



EUROSTAT

Only 40 % of the EU's Municipal Bio-Waste is Composted or Digested

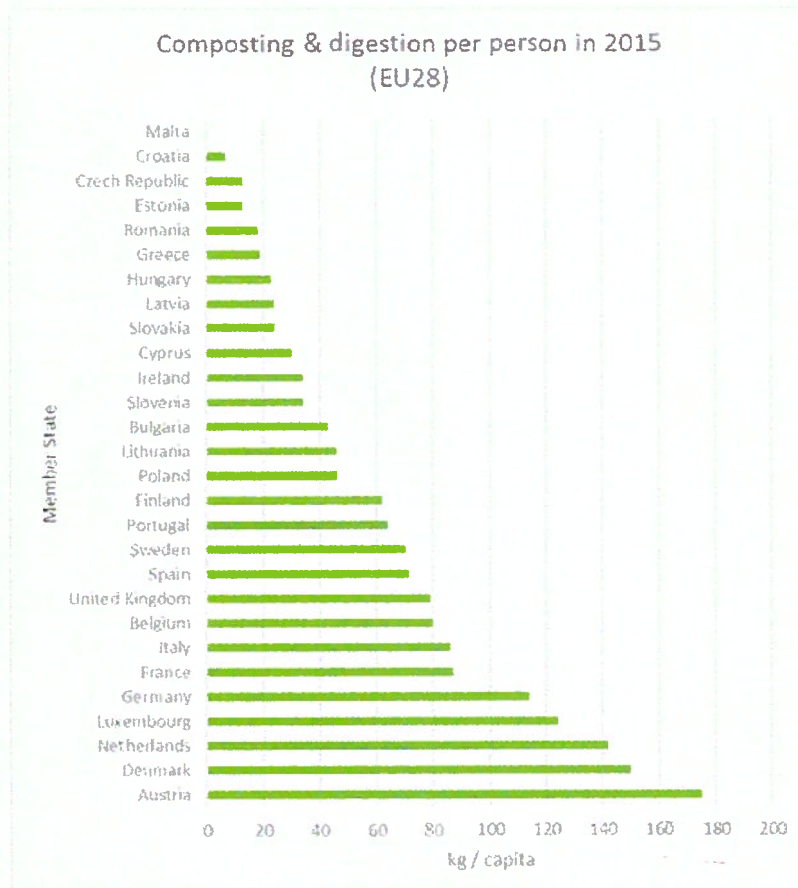
Official statistics released by the EU's statistical office, EUROSTAT, indicate that just under 40 million tonnes of municipal waste was composted and/or anaerobically digested in 2015 across the EU27, an increase of nine million tonnes since 2006.

The data released in May, show that progress has been slow but steady over the past decade; however, they do not differentiate between aerobic composting and anaerobic digestion. Although encouraging, the data still

suggest that 59% of Europe's bio-waste is not captured, presumably through non-collection or disposal through landfilling or incineration. Equivalent to 56 million tonnes, this bio-waste could be transformed into at least 20 million tonnes of compost and digestate, containing in excess of 6 million tonnes of organic matter, 70,000 tonnes of P₂O₅ and 200,000 tonnes of nitrogen.



Growth in composting & AD across the EU28



Differences in the amount of bio-waste collected per person across the EU28

"The top performers include Austria, Denmark, the Netherlands and Luxembourg"

The data also show that there is a huge contrast in performance between member states in terms of the amount of bio-waste collected per person. The top four performing states (AT, DK, NL and LU) each compost/digest in excess of 120 kg per capita per annum, whilst the bottom five states (RO, EE, CZ, HR and MT) compost/digest less than 20 kg per capita per annum: an annual difference of over 100 kg per person.

"EU-wide bio-waste targets and mandatory separate collection are needed to bridge this gap in performance"

These data illustrate the need to set EU-wide bio-waste recycling targets: an outcome ECN has been working hard to achieve.