

European Compost Network ECN



Implementing Effective Bio-Waste Management Across Europe

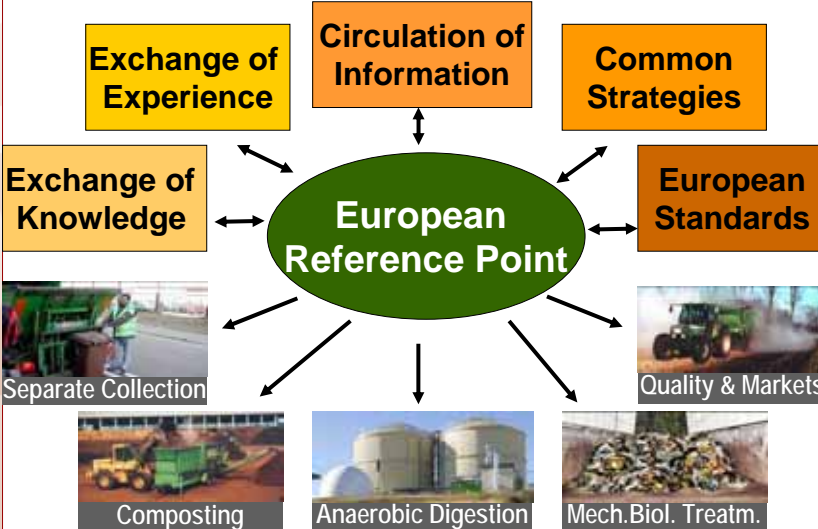
Dr. Jane Gilbert, Chair, European Compost Network ECN

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Brussels 2009

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About the European Compost Network ECN



Exchange of Experience

Circulation of Information

Common Strategies

Exchange of Knowledge

European Standards

European Reference Point

Separate Collection

Composting

Anaerobic Digestion

Mech. Biol. Treatm.

Quality & Markets

⇒ Sustainable solutions for the organic residues stream

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Overview

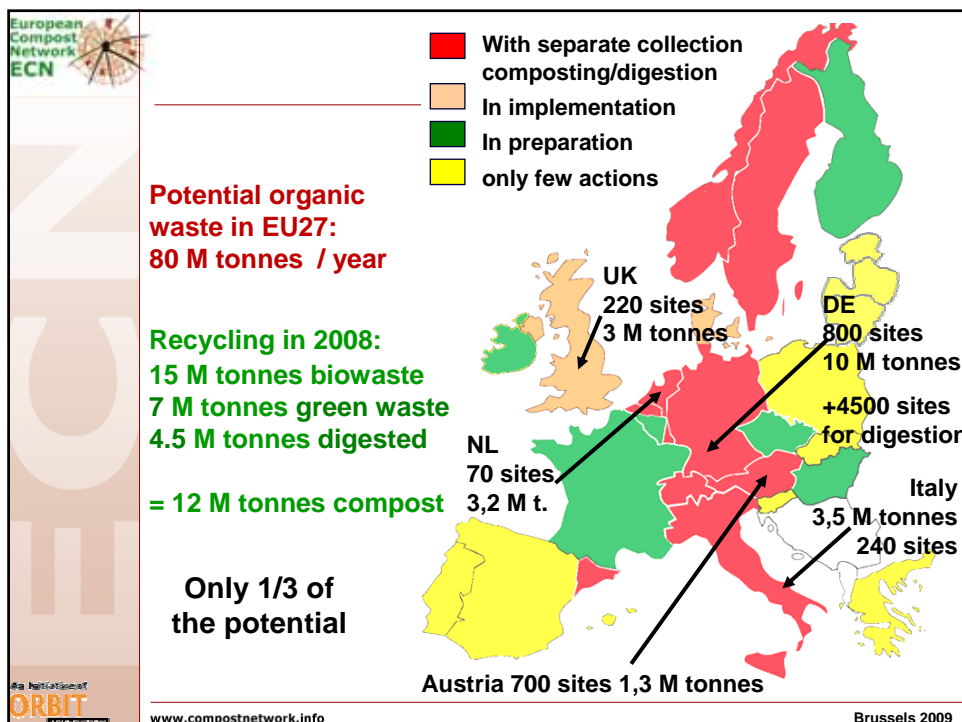
Implementing Effective Bio-Waste Management Across Europe



- Introduction
- Current state of play
- Why do we need legislation?
- How could it look?



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What does this mean?

80 million tonnes biowaste/year realistic collection potential

From this, there is the potential to create over **35 M tonnes of compost a year**



This equates to:

- 8 M tonnes of CO₂ equivalent sequestered in soil
- Saving >300,000 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent through substitution of NPK fertiliser (Enough to drive around the world 40,000 times!)



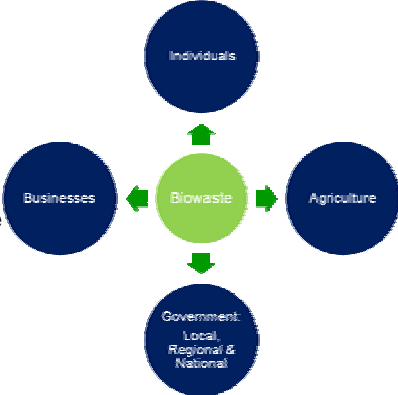
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Some of the Barriers

- Lack of **strategic planning** framework in many Member States
- **Uncertain legislative framework**
- Economies of scale not being realised
- Lack of operational experience
- Difficulties in securing **capital finance**
- Complex interplay between various parties
- Running out of time for Landfill Directive targets and structural funds for new Member States




```
graph TD; Biowaste((Biowaste)) --- Individuals((Individuals)); Biowaste --- Businesses((Businesses)); Biowaste --- Agriculture((Agriculture)); Biowaste --- Government((Government: Local, Regional & National));
```




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So, What Do We Need?

A **PUSH** and **PULL** approach




- **REGULATORY PUSH**
 - European-wide legislation to provide framework for biowaste recycling
- **QUALITY ASSURED COMPOST PRODUCTION**
 - Separately collected biowaste treated to high standards
- **MARKET PULL**
 - Create demand and realise economic and environmental benefits

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Regulatory Push

- **Binding targets drive the recycling sectors**
 - Targets in the Landfill Directive, Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive and renewable energy sources in RES-Directive
 - Have led to investment in infrastructure and changes in practices
- **Regulatory “bridge” needed to implement Article 22 (Biowaste) in the WFD and provide framework for sustainable biowaste recycling**
 - Targets for biowaste treatment needed to drive this
- **Example approach in Sweden**
 - National target for % of separately collected biowaste sent for biological treatment
 - Flexible approach – can be applied to most appropriate situations

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Quality Assured Biowaste Recycling

Common view of experienced EU compost producers



Separate collection of organic waste (Clean source)

+



Quality Assurance (Control)

=



High quality compost & digestate (Product status)



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Quality Assured Biowaste Recycling

Main elements of EU Quality Assurance Schemes:

- Specified **clean input biowaste** feedstocks from source separation schemes only
- Quality managed and monitored process** providing save and fit for purpose products
- Standardised high quality** with product certification by independent organisation
- Meeting end of waste** criteria
- Information** on product compost properties and appropriate application



Quality decides

This helps to build customers' confidence and promotes recycling of organic matter and nutrients


➔ "converting waste to product"



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Market Pull

Compost marketing is confidence marketing

- **Range of value added products**
 - Marketed to various sectors
- **Achieving customer confidence**
 - Standardised high quality product
 - Independently controlled
 - Clean source material
- **Agricultural market** (> 50 % of EU compost production)
 - Part of certified international food production schemes which requires traceability to clean source materials



Confidence of both private and professional customers requires separate collection

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Biowaste Recycling – Success Stories

AUSTRIA

- 1 full-time employment from 800 t organic waste or 1,800 households

GERMANY

- Composting allows the recycling of 8 to 10 % of the annual P and N fertiliser consumption and proper humus management

NL, DE, AT, IT, ES

- Separate collection and composting is cost competitive to mixed waste treatment

SWEDEN

- Biogas can replace 20 % of the traffic fuels consumption

UK

- Annual turnover > € 100 million annum; >1,200 full-time employees

Why can't we do this across the whole of Europe?

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What ECN Calls For

For both a 'carrot' and 'stick' approach ...



Biowaste legislation:

1. Setting binding biowaste recycling **targets**
2. Requiring **quality assured processing** of separately collected biowaste feedstocks according to a set of standards
3. Including **end of waste** criteria

To support sustainable marketing of quality products

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Conclusions: Realising the Vision

Biowaste Legislation will enable:

- Framework for both public and private sectors to plan and invest
- Collaboration and integration of recycling systems
- Critical mass and adequate returns on investment
- Innovation
- Reduced economic, social and environmental risk
- Gaining confidence of market and consumers
- Successful biowaste recycling across the EU27 through targets and quality assurance systems



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Thank you!

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THE BIOWASTE ALLIANCE MEMBERS

Calling on the Need for European-Wide Legislation Covering the Treatment of Biowaste

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