



Vacancy at the ECN for an EU Policy Officer – Environmental and Agricultural Affairs

Founded in October 2002, the European Compost Network (ECN) is the leading European membership association promoting sustainable recycling practices in composting, anaerobic digestion and other biological treatment processes of organic resources. The ECN has 65 members, comprising of industry organisations, private companies, NGOs, research institutes and consultancy firms across Europe. The ECN represents approx. 4.500 biological waste treatments plants (composting and anaerobic digestion) with a treatment capacity over 45 million tonnes of biowaste per year. The ECN's headquarter is based in Bochum, Germany.

The ECN wishes to strengthen its advocacy activities at the European level and their expertise on political topics around nutrient recycling and circular bio-economy. The ECN is looking for a Policy Officer that will take a leading role in furthering this cause. They should be interested in environmental issues and bring forward Europe towards a circular bioeconomy and a more sustainable agriculture.

Task & Responsibilities:

1. Raising the profile of the bio-waste industry and of the ECN in Europe, especially its role in the circular economy;
2. Policy monitoring, analysis and drafting position papers primarily related to EU's circular economy and the EU Green Deal. This includes EU waste, resource and agricultural policies, such as the EU Waste Framework Directive, the announced EU Soil Health Law, Sustainable Carbon Cycles, the Farm to Fork, the Biodiversity Strategy and the Zero Pollution action plan for air, water and soil.
3. Identifying and building relationships with relevant key EU decision makers;
4. Representing and promoting the ECN, in agreement and cooperation with the ECN's Executive Director, external partners and networks in the EU, particularly in Brussels;
5. Following EU media and developing media contacts;
6. Drafting policy papers, presentations and documents for Board meetings;
7. Supporting the ECN Board and ECN's Executive Director in defining its lobby strategies & messages, and in setting priorities;
8. Representing the ECN in European projects where it is a partner.

**Specific responsibilities in 2022-2024:**

The EU Policy Officer will lead the advocacy efforts on environmental and agricultural policies for the ECN with regard to

1. Supporting the implementation of separate collection and biological treatment of bio-waste in the member states as laid down in the circular economy package/waste framework directive (adopted on 4 July 2018) and following its revision.
2. Supporting the development of the European Soil Health Law in the frame of the S.O.S Save Organics in Soil initiative (www.saveorganicsinsoil.org).
3. Achieving a favourable position for compost and digestate in the implementation and delegated acts of the EU Fertilising Products Regulation;
4. Achieving a favourable position of compost and digestate in the implementation of the Common Agricultural Policy, the Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategy;
5. Promoting the use of compost and digestate in carbon farming practices and in sustainable carbon cycles.

The EU Policy Officer will work closely together with technical experts of the association specialised in nutrients and organic matter recycling and with the Executive Director of the ECN. They would liaise directly with ECN members, helping with organising events and writing occasional press articles.

Profile of the candidate:

1. Demonstrable working experience (3-years professional experience) in undertaking international level advocacy, media and communications in a relevant field, in Brussels and in the European region;
2. Active relevant policy and technical networks in EU institutions;
3. Thorough knowledge of EU formal and informal decision-making processes;
4. An excellent command of written and spoken English. Skills in one or more additional European languages (preferably French and German) would be favourable;
5. Familiarity and interest in issues related to biological treatment of organic materials (bio-waste), application of compost and digestate-based products, agriculture and soil management, circular economy and resource management,
6. Based in Brussels, prepared to travel occasionally within Europe;
7. Candidates should have a valid permit to work in Belgium.



What we offer:

The position provides the opportunity to work within a large network across Europe playing a key role in the circular bioeconomy and fostering sustainable and environmental agricultural practices. You will be able to work on a variety of topics related to the environment and the bio-waste management sector. You will profit from building up contacts to policy makers and as well as stakeholders across Europe.

We are looking for a full-time candidate and the salary will be adjusted to the candidates experience. The candidate will work most of the time from our office in Brussels and partly from home and must be flexible to travel within Europe.

How to apply:

Please send your application, including a CV (no europass format!) and a motivation letter, to ecn-recruit@compostnetwork.info by **29 April 2022** with the subject 'Policy officer: Your Name'.

Due to limited staff resources and numbers of CVs anticipated, only candidates selected for interviews will be contacted.

Interviews will take place remotely during the first half of May. We expect a starting date in June/July 2022.

Deadline for Application: 29 April 2022

Interviews round: 11-12 May 2022

Starting date: As soon as possible (June/July 2022)