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## France

New legal and economic tools  
for further development  
of biological treatments

## *Bio-wastes within waste production in France*

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- **In 2006, 4 to 4.5 Mt bio-wastes separately collected ...**
  - ✓ More than 95% of green wastes, very small amounts of household kitchen wastes (0.1 Mt)
  - ✓ Door to door collection ~ 20-25% / 4,300 drop-off centres ~ 55-60%
- **... But the “household & similar” refuse bin contains still 9 Mt organic matter :**
  - ✓ 6 Mt bio-wastes (mainly kitchen wastes) + 3 Mt paper & cardboards
  - ✓ Diffuse (households) + concentrated (canteens, etc. ≈ “similar”) quantities
- **So, the question is: how to capture this “lost organic matter” keeping in mind quantity, quality and costs?**

## *Two drivers for the upcoming changes*

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- “***Grenelle de l’Environnement***”: a national Conference held in 2007 about all environmental topics, gathering NGOs, central administration, business organisations, etc. → agreement within the “Wastes SubCommittee” for items on bio-wastes & biological treatments in 2 laws.
- The **Waste Framework Directive** (“*to encourage separate collection of bio-wastes*” + targets on recovery & recycling)

## *National strategy for bio-wastes in France*

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- To **encourage bio-wastes capture via separate collection with:**
  - ✓ **Economic tools**: actions on taxes & payment schemes (legally binding)
  - ✓ **Subsidies policy** (ADEME, the French Environmental Agency),
  - ✓ **Technical support** on success stories on bio-wastes and on technical/economic guidelines by ADEME
- **To encourage separate collection bio-wastes = not to make it mandatory (except for big producer) because decision is let to local authorities according local situations (subsidiarity)**
- To look for the best results (quantities, costs) as soon as possible → focus on the biowastes that are **the easiest and the cheapest** (“big producers” as canteen, etc.) to capture

- **Additional tax on**

- ✓ **landfilling (19 €/t in 2010 → to 40 €/t in 2015)**
- ✓ **and incineration (4 €/t in 2010 → to 14 €/t in 2015)**

**will be applied, with the aim to reduce as more as possible the residual fraction**

- **Whereas no additional tax on composting and anaerobic digestion**

## *Evolution of payment schemes for household wastes*

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- **Currently, “pay as you throw” systems only affect only 0,5 M people (0,8% of the French population)**
  - ✓ = 99% of the French population pays their wastes management according a flat rate system, and are not encouraged with direct economic incentives to sort and separate biowastes (= 30% of the residual fraction)
- **in the future (law yet to be finalised and voted), local authorities will have to “*integrate a part*” of “pay as you throw” system in their payment schemes -> objective: to change behaviors in the way to sort and prevent wastes**

## *Targeting the “big producers” of bio-wastes*

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- **The separate collection of biowastes might become mandatory for the “big producers ” (post 2012) ; it will be detailed by an upcoming decree**
  
- **Law and decree are expected for 2010:**
  - ✓ Definition of “big producer” ? canteens, restaurants, supermarkets, etc. whose concentrated bio-wastes are collected through public system (“similar household wastes”) ?
  
  - ✓ Threshold to become a “big” producer ?

## *Subsidies policy focused on separate collection of bio-wastes*

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- **ADEME's subsidies program for 2010-2012:**

- ✓ Organic recovery: one of the 7 priorities
- ✓ only schemes with separate collection of biowastes (+ home composting) will get subsidies: studies, capital costs on collection and treatments); MBT plants will get no subsidies
- ✓ For organic recovery: 2010 -> 117 M€ / 2012 -> 165 M€ (subsidies: 30% to 50%, capped)



- **ADEME will launch:**

- ✓ studies on bio-wastes separate collection (key issues for success stories, costs and benefits analysis, etc.);
- ✓ studies on MBT plants: mass balance, process key issues with regard to compost quality, energy balance, etc. -> drivers for improving compost quality (process design for new plants or revamping old plants)
- ✓ R&D programs: economical efficiency of separate collection, new technologies for sorting organic matter, etc.

## *Incentive tools ... but remaining questions in France*

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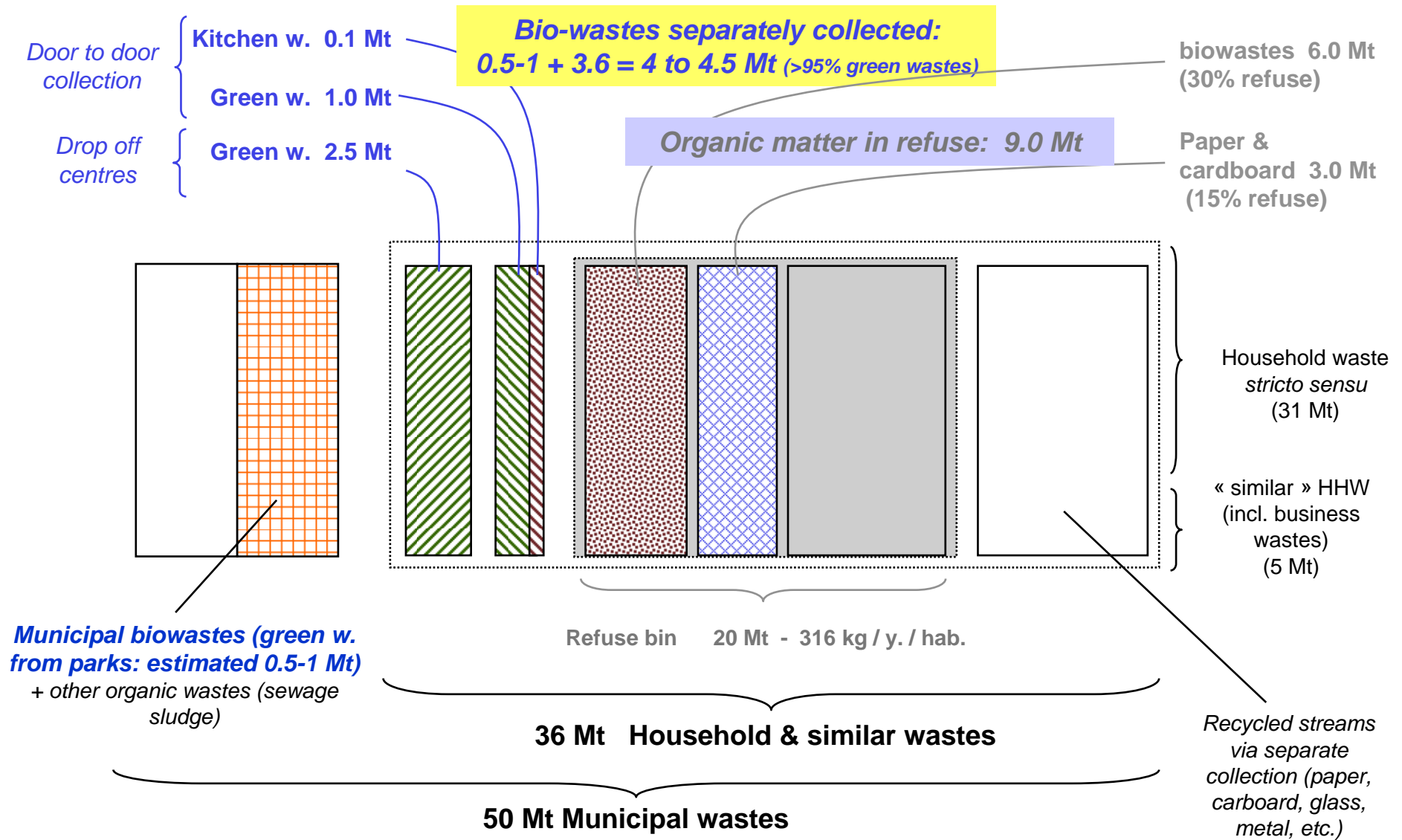
- **4 to 4.5 Mt bio-wastes already separately collected versus 9 Mt organic matter not captured in “household & similar wastes” but ...**
- **Green wastes are already captured efficiently with drop-off centres (slight progress to be made) -> high quality composts for moderate costs**
- **What remains to capture (9 Mt) = 2/3 kitchen wastes + 1/3 paper & cardboards:**
  - ✓ What will remain after future obligation of separate collection for “big producer” and through continuous improvement of sep. coll. of paper & cardboards?
  - ✓ What is the efficiency of door-to-door collection for kitchen wastes only? Which yield for which cost?

## *Incentive tools ... but remaining questions in France*

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- **when feasible, what is the role of home composting?**
  - ✓ from a “cost & benefit” point of view for local auth., does it represent a cheap and efficient way to manage a part of kitchen wastes?
- **So, what currently decide the French local authorities?**
  - ✓ Most of them are hesitant on separate collection on kitchen wastes → **no action**
  - ✓ Some of them do not trust in the performance of separate collection of kitchen wastes with regard to their characteristics (highly populated area, etc.) → they **engage in MBT**, because of a better yield on organic matter extraction combined to other sorting operations e.g. RDF)
  - ✓ A very few of them engage in **separate collection**

# Bio-wastes within waste production in France



(ADEME, figures from surveys made in 2006 or 2007)