

## ECN's Work Structure and Schedule 2015

ECN's work in 2015 will focus on the following aspects:

1. European Policy Work
2. Communicational work
3. Implementing the European Quality Assurance Scheme for Compost and Digestate

The work is accompanied by the working groups of ECN, the ECN Board and the Executive Director. In 2014 ECN has started to restructure its working group structure.

For covering all policy issues, ECN has subdivided its **working group 'European Policy'** in 'Task Groups' for specific policy items (Annex\_150108\_EC\_N\_WG European Policy\_work structure\_2015). These policy items are followed up by the nominated Task Group leaders. For having an exchange with all ECN Members, ECN is planning to hold an 'EU Policy workshop' as overall WG European Policy meeting during 2015. WG 'European Policy' is chaired by Florian Amlinger (ARGE Compost and Digestate, AT) and Adrie Veeken (DWMA/Attero, NL).

With the publication of the ECN Quality Manual 'ECN-QAS European Quality Assurance for Compost and Digestate' in October 2014, the ECN Board decided to merge the **working groups 'Quality Assurance' and 'Anerarobic digestion'** in one working group, named **WG 'Quality Assurance for Compost and Digestate'**, chaired by Wim Vanden Auweele (Vlaco, Flemish Compost and Digestate Quality Organisation) and David Wilken (Fachverband Biogas, DE). Main tasks will be the further development and the implementation of the ECN-QAS in Europe.

Working group **'Integrated Waste Management'** chaired by Enzo Favoino (Scuola Agraria del Parco di Monza, IT) will focus on preparing 'issue papers'<sup>1</sup> and 'info sheets'<sup>2</sup> on specific waste and environmental topics like, the role of mechanical biological treatment in waste management, options and economic evidence of separate collection, bio-plastics and peat replacement.

Working group **'Eastern and Starting Countries in Biological Waste Management'**, chaired by Grigor Stoyanov (100-First Zero Waste and Organic Cycle Organization, Bulgaria) and Mait Kriipsalu (Life Science University of Tartu, Estonia), will focus on collecting information from new member state and countries and on exchanging information and experience on the implementation of biological waste management.

ECN's communicational work will be facilitated and coordinated by the Executive Director in cooperation with the **ECN working groups**.

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<sup>1</sup> "issue papers" are deemed as an instrument to support discussion within and outside ECN on broad, cross-cutting and/or controversial issues.

<sup>2</sup> "infosheets" are deemed to collect evidence and provide it to third parties in a well ordered manner.

## 1. ECN’s European Policy Work

ECN’s overall aim is to facilitate sustainable biodegradable waste management practices throughout the whole of the EU 28. This will be achieved through the development and implementation of favourable EU policies, which promote the separate collection of biodegradable waste and its biological treatment (through composting and anaerobic digestion), with the use of compost and digestate to benefit soil and the environment. We aim to achieve this by:

- Making contact with the new Commissioner for Environment, Karmenu Vella, to inform him of the role bio-waste recycling can make within the circular economy package.
- Organising bilateral meetings with heads of departments, responsible desk officers within the EU Commission (e.g. DG ENV, DG SANCO, DG ENTR and DG AGRI), as well as experts and rapporteurs of the European Parliament
- Participating in relevant EC technical working groups (these are detailed in the table below) as an expert stakeholder.
- Organising a workshop in Brussels during 2015 to inform, and debate with, policy makers about bio-waste recycling. It is likely that this will focus on revisions to the Fertilisers Regulation and end-of-waste criteria for compost and digestate, as well as the Circular Economy Package. It is envisaged that this will be organised in June 2015.
- Providing high quality information and expert opinion in the form of briefing papers and letters to heads of department, responsible EC desk officers and the European Parliament. These will be directed at specific policy initiatives, and will, in most cases, be followed up with face-to-face meetings.
- Observing European policy and regulatory developments which impact on bio-waste management (collection, treatment and the use of treatment outputs and products).

During 2015, we plan to continue our active involvement in a number of European policy developments as shown in the table below.

Policy	ECN Involvement to Date	Proposed ECN Involvement during 2015
<b>EU Circular Economy Package Covered by TG_Circular Economy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ECN participated in the consultation process on waste related targets.</li> <li>▪ Based on the ECN/EEB Memorandum on bio-waste, ECN presented options on how to improve bio-waste management in Europe through conferences and seminars.</li> <li>▪ Promoting separate collection and improving recycling of municipal waste.</li> <li>▪ ECN took part in the EEB Annual conference ‘Economic Crisis, Environmental Opportunity: The path to a greener Europe’ in respect of ‘How to accelerate the green transition on a resource-challenged continent’.</li> <li>▪ ECN was involved in Green Week 2014: Circular Economy – saving resources, creating jobs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Supporting the EU Commission in how to implement the EU Circular Economy Package – this will involve meetings and knowledge exchange.</li> <li>▪ Following up the discussion with the EU Council and the EU Parliament during 2015 through the issue of briefing papers and high quality information.</li> </ul>

Policy	ECN Involvement to Date	Proposed ECN Involvement during 2015
<b>End-of-Waste Criteria for Biodegradable Waste Subject to Biological Treatment</b> Covered by <b>TG_Circular Economy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ECN was a member of the JRC-IPTS Technical Working Group (TWG) 'Biodegradable waste subject to biological treatment'.</li> <li>▪ Follow up the final outcome of the JRC-IPTS study report on End-of-waste criteria for biodegradable waste subjected to biological treatment with DG ENV</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Providing technical 'know-how' to support the proposal for End-of-waste criteria for compost and digestate.</li> <li>▪ Continuing with our involvement in respect of COM(2014)397 and in relation to the revision of the EU Fertilisers Regulation.</li> <li>▪ Developing and implementing the ECN Quality Assurance Scheme (see proposals under Area 2 below).</li> </ul>
<b>Roadmap for Moving Towards a Low Carbon Economy in 2050</b> Covered by <b>TG_Circular Economy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ By promoting the ban of landfilling biodegradable materials by 2015 will support the target of the Commission to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80-95 % by 2050.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ad hoc basis throughout 2015</li> </ul>
<b>Revision of EC Fertilisers Regulation</b> Covered by <b>TG_FERT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ECN was involved in the four <i>ad hoc</i> working groups reviewing the Regulations.</li> <li>▪ Following the further revision process by keeping contact with DG Enterprise as well as national experts from Member States.</li> <li>▪ ECN is a member (observer status) of the Commission's Fertilisers Working Group.</li> <li>▪ Our aim to ensure harmonisation of legislative approaches of DG Environment (End-of-Waste regulation for compost and digestate, Eco-label criteria for soil improvers and growing media) in respect to the future Regulation on fertilisers, soil improvers and growing media.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Attendance at the Fertilisers Working Group meetings during 2015 (two meetings a year).</li> <li>▪ Expert comment and critique of the first proposal, which is expected during the first half of 2015.</li> </ul>
<b>Inclusion of Biological Treatment in the IED Directive – Development of BAT Reference Documents (BREFS)</b> Covered by <b>TG_BREF</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ECN is a member of the IED Article 13 FORUM and four ECN experts are nominated in the EIPPC Technical Working Group for the development of BAT reference documents for waste management industries related to biological treatment.</li> <li>▪ Following activities of the European IPPC Bureau by setting up an ECN subgroup WG1 on BREFS.</li> <li>▪ ECN leads the TWG BREF WT subgroup on biological treatment</li> <li>▪ Preparing proposals for Mini-BREFS for biological treatment (composting, anaerobic digestion and mechanical biological treatment) for the EIPPC TWG.</li> <li>▪ Participation of four ECN nominated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ This work is ongoing during 2015, with further WG meetings envisaged (dates and venues to be arranged), to which ECN will attend.</li> </ul>

Policy	ECN Involvement to Date	Proposed ECN Involvement during 2015
	experts in the EIPPC TWG. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Participation in the FORUM of IED Article 13.</li> <li>▪ Participated in five meetings of TWG BREF WT Biological Treatment in 2014.</li> </ul>	
<b>Resource Efficiency Strategy (Sustainable use of Phosphorus)</b> Covered by <b>TG_Biobased Products</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ECN is an active member of the European Sustainable Phosphorus Platform (ESPP).</li> <li>▪ Taking part in working group meetings how recycled organic waste can replace mineral phosphorus fertilisers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ECN will participate in the 2<sup>nd</sup> European Sustainable Phosphorus Conference, which will be held in Berlin in March 2015.</li> <li>▪ We will also continue to provide expert knowledge and high quality information to the ESPP on an ad hoc basis throughout 2015.</li> <li>▪ We will follow up the ongoing discussion on resource efficiency and the implementation of the EC’s consultation communication on phosphorus (as set out in COM(2013)517 and SWD(2014)263.</li> </ul>
<b>Bio-Economy Strategy</b> Covered by <b>TG_Biobased Products</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ECN is a member of the Expert Group for Bio-Based Products initiated by DG Enterprise.</li> <li>▪ The Expert Group is appointed for a four year period and meetings will take place twice a year in Brussels.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Attending two Expert group meetings in 2015</li> </ul>
<b>Implementation of Animal By-Products Regulation (ABPR)</b> Covered by <b>TG_ABPR</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Followed amendment processes of (EC) No 1069/2009 and implementation rules.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ad hoc basis throughout 2015, which will be dependent upon DG SANCO.</li> </ul>
<b>Biomethane and Renewable Energy Policy</b> Covered by <b>TG_Biomethane</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Following up the development of upgrading biogas to biomethane</li> <li>▪ Following possible interferences with material recycling and compost production.</li> <li>▪ Promoting anaerobic digestion as a pre-treatment step before composting (combining energy and material recovery).</li> <li>▪ Promoting reform of the Renewable Energy Directive to a Renewable Energy and Material Directive.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ad hoc basis throughout 2015</li> </ul>
<b>European Soil Strategy and Soil Framework Directive</b> Covered by <b>TG_Soil</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Heavily involved in the technical working groups during 2003/04.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Following up the year on soil 2015.</li> <li>▪ If any activities on the EU Soil Strategy will be raised, ECN will follow up this policy strategy.</li> </ul>
<b>Revision of the EU Organic Farming Regulation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Commission has published a draft for the revision of the Organic Farming regulation (COM(2014) 354) in 2014.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Follow up the draft proposals during 2015.</li> </ul>

Policy	ECN Involvement to Date	Proposed ECN Involvement during 2015
Covered by <b>TG_Soil</b>		
<b>Revision of EC Eco-Label of Soil Improvers and Growing Media</b> Covered by <b>TG ECO SIGM</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ECN is a member of the JRC-IPTS Technical Working Group on Soil Improvers and Growing Media</li> <li>▪ ECN has actively contributed towards the revision process by being actively involved in the Eco-label revision process</li> <li>▪ Our aim to ensure harmonisation of requirements for soil improver and growing media in respect to End-of-Waste and the future regulation on fertilisers, soil improvers and growing media.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ECN will continue to provide technical input into this work during 2015</li> <li>▪ The final report and proposal for criteria are expected to be published during 2015</li> </ul>

## 2. Communicational work

ECN acts as a conduit to disseminate information between its members and policy makers in two important ways:

- By publishing information about new and revised initiatives from policy makers to members; and
- Through obtaining information about implementation issues and current bio-waste treatment practices from members to inform policy makers.

ECN will disseminate information to both its members, extended networks and with other European environmental NGOs in order to provide important 'leverage' of our messages.

The work will be mostly done by the ECN office, Board of Directors, and the chairs of ECN Working Groups. The proposed main areas of work for 2015 are set out in the table below.

Information type and number	Description	Target date(s)
<b>Four editions of ECN News</b>	This is ECN's quarterly newsletter. It contains information about ECN's current work, European Policy and news from ECN Members and Country Representatives. <i>ECN News</i> is e-mailed to all members, and is then further distributed to over 5,000 individuals within member organisations. <i>ECN News</i> are public available through its website.	Q1, Q2, Q3 and Q4 2015
<b>Internet platforms</b>	<a href="http://www.compostnetwork.info">www.compostnetwork.info</a> This is ECN's main website and provides information to the public and ECN members on a range of topics. It contains copies of <i>ECN News</i> , information and position papers, as well as presentations and publications. There is a members' only section, which includes background papers and minutes of working group meetings.  <a href="http://www.ecn-qas.eu">www.ecn-qas.eu</a> This website contains information about ECN's European Quality Assurance Scheme. It describes how the scheme works, as well as links to European certified Quality Assurance Organisations.	On an ad hoc basis throughout 2015  Updating the ECN-QAS website in 2015 by promoting the revised European Quality Assurance Scheme for compost and digestate
<b>Info paper</b> Covered by <b>WG Integrated waste management</b>	On integrated waste management – the role of mechanical biological treatment in waste management	Throughout 2015
<b>Info sheets</b> Covered by <b>WG Integrated waste management</b>	On: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Operational/economic evidence on results of separate collection schemes across Europe</li> <li>▪ Bio-plastics - rationale for use, operational evidence, standards for biodegradability, clarification on suitability for composting</li> <li>▪ Peat replacement</li> </ul>	Throughout 2015
<b>Issue of media press</b>	These will cover emerging issues during 2015, and will be	Ad hoc

<b>releases</b>	targeted at European media organisations e.g. ENDS Daily	
<b>Submission of position statements</b>	These will cover emerging issues during 2015, and will be targeted at relevant European environmental publications	Ad hoc
<b>ECN Country reports</b> Covered by <b>WG Eastern and Starting Countries</b>	The ECN updates annually the Country reports on bio-waste management by collecting data and information through its membership network. Setting up a data base on biowaste policy	Throughout 2015 A detailed work program of WG Eastern and Starting Countries is available <a href="#">here</a> .

### Conferences & workshops

During 2015 we will organise additional conferences and seminars through the work of ECN's Executive Director, Board of Directors and Working Group 1 (European Policy, chaired by Florian Amlinger and Adrie Veeken) and Working Group 5 (Eastern and Starting Countries; chaired by Grigor Stoyanov and Mait Kriipsalu).

As detailed above, we plan to organise a **workshop in Brussels** during 2015 to inform, and debate with, policy makers about bio-waste recycling. It is likely that this will focus on revisions to the Fertilisers Regulation and end-of-waste criteria for compost and digestate, as well as the Circular Economy Package. It is envisaged that this will be organised in June 2015. We anticipate the workshop will attract a minimum of 50 key stakeholders involved in developing and implementing bio-waste management policies.

We also propose to work in association with the European Phosphorus Platform (ESPP), cooperating in the **2<sup>nd</sup> European Sustainable Phosphorus Conference**, which is scheduled to be held in March 2015 in Berlin (DE). ECN will chair the round table of P-recycling from organic resources.

The proposed main areas of work for 2015 are set out in the table below.

Initiative	Description	Target date(s)
<b>Policy workshop in Brussels</b> Responsible <b>WG European Policy</b>	ECN will organise a workshop to inform, and debate with, policy makers about bio-waste recycling. It is likely that this will focus on revisions to the Fertilisers Regulation and end-of-waste criteria for compost and digestate, as well as the Circular Economy Package. We anticipate the workshop will attract a minimum of 50 key stakeholders involved in developing and implementing bio-waste management policies.	June 2015
<b>European Sustainable Phosphorus Conference</b>	The second European Sustainable Phosphorus Conference (ESPC2) will take place in Berlin, 3rd – 4th March 2015. This follows the 1st ESPC Conference, Brussels, March 2013, the establishment of the German P Platform, announcements or consultations on phosphorus policy in several Member States, and continuing developments on phosphorus use, recycling and environmental management. This second European conference ESPC2 will cover the following themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• P losses and environmental impacts</li> <li>• P from farm to plate</li> <li>• Food security and international phosphorus supply</li> </ul>	5-6 March 2015

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reuse of P and P-recycling</li> <li>• Progress made addressing the Phosphorus</li> </ul> <p>ECN will chair a round table on phosphorus recycling from organic resources.</p>	
<b>SusGro 2015 Practitioner day of ARGE Compost &amp; Bioagas</b>	International Symposium on Growing Media and Substrate Analysis plus practitioner day of ARGE Compost & Biogas	7-11 Sept 2015 Vienna (AT)
<b>RAMIRAN 2015</b>	The European Network of Recycling Agricultural, Municipal and Industrial Residues in Agriculture will organise the 16 <sup>th</sup> international Conference 'Rural-Urban Symbiosis'	ECN Member of Scientific Committee 8-10 Sept 2015 Hamburg (DE)
<b>ORBIT 2016</b>	'ORBIT' (Organic Recovery and Biological Treatment) is a scientific exchange platform on biodegradable waste management. In 2016 the 10 <sup>th</sup> International Scientific Conference ORBIT 2016 will be co-organised by the Department of Geography, Harokopio University in Athens (Greece) in co-operation with the School of Agricultural Technology at the Technological Education Institute of Crete. The preparation of the conference will be mainly done during 2015. The conference is scheduled to be held in June 2016.	Preparation throughout 2015
<b>Working group meetings 2015</b>	Hold at least one working group meeting of each of the four WGs and at least three to four board meetings for ECN directors.	Throughout 2015
<b>Networking with other NGOs in the field of environmental issues</b>	Building coalitions, exchanging information and participating in working groups (inter alia waste working group of EEB and working group on biological treatment of ISWA) ECN plans to attend at least one ISWA Biological Working Group meeting during 2015.	Throughout 2015

### 3. Implementing European Quality Assurance Scheme for Compost and Digestate - ECN-QAS

In order to support the harmonisation of European legislation in relation to organic fertilisers, soil improvers and growing media, ECN aims to further develop, promote and implement the ECN-QAS. **We aspire to establish the ECN-QAS as the benchmark for quality assured compost and digestate products across Europe.**

Since 2011, three Quality Assurance Organisations for Compost (ARGE Compost & Biogas, AT; BGK [German Compost Quality Organisation], DE; Vlaco [Flemish Compost and Digestate Quality Organisation] have been approved within the ECN-QAS. These conformity assessments are required to be renewed every three years, and require a comprehensive audit by ECN. These three quality assurance organisations were audited during 2014.

Based on several presentations given by ECN's Executive Director, two further quality assurance organisations have applied for conformity assessments and will need to be audited and approved during 2015.

The conformity assessments will be carried out by the ECN Executive Director, who is nominated as ECN Quality Manager for ECN-QAS, and accompanied during the audit by a representative of the ECN Quality Committee. The ECN Quality Committee is made up of 13 Quality Managers representing the respective NQAOs who are ECN members. They meet as part of ECN's Working Group 'Quality Assurance for Compost and Digestate, chaired by Wim Vanden Auweele (Vlaco Flemish Compost and Digestate Quality Organisation) and David Wilken (Fachverband Biogas, DE). The Quality Committee is responsible for the final approval of the quality assurance organisations by ECN-QAS.

In addition, ECN is also involved in communication work with various compost and digestate organisations across Europe about the development and implementation of new national compost quality assurance schemes. This work will be ongoing during 2015 so as to maintain and grow the ECN-QAS in future years.

This activity is summarised in the table below:

Activity	ECN Involvement	Target date
<b>Audit two NQAOs for conformity with the ECN-QAS criteria</b>	ECN Quality Manager and representative of the ECN Quality Committee to conduct in-depth audits	Q1 and Q2 in 2015
<b>Working group meeting</b>	Further development of ECN-QAS	Q3 2015