

Biowaste Regulatory Framework

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What we do

We work to create better places for people and wildlife, and support sustainable development.

Environmental

- Operator
- Advisor
- Regulator



Biowastes & Plastics: An Overview

SOURCES

Food waste (commercial and LA collected)
Green waste (commercial and LA collected)
Sewage sludge
Industrial waste



Engaging to reduce plastic contamination of green & food wastes
Research- UKWIR Sink to River and CIP3 investigations of plastics
Organics Recovery Project (WRAP)

PROCESSING

Anaerobic Digestion (wet & dry)
Industrial Composting (IVC & open windrow)
Home composting
Industrial treatment prior to spreading to BSI PAS and QP standard



Biowaste facilities permits- Standard Rules changes & phased review limiting wastes accepted and improving plastic separation
Bringing sewage sludge treatment facilities into Industrial Emissions Directive.

DISPOSAL & RECOVERY

Materials to Land having met End of Waste tests (QPs)
Digestate spreading (QP & PAS 110 standard < 2mm plastic) NB PAS are marketing standards
Compost spreading (QP & PAS 100 total physical contaminants 0.25 % mass (of which 0.12 plastic) varies according to N)
Sewage Sludge to land (Sludge Use in Agric Use Regs no plastic limit)



Quality Protocols review for Digestate & Composts
EA Sludge Strategy
Key Actions for Farmers: Resources & Waste

New EA strategy for safe and sustainable sludge use (recognises micro-plastics as a new hazard)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environment-agency-strategy-for-safe-and-sustainable-sludge-use/environment-agency-strategy-for-safe-and-sustainable-sludge-use>

Key Actions for Farmers: Resources & Waste : [Water regulations for pig farms | AHDB](#)

Reducing plastic in the biowaste stream

PROCESSING

Anaerobic Digestion (wet & dry)

Industrial Composting (IVC & open windrow)

Home composting

Industrial treatment prior to spreading to BSI PAS and QP standard

Action

- Aim over the next five years to improve input quality
- Outcome- that output quality is improved

How

- Standard Rules permits will have acceptance limits for plastic contamination
- There will be expected removal of contamination and removal efficiency reporting

How

- Bespoke sites that except package waste or can't comply with SR rules will need to demonstrate can control & remove majority (to as low as practicable) prior to processing
- Need to demonstrate removal efficiency
- Processing times to ensure compostable plastic is fully recovered

Quality Protocols

End of Waste

Quality Protocol: Anaerobic Digestate

Quality Protocol: Compost

Review process started October 2019

Both QPs require revision prior to being republished as Resources Frameworks



The Quality Protocols are end of waste frameworks to allow use of material without waste regulatory controls. The review of Compost and AD QPs determined a requirement to revise.

Action

- Revision of Quality Protocols to reduce plastic contamination in output

How

- Setting up of Task and Finish group to steer revision and agree funding

How

- Potential review of PAS standards to reduce plastics and other physical contaminants

Environment Agency position statement: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/waste-quality-protocols-review/waste-quality-protocols-review>