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BBIA webinar

Food Waste Collections in UK

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Data

Food waste arisings:

- According to WRAP data, in 2018 there was 9.5MT of food and drink waste from households, food manufacturing and hospitality and food service.
- Approx 2.2MT was recycled through composting or AD.

Treatment capacity

No of sites approved to treat food waste (APHA May 2020)

- 112 AD plants
- 46 compost sites

In 2014

- Composting treated 5.9MT
- Waste -fed AD treated 3.84MT (314KT HH FW)
- Total of 9.76MT

Regulations and legislation

- Resources and Waste Strategy for England
 - Mandatory food waste collections from households and businesses?
- Waste Scotland Regulations
- Controls around inputs
 - Standard rule permits limits
 - Bespoke permits
- Controls on outputs (composts and digestates)
 - Quality Protocols and PAS100/110
 - Market requirements
- BREF and guidance
- Cost of compliance?



Cost of contamination

- Contamination is hugely variable, for household food waste - typically around 1-5% w/w fresh weight
- Cost of removal? – conservative estimation
 - Assumption that 80% of inputs has 1% contamination.
 - Approx 78,080t plastic removed and sent to EfW facilities or landfill.
 - Conservative cost of removal £10/t plus disposal cost of £83/t.
 - Total cost is £7.26M per year (doesn't include transport)
- Case study of AD operator
 - Input of 23,000 tonnes FW
 - Material is depackaged and packaging then washed and pressed before sending to landfill
 - Total cost to company £329K / yr
 - £156 per tonne of material not suitable for digestion



Covid-19

- Behaviour change is happening
- WRAP report showing changes in behaviour regarding food (better planning, food storage management and using leftovers / creative cooking) leading to a 34% reduction in food waste and 23% increase in citizens who strongly agree that food waste is an important national issue and everyone has a responsibility for food waste minimisation.
- Industry shown to be adaptable
- Shown that collaboration in industry is possible



REA activity

- Promote best practice
- Work with regulators
- Work to improve quality
 - Raise awareness
 - Template contracts
 - Guidance
 - Case studies
- Working on policy on compostable bags and liners
 - Aim to reduce plastic contamination
 - Agree with compostables in principle
 - Details to be finalised and circulated to members prior to publication



Thank you!

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