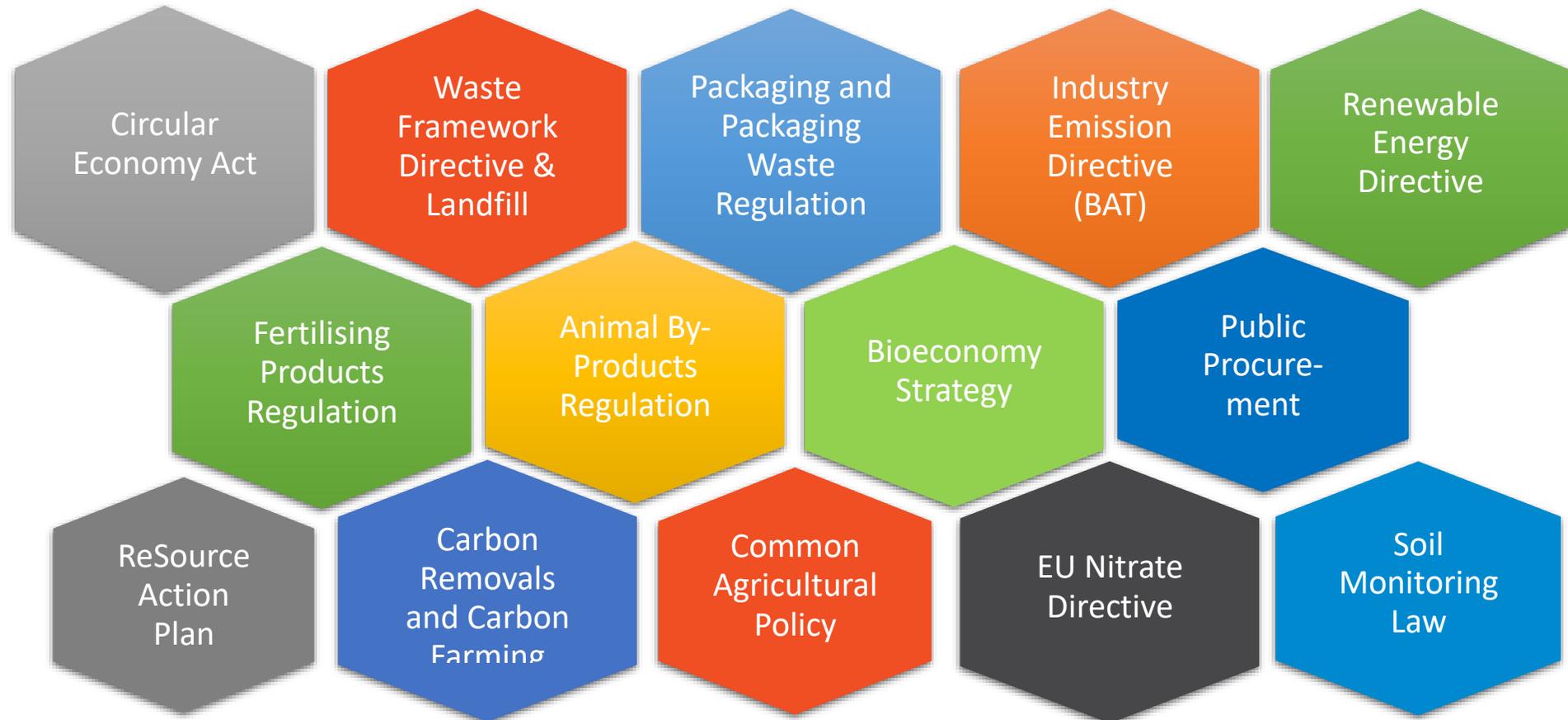
ECN Work Structure



ECN Task Groups



Area European Policy



POLICY INITIATIVES	SPECIFIC TASKS
CIRCULAR ECONOMY	
<p>Circular Economy Act Followed by TG Circular Economy</p>	<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 (expected in September). ▪ Responsible: DG Environment, ENV.B Circular Economy ▪ Liaising with DG ENV/CE and future MEP rapporteur/shadow rapporteurs in lead committee (expected to be ENVI).
<p>Waste Framework Directive WFD Followed by TG Biowaste Management</p>	<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 – EPR for food products? ○ 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 Circular Economy & Secondary Raw Materials.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Liaising with future MEP rapporteur/shadow rapporteurs in lead committee (expected to be ENVI). ▪ ECN Survey on biowaste management - ECN Data report 2026
Bioeconomy Strategy Followed by TG Circular Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monitoring and supporting the EU Bioeconomy Strategy and its links with circular economy ▪ EU Bioeconomy Strategy 2025 - Implementation & Actions ▪ 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 Bioeconomy & Sustainable Materials
Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation PPWR Followed by TG Compostable Materials	<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 ▪ Harmonised labelling rules for compostable (packaging) materials ▪ Responsible: DG ENV, ENV.B, Unit B.3 Circular Economy & Secondary Raw Materials Following the activities of the Compostable By-Design Platform (CbDP)
Public Procurement (observing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Targeted, impactful and implementable public procurement criteria for EU circularity ▪ Possible revision of the Public Procurement Directives (maybe under the Circular Economy Act). ▪ Advocating for making the green public procurement mandatory to incentivise the use of compost and digestate from recycled bio-waste.
ReSource Action Plan (observing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Aims to accelerate and amplify efforts to secure the EU's supply of critical raw materials. Contains measures to enhance the circularity of critical raw materials. ▪ Following the presentation of the Action Plan to enable recycled nutrients for fertilisers (expected by Q2 2026)
Sewage Sludge Directive (SSD) (observing)	<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 Circular Economy & Secondary Raw Materials
Urban Wastewater Framework Directive (UWWFD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monitoring the implementation of the newly adopted directive.

(observing)	
CLIMATE ACTION	
Certification Framework for Carbon Removals and Carbon Farming (CRCF) Followed by TG Soil & Organic Matter	<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. – Public consultation - Q1 2026 ▪ 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
Sustainable Carbon Cycles and Carbon Farming Followed by TG Soil & Organic Matter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monitoring other possible initiatives on carbon farming. ▪ Participating and preparing the Carbon Farming Summit 17-19/03/2026 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ECN/CIC presentation on „Beyond Carbon – Long-Term Benefits of Biowaste Compost Application for Soil, Farm, and Rural Resilience”; relating to the ECN 2026 Fact Sheet
Renewable Energy Directive (observing)	<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
Industrial Emission Directive (IED) (observing)	<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’ & simplification package ▪ Contributing to the description of best available techniques in the EU FertiCovery Project
EU Taxonomy Followed by TG Biowaste Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Following the revision of the technical screening criteria for waste and water of the Climate and Environmental Delegated Acts ▪ Responsible: DG FISMA
PRODUCT & MARKET	
Fertilising Products Regulation FPR Followed by TG Fertilisation	<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

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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 ▪ Responsible: AGRI.I3 – Adoption procedures, committees and expert groups
<p>Animal By-Products Regulation ABPR Followed by TG ABPR</p>	<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). ▪ Following the amendment on the delegated act for determining the end point in the manufacturing chain for ABP-derived materials – Q4 2026 ▪ 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>AGRICULTURE</p>	
<p>Common Agricultural Policy CAP Followed by TG Soil & Organic Matter</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Following the revision of the Common Agricultural Policy 2028-2034 ▪ 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>Water Resilience Strategy (observing)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monitoring possible new initiatives under the strategy ▪ Responsible: DG ENV, ENV.C, Unit C.1 Sustainable Freshwater Management

BIODIVERSITY	
Soil Monitoring Law (SML) Followed by TG Soil & Organic Matter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Policy brief on the adopted SML ▪ Following its implementation at national level through our members. ▪ Responsible: DG ENV, ENV. D, Unit D.1 Land Use and Management
Nature Restoration Law (observing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monitoring the implementation of the adopted regulation. ▪ Responsible: DG ENV, ENV D Biodiversity
ENVIRONMENT & ZERO POLLUTION	
Nitrate Directive Followed by TG Fertilisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Following the evaluation of the Nitrate Directive ▪ 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
Microplastics, Herbicides & PFAS Followed by TG Quality Assurance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monitoring possible new initiatives on plastic pollution of soils ▪ Monitoring possible new initiatives on microplastics in compost and digestability ▪ Monitoring the distribution and degradation of herbicides in compost and digestate products ▪ Following the EU-wide proposal to restrict PFAS which is currently reviewed by ECHA. ▪ Following the sectors under evaluation by ECHA Committees. ▪ Monitoring possible new initiatives from the Commission.

Area Quality Assurance

<u>Activities</u>	<u>SPECIFIC TASKS</u>
Benchmarking ECN-QAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New conformity assessments of National Quality Assurance Schemes according to ECN-QAS ▪ 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) ▪ Monitoring of potential pollutants in compost and digestate (microplastics, herbicides, PFAS)
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 (final adoption in 2027)

Area Research and Market Development

Activities	SPECIFIC TASKS
<p>EU Interreg CORE project</p> 	<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: 01.03.2023-28.02.2027 <u>Project work</u> <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 ○ Involvement in Pilot action Bolzano 01.09.2025-31.08.2026 ○ Co-organisation of final event Ciudad Real 21-22.10.2026
<p>BRIT-EU</p> 	<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
<p>EU FertiCovery</p> 	<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 ○ International cooperation ○ Policy recommendations

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Final project event organisation
<p>EU COMPERF4EU</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ ECN involvement in COMPERF4EU project ‘Optimising Biowaste Composting Plant Performance for a Circular and Safe Bioeconomy Across Europe’ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Duration: 01.09.2026-28.02.2029 ○ ECN involvement M1-M30 ○ Project Account management <p><u>Project work</u> Role of ECN: Lead of 2 work packages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Biodegradable and Compostable Packaging Market and Biowaste Management Practices ○ Communication, Dissemination and Exploitation WP3 Best practices and guidance - Guideline to promote quality compost and digestate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Participating in events., conferences and workshops for dissemination of the project results
<p>CEN/GROW Mandate 564 - WI 00223104</p>	<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: 04.11.2022-30.06.2027 <p><u>Project work</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Development of harmonised standard ○ Supporting the interlaboratory trial ○ Evaluation of the interlaboratory reports and comments
<p>Project acquisition (under development)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ For the further development ECN is looking for additional funding through project work

Area Communication and Events

<u>Activities</u>	<u>SPECIFIC TASKS</u>
ECN Publications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ ECN E_Bulletin (10-12 editions per year) ■ Policy briefs ■ Position papers ■ Factsheets/Issue papers ■ Press releases ■ ECN Data report 2026 ■ Updating Country reports (update by ECN members)
Online Presence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ ECN's website update ■ Social media update (Linkedin/ Bluesky) ■ CORE website & Social media (X)
Webinars & Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Conferences & trade fairs (e.g., Carbon Farming Summit, IFAT, Ecomondo, ISWA, Austrian Compost Congress, Bad Hersfelder Biomasseforum) ■ ECN workshops on dedicated topics ■ Policy Events (European Parliament, European Committee of the Regions e.g.) ■ Cooperation in study visits organized by members ■ Participation in TAIEX peer-to-peer
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 (05/12/2026)
Awareness Campaigns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Supporting members by awareness campaigns ■ 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

<p>ECN meetings</p> <p>Participating in technical working group meetings and platforms of the European Commission</p> <p>Networking with other organisation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Board meetings (3-4) ■ Annual meeting () ■ TG meetings/webinars (1-3 meetings per TG) ■ EC Expert Group on Fertilisers ■ EU Fertilisers Market Observatory ■ EU Coordination Group of Notified Bodies ■ EC Industry Emission Forum ■ CEN TC 223 ■ Networking with the International Compost Association (ICA) (3-4) ■ Networking with EEB WG Circular Economy, WG Soil, WG Agri ■ Exchange meetings with EBA, MWE, FEAD, EUBP, ESPP, EBIC, ISWA, ZWE
<p>Project meetings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ CORE Thematic seminars & Interreg Policy workshops ■ FertiCovery (Intern & extern, online & presence) ■ BRIT-EU (Intern & extern, online & presence) ■ COMPERF4EU (Intern & extern, online & presence)