



Emily Nichols

**Technical Manager of the REA's
Organics Recycling Group**

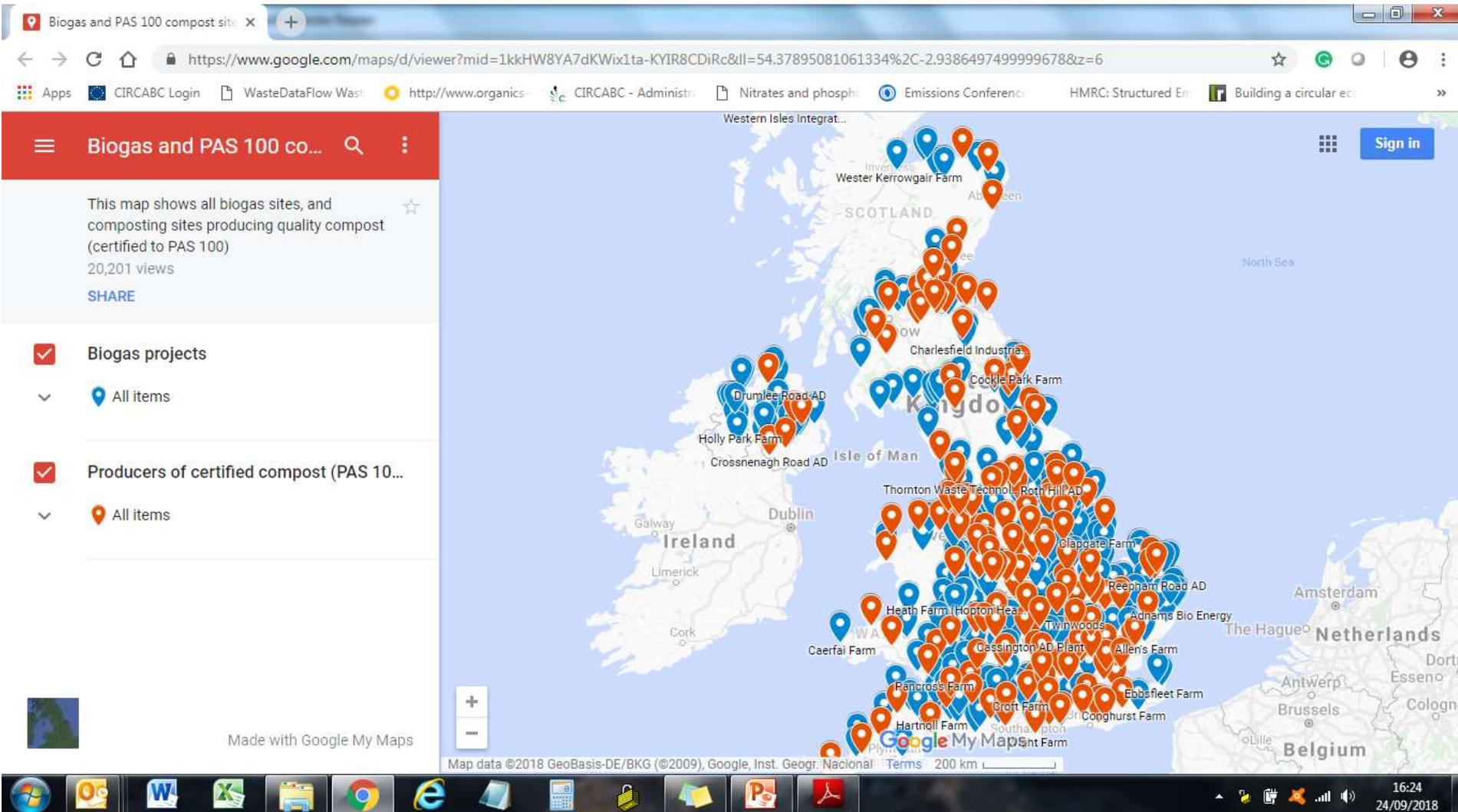
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**Organics recycling
and infrastructure**



GROWING THE RENEWABLE ENERGY ECONOMY

UK biogas projects, some of the operational small scale composting sites and many of the medium to larger scale ones



ORG's listing and/or mapping task

Compile a list and/or map of composters in the UK who:

1. are accepting compostables (14/22 surveyed) and welcome enquiries from more potential suppliers of compostables wastes
 - a) Facilities approved to treat animal by-products
 - b) Facilities not approved to treat animal by-products
2. are not yet accepting compostables but are willing to accept enquiries from potential suppliers of compostables wastes

Key criteria for composting compostables

1. Compostables are independently certified compliant with a standard our regulators accept, i.e. EN 13432, EN 14995 or ASTM D6400
2. Facility's permit or registered permit exemption includes appropriate waste codes and descriptions



Key criteria for composting compostables

3. If compostables have been in contact with animal-derived food/drink or come from a kitchen where such food/drink is handled, the composting facility must be approved for treating Animal By-Products

Exception: for specified types of compostable packaging and non-packaging products where **milk and/or cream** are the only animal-derived residues on the used item

See <http://www.organics-recycling.org.uk/page.php?article=3466>

Composting facilities treating animal-derived food wastes

- **Catering waste:** animal-derived food/drink waste from households and premises with a kitchen
- **Former foodstuffs:** e.g. retail unsold animal-derived food/drink waste
- 52 in England, Wales & Scotland, of which
 - 21 = catering waste
 - 31 = category 3 ABPs, including former foodstuffs

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/animal-by-product-operating-plants-approved-premises>

- 3 in Northern Ireland accepting catering waste

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/animal-by-products-approved-premises>

Key criteria for composting compostables

4. Compostables are always a manageable proportion of inputs to the composting facility
5. Adequate composting process timescale given:
 - a) process management,
 - b) characteristics (e.g. thickness) of compostables
 - c) proportion of compostables,
 - d) compost particle size range and
 - e) what is done with woody oversize residue

Examples of timescale (from ORG survey)

- Visible residues of compostables at compost screening stage:
 - 6 weeks In-Vessel Composting
 - 6 to 8 weeks IVC then Aerated Static Piles
 - 8 weeks IVC (3 operators, 1 of which finds compostable bags disappear but does see compostable packaging residues)
 - 9 weeks IVC
 - 10 weeks OWC (operator referred to compostable packaging waste)
 - 11 weeks OWC ('supposedly biodegradable cardboard')

Examples of timescale (from ORG survey)

- No visible residues of compostables at compost screening stage:
 - 8 weeks IVC and Open Windrow Composting (OWC)

So....

- Some composters want evidence of compostable item biodegradation (e.g. EN 13432 disintegration and biodegradability* test results)
- Importance of trialling compostables and assessing results before the composter decides whether to enter into a contract with a supplier of waste compostables (with or without food)

* Standard allows it to run for up to 6 months.

Survey findings: reasons for not accepting compostables

- Compostables take too long to biodegrade
- Compostables are difficult to differentiate from non-compostable contaminants
- Presence of contaminants, e.g. plastics
 - Composers' costs of removing them: approx £21,000 to £100,000 per annum at a facility

PLUS

- £115 / t landfill fee + transport cost
- £90 / t EfW fee + transport cost

Other findings from the survey

- Lack of time for differentiating compostables from non-compostable contaminants in waste delivered for composting
 - ORG view: certification marking of compostables is valuable at specifying, buying and waste discard stages and enables more efficient policing of the compostable products market
- Positive experiences with suppliers of food plus compostable wastes from commercial sources
- Concern about non-compostable plastics from household sources, e.g. because plastic bin liners are cheaper than compostable ones

Thank you

Questions welcome

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emily@r-e-a.net

07771 556231

