



## **SUPPORTING A SPECIFIC BIOWASTE LEGISLATION**

**The point of view of the stakeholder organisations  
in the Biowaste Alliance**

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# THE BIOWASTE ALLIANCE MEMBERS

## Calling on the Need for European-Wide Legislation Covering the Treatment of Biowaste since 2006

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**ACR+ Association of Cities and Regions for Recycling & Sustainable Resource management**

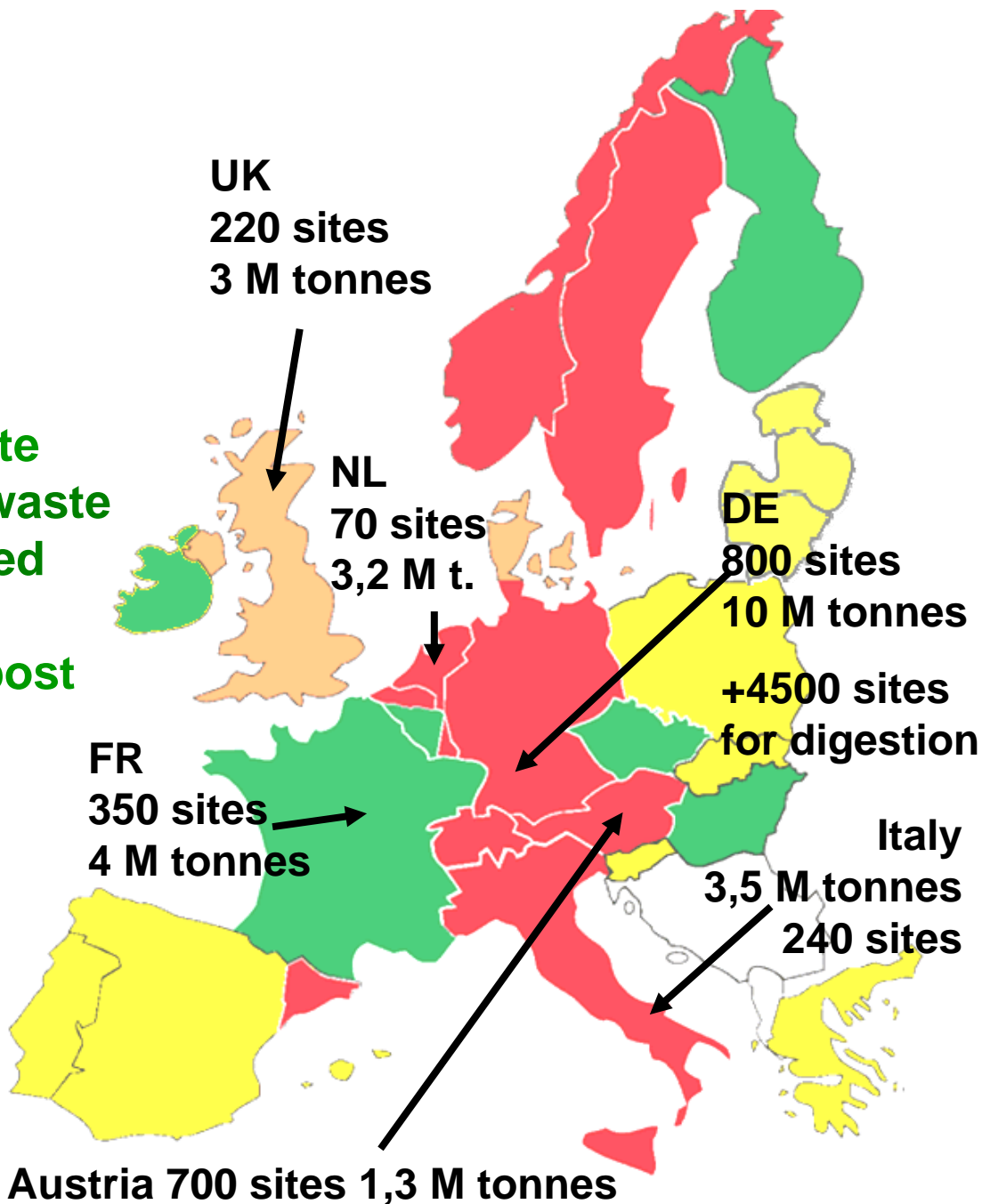
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# BIOWASTE BIALLIANCE

**Potential organic waste in EU27:  
120 M tonnes / year**

**Recycling in 2008:  
15 M tonnes biowaste  
11 M tonnes green waste  
4.5 M tonnes digested  
= 15 M tonnes compost**

**Only 1/4 of the potential - still a long way to go**



## How to Explore the Full Potential?

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**A Biowaste Directive setting binding recycling targets for organic waste from households, industrial and commercial sources is urgently needed from both an environmental and the economic perspective.**



## Alliance Calls on the Need for European-Wide Legislation Covering the Treatment of Biowaste

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(in brief)

- To harvest the full benefits potential of sound biowaste management for soil, climate and resource protection purposes;
- to help Member States fulfil the organic waste diversion targets of the Landfill Directive;
- to provide legal certainty by ensuring long-term confidence for public and private investors; and
- to establish a sound operational environment for the (bio)waste industry, similarly to the driving effect caused by the Packaging Directive
- to ensure cross-compliance consistencies between different European Acts and Strategies.

## Why European Biowaste Legislation (1/3)

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### A Biowaste Directive will

- help to explore the full potential of using **soil organic matter as a carbon sink** and help achieve the goals of the European Climate Change Programme;
- provide a **clear political signal** with waste management objectives and comprehensive guidelines for the management of biodegradable waste;
- enable the private and public sectors across the EU to **make the appropriate investments** ;
- help Member States **fulfil the diversion targets of the Landfill Directive**;
- **tackle the constant decline of soil organic matter** in arable land and encourage the recovery of organic matter in line with the Thematic Strategy for Soil Protection;

## Why European Biowaste Legislation (2/3)

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### A Biowaste Directive will in addition

- support the requirement of Article 22 WFD to encourage the separate collection of biowaste, its treatment and use of the produced compost/digestate;
- help meeting European market and customer demands for quality assured composts and digestates produced according to high quality standards;
- promote the efficient use of nutrients, humus and energy resources in organic waste in line with Thematic Strategy on Sustainable Use of Natural Resources;
- help to meet the targets of the RES Directive by means of generation of biogas as renewable energy
- provide incentives for Member States to set up national public awareness raising campaigns and green public procurement strategies;

## Why European Biowaste Legislation (3/3)

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### And will further:

- promote waste prevention in general and local educational and composting initiatives in order to ensure a wider mobilisation of the general public
- boost rural job creation and economic growth as advocated by the Rural Development Strategy and Lisbon Agenda;
- create a flexible and cost-effective recycling option which can be easily adapted to local conditions in each individual Member State; and
- provide legal certainty at EU level for the biological treatment of waste by ensuring long-term confidence for investors, banks and industry and avoiding unacceptable financial risk for both the private and public sectors.



## End-of-Waste Standard is no Driver for Biowaste Recycling

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**EoW standard for compost alone is insufficient.**

**It is a tool, not a driver – and only applies when local strategies/practice are already established.**

**EoW will**

- **not establish the drivers to generate the critical mass for biowaste recycling activities**
- **not ensure the socio-economic activities for sound biowaste management (e.g. investments in infrastructure, quality assurance schemes, research etc)**
- **only affect the compost production in existing plants.**

**=>>> Drivers for Biowaste Recycling are Key for the European Development**

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## Conclusion

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- Preparing a Biowaste Directive without delay will provide a **unique opportunity at a crucial time** to realise the environmental and economic benefits of sound biowaste management in Europe.
- The strong support from the stakeholders organised in the Biowaste Alliance is given.