

## European Biogas Association

**Biowaste – Need for EU legislation ?**  
The perspective of the European Biogas community

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### The association

EBA is a very young association

- founded in February 2009
- seated in Brussels
- secretariat in Germany
- counts actually 16 member associations



## The association

- covers 15 countries:

- Austria	(ARGE Kompost & Biogas)
- Czech Republik	(CzBA - Česká bioplynová asociace)
- France	(Club Biogaz and Méthéor)
- Germany	(Fachverband Biogas e.V.)
- Hungary	(Magyar Biogáz Egyesület)
- Ireland	(Sustainable Energy Ireland)
- Italy	(Conorzio Italiano Biogas)
- Latvia	(Latvian Biogas Association)
- Lithuania	(Lithuanian Biogas Association)
- Poland	(PBA - Polskie Stowarzyszenie Biogazu)
- UK	(REA - Biogas Group)
- Romania	(Romanian Biogas Association)
- Spain	(AEBIG - Asociación Española de Biogás)
- Sweden	(Svenska Gasföreningen)
- Switzerland	(Biogas Forum Schweiz)



## The objectives

- Deployment of anaerobic digestion (AD) technology, i.e. production and utilisation of biomethane through dissemination of information, education and project assistance to stakeholders
- Awareness rising of environmental and socio-economic aspects of AD
- Provision of scientific and technical support to policy makers



## The need for a Biowaste Directive

Requirements:

- Give a compound and straight forward framework
- Definition of end-of-waste for compost and *digestate*
- Include all aspects of biowaste: energy, fertiliser, soil improver
- Favour (re-)use of all food products
- Favour processes with high energy efficiencies
- Define product standards (gas, digestate, compost)
- Define obligations for the use of products particularly by the public sector
- Include information and education, and set up international demonstration projects



## The green paper: basis for legislation?

To some extent, all important items for a legislation on biowaste have been touched by the green paper but sometimes not adequately enough:

### 1. Definitions and background information

- Digestate and compost are comparable but not identical products. Both are excellent fertilisers but they are not the same and have different strength  
→ We need two definitions and standards
- AD is not restricted to wet food waste. There is a choice of systems that can handle all types of biowaste



## The green paper: basis for legislation?

### 1. Definitions and background information (ctd.)

- The non-energy products of MBA are not per se "bad" (proven by french plants). If properly treated large parts of it can be recycled (glass, paper, plastic) or re-used particularly where humus is badly needed (Greece)  
→ We need at least two levels for digestate/compost standards
- Economical considerations have to be revised: Why should source separation be 3times more work intensive? Why are cost of separate collection and AD so elevated?



## The green paper: basis for legislation?

### 2. Additional targets to boost biowaste recycling:

- Social aspects are vaguely considered and if, then in a negative way  
→ socio-economic aspects are the strength of source separation
- Rules/obligations have to be defined for the use of digestate/compost beyond the agricultural application (actually 80 to 90%)
- Information, education and marketing have to be defined as integral part of biowaste management



## The principles

Waste hierarchy has to be followed

*The "new" order of the principles of organic waste management:*

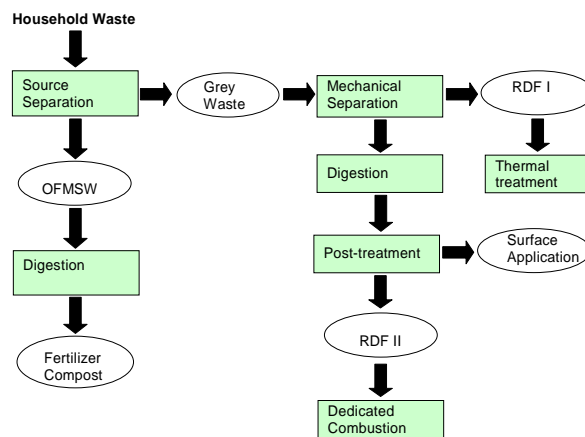
1. Waste prevention
2. Re-use
3. Recycling
4. Energy recovery
5. Landfill of inerts (mining of the future)

Carbon sequestration and growth factors (other than minerals) have to be considered



## The principles

EBA's favourite most ecological solution:



# Bio-Waste - Need for EU-Legislation?

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