

The Finnish Biocycle and Biogas Association

LARA Laaturavinnehanke - Finnish Quality Assurance System for Recycled Nutrient Products published

At the annual meeting of the Finnish Association for Biological Waste Treatment (Biolaitosyhdistys), a couple weeks ago, Juha Pirkkamaa (to the left), the Project Operator, was awarded by 'The Gold Medal for Life's Work' from the Finnish Chamber of Commerce, given by the chairman Christoph Gareis (to the right) of Biolaitosyhdistys. During his time as Project Operator of Biolaitosyhdistys, Juha Pirkkamaa, has initiated the development of the Finnish Quality Assurance System for recycled nutrient products.



In 2017, three Finnish associations set a common goal to create a national quality assurance system for the recycled nutrient products. Those associations are:

- The Finnish Association for Biological Waste Treatment ("Biolaitosyhdistys")
- The Finnish Biogas Association ("Suomen Biokaasuyhdistys")
- The Finnish Water Utilities Association (FIWA, "Suomen vesilaitosyhdistys")

After the pre-studies in 2017 the associations were ready to start a project named "Lara laaturavinne" for the creation of the QAS. In spring 2018 the project received Government's key projects financing from The Finnish Ministry of Environment and the effectively work could start.

The project aims to create a quality system and quality label for fertiliser products, which have been processed from recycled materials in biogas and composting plants or other similar processing plants. The milestones of the project are:

- Study for the principles for the QAS
- Quality Handbook
- Graphic instructions for the quality label
- Pilot-process for testing the QAS in companies
- Database software for QAS
- Economic plan for QAS

In the project work, they have utilized the [ECN-QAS Quality Manual](#) as well as the German Quality Manual of the RAL Gütesicherung Kompost.

The QAS is a service and tool for the users of fertilizer products as well as for the producers, advisors, researchers and authorities. It will increase the use of recycled nutrients, taking advantage of the waste streams from other sectors, and reduce the eutrophication of water bodies. The intention is to launch the first products to comply with the new quality system onto the market at the beginning of 2020!

In spring 2019 a new association has been founded, namely "The Finnish Biocycle and Biogas Association". It will comprehensively continue the work of Finnish Association for Biological Waste Treatment and Finnish Biogas Association, and also take care of the quality assurance project.

For further information please visit the website of the Finnish QAS [here](#).