

Bio-waste Sector Ready to Act on Circular Economy Package

Swift and determined implementation in Member States necessary to deliver on targets

The European Compost Network welcomes the adoption of the Circular Economy Package by the European Parliament. As part of the package, the revised Waste Framework Directive recognises the potential of the bioeconomy and provides vital incentives that will boost the circularity of bio-waste across Europe. For the first time, the way is paved that annually around 100 million tonnes of valuable organic resources will be separately collected and recycled.

“The revised Waste Framework Directive is a major step towards unlocking the potential of 50,000 new jobs in the bio-waste management sector. We look forward to working with the Member States on the implementation of the Circular Economy Package and the creation of sustainable growth in Europe”, commented Henrik Lystad, chair of the European Compost Network.

As bio-waste makes up more than one third of municipal waste across Europe, it is an essential component in achieving the newly adopted recycling and landfilling targets. Stefanie Siebert, Managing Director of the European Compost Network, noted: “The European legislators have set ambitious targets; now it is up to the Member States to provide the necessary framework and incentives for the separate collection of bio-waste”. Composting and anaerobic digestion of bio-waste produce valuable secondary raw materials, which the Waste Framework Directive rightly describes as opportunities for innovation and growth. The European Compost Network encourages Member States to spur this innovation by strengthening the adoption of recycled materials and products. This process will be enhanced by the development of precise and practicable standards for organic recycling, that will improve the quality of recycled organic matter even further.

The European Compost Network also welcomes the consideration of specific recycling targets for municipal and industrial bio-waste. However, as long as these targets are not in place, it is important that the European Commission exercises on a regular basis its obligation to assess and share best practices of effective bio-waste management and to draw up recommendations for Member States lagging behind.

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Notes:

1. The European Compost Network (ECN) is the leading European membership organisation promoting sustainable recycling practices by composting and anaerobic digestion of organic



resources and guarding over the quality and safe use of the recovered organic fertilisers/soil improvers.

2. The European Parliament has adopted the Circular Economy Package including the revised Waste Framework Directive on 18 April 2018. The Council of the European Union is scheduled to adopt the files by the end of May. Shortly after, the legislation will come into force and Member States will have 24 months to transpose it into national law.
3. The Waste Framework Directive introduces recycling and re-use targets for municipal waste, including bio-waste, of 55% by weight in 2025. These targets will increase to 60% and 65% in 2030 and 2035, respectively. All bio-waste shall be collected separately from other waste streams by the end of 2023. From 2027, only bio-waste separately collected or separated at source will be counted as recycled.
4. Bio-waste plays a key role in sustainable waste management as it accounts for the largest fraction (40%) of municipal solid waste. Today, only 30% of bio-waste across Europe is collected separately and recycled in a sustainable way by composting and anaerobic digestion.
5. For background information on bio-waste in the circular economy please find our fact sheet [here](#).