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Council of European Municipalities and Regions  
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Συμβούλιο των Ευρωπαϊκών Δήμων και Περιφερειών  
Consejo de municipios y regiones de Europa  
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## **Biodegradable waste management**

### **General**

The separate collection of organic waste is a necessary step in order to reach significant values of separate collection and to meet the EU targets set out in the Landfill Directive (1999/31/EC). The approach to biowaste management should be integrated within waste and resource management, pollution prevention and human and animal health. The BAT should be used in making decisions on biowaste management measures, which should be based on the Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) in local conditions. The prevention of climate change should be mentioned as one of the primary objectives of biological waste management.

#### **General principles**

The hierarchy within the different forms of waste management should be decided on the basis of local conditions. In the biowaste management strategy ensuring 'human as well as animal and plant health' should be a priority when considering the use of biowaste as compost and stabilised biowaste for agricultural or ecological improvement.

The recycling of separately collected 'biowaste' into original material, for such biowaste as paper and cardboard, should be favoured, failing which the use of biowaste as a source for generating energy and its' use for composting and anaerobic digestion should both be considered as equal alternatives. The biowaste treatment method should be chosen on the basis of the LCA in local conditions.

Paper and cardboard waste, while being biodegradable, should not be considered as a separate category of biowaste (Waste code 20 01 01 in the European Waste catalogue (EWC)) but as a component within other municipal biodegradable wastes (20 03 EWC).

#### **Separate collection**

The compulsory separate collection schemes for biowaste should be decided on a national basis by the local authorities based on local conditions and waste and resource management options. The minimum size of the urban agglomerations for which the schemes should apply, that is 2000 inhabitants as stated in the document, will in many cases lead to ineffective use of waste collection infrastructures and resources. In small urban agglomerations home composting should be encouraged. In such cases a composter costing 30-60 euro would eliminate the collection, transport and treatment stages. In spite of this, there has been little interest in developing this option, partly because the official statistics of some member countries for separate collection do not include data relative to domestic composting and thus the latter does not appear to contribute to achieving the separate collection targets. That is why this useful solution appears less interesting to the local authorities.

The disposal of shredded biowaste should be considered on the basis of local conditions by the competent authorities.

### **Use on land**

The use of stabilised biowaste as a secondary construction material for land applications that are not destined for food and fodder crop production should be permitted on the basis of local conditions by the national competent authorities. It is essential to ensure that, in view of the application of the Ladder Principle and thus of the residual use of landfills, stabilised biowaste does not become a disguised disposal, causing long-term damage to the soil and polluting the river basin.

### **Reservations on**

- Biowaste stabilisation indication values and index figures.
- Residual municipal indication values and waste index figures.
- Annex II minimum temperature levels, (different weather conditions in regions)

### **Other**

The meaning of the term 'Producer responsibility' has another established meaning in waste management. The term 'Guarantee' could be used instead. The quality assurance systems should be on voluntary basis.

The following annexes are based on other decisions and should only be used as a reference in existing directives or decisions.

- Annex I. If used should be only example of biodegradable wastes.
- Annexes V and VI references to other directives.