



## Bio-waste management in the EU

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## What is Bio-waste?

Article 3(4) of Directive 2008/98/EC on waste:

“Bio-waste means:

- biodegradable garden and park waste,
- food and kitchen waste from households, restaurants, caterers and retail premises
- comparable waste from food processing plants;”



## Bio-waste does not include:

- forestry or agricultural residues,
- manure,
- sewage sludge, or
- other biodegradable waste (such as natural textiles, paper or processed wood)
- by-products of food production that never become waste.



# Directive 2008/98/EC on Waste

## Article 22 – Bio-waste

Member States shall encourage:

1. Separate collection

The Commission is currently carrying out an impact assessment with a view to preparing, if appropriate, an EU legislative proposal on biodegradable waste by 2010.





# Green Paper on Bio-waste COM 2008 (811) final

## Aim:

- to explore options for the further development of the management of bio-waste.

## Contents:

- current policies on bio-waste management and
- new research findings in the field,
- presents core issues for debate.



## Green Paper on Bio-waste COM 2008 (811) final

### Existing legislation regulating bio-waste:

- IPPC;
- Landfill Directive;
- Waste Framework Directive.

### Therefore:

May be an issue of increased implementation of existing legislation rather than proposing new legislative proposals.



## **Green Paper on Bio-waste COM 2008 (811) final**

### **Existing treatment options:**

- Separate collection;
- Landfilling (many of the new MS);
- Incineration (DK, SE, BE (Flanders), NL, LU, FR);
- Biological treatment;
- Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) (DE, IT, AT, ES).



## Green Paper on Bio-waste COM 2008 (811) final

### Findings:

- on average **41%** of MSW is **landfilled** in the EU27;
- overall **potential** for separately collected bio-waste is estimated at **80 Mt** for EU27;
- About **30%** of this potential (**24Mt**) is currently collected separately;
- should all bio-waste be composted and used only **3.2%** of EU agricultural land could be upgraded;
- potential for bio-energy from MSW app. **7% of all renewable energy** in 2020;



## Green Paper on Bio-waste COM 2008 (811) final

### Findings:

- There seems to be **no single environmentally best option**;
- the need to re-design waste collection schemes would imply **additional costs and administrative burdens** for enterprises and public administrations;
- management of bio-waste depends on a variety of local factors: **collection systems, waste composition and quality, climatic conditions, potential use of derived products.**



## Adopted Council Conclusions ST 11462/09 ENV 470 AGRI 286

- RECOMMENDS, the use of compost and digestate derived from treatment of biodegradable waste, contributing to a return of organic matter and nutrients to the soil;
- POINTS OUT that composts and digestates of lower quality should be avoided as far as possible.
- STRESSES that the hierarchy of waste management should be applied unless life-cycle thinking justifies another treatment;
- RECOMMENDS considering other biodegradable wastes suitable for treatment in composting or anaerobic digestion plants;
- ENCOURAGES the Commission to continue the impact assessment with a view to preparing, if appropriate, a EU legislative proposal on biodegradable waste by 2010.



## Envisaged problems

- geographical location, climate, population lifestyle, population density, land space, hygiene and odour issues, compost market and social and economic issues;
- a “**one-size-fits-all**” target;
- the need to **re-design waste collection schemes**;
- **additional costs and administrative burdens** for enterprises and public admin.;
- **targets** for measuring progress;
- impacts on **existing infrastructure**.



## Way Forward

### To introduce measures for:

- separate collection of bio-waste
- biological treatment of bio-waste
- use of outputs/products (end-of-waste status)

**Malta is to have a consolidated position should the Commission put forward a proposal for a bio-waste directive.**



**Thank you for your attention!**

**Any questions?**

More information is available on

[www.mepa.org.mt](http://www.mepa.org.mt)

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/compost/index.htm>

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