

# What is the Research Hub?

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- Established by REAL in 2018, the Research Hub (the Hub) is a tool to develop the technical and regulatory aspects of certified compost and digestate production, testing and usage.
- Research Hub objectives:
  - To maintain and improve the robustness of the Schemes (i.e., CCS and BCS) and related Standards (i.e., BSI PAS100 and BSI PAS110, respectively)
  - To reinforce confidence in the compost and anaerobic digestion markets
  - To contribute to development of new markets, including identifying barriers



# Research Hub Projects

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- Completed and Ongoing Projects
  - Organics Recycling Research Library
  - Digestate Data Pack & Valorisation Report
  - Exploring Potential Improvements and Alternatives for the RBP Test
- Upcoming Projects
  - PRT Interpretation and Comparison
  - Evaluate possible alternative area-based methods of assessment for plastics
  - How the benefits of applying compost and digestate to soils can be accounted for under the Greenhouse Gas Protocol

# What is the project about?



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- Project Aim: To evaluate the carbon sequestration associated with applying compost and digestate to land and develop guidance to account for any benefits under the GHGP.
  - Methods: Review of scientific literature and reports on the nature of carbon in compost and digestate and analysis of relevant REAL-held data on compost and digestate (gathered through testing parameters specified in PAS 100 and PAS 110)
  - Outputs: Final report containing research findings, including practical guidance on how compost and digestates can be accounted for under the GHGP. Any novel guidance developed may engage with the GHGP for consideration in future technical guidance, etc.



# Relevance to biomethane plant operators

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- While the GHGP has been around for several decades it has lacked guidance on certain areas, including detailed guidance on GHG accounting in the biomass/bioenergy sector
- The new draft Land Sector and Carbon Removals guidance will provide a framework for accounting for the carbon cycle of digestate, but work is needed to understand how to apply it in practice.
- The project intends to address this gap and provide guidance about accounting for any sequestration benefits associated with compost and digestate application.
- Benefits:
  - Allow operators to account for the use of digestates when calculating carbon footprint
  - Promote the use of digestates with end users by highlighting their capacity for carbon storage

# How can people engage with the project?

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- Upcoming tender opportunity!
  - Keep an eye on the Hub's 'Tender for a Project' webpage for details
  - Project expected to commence early 2023
- Accessing the final report
  - Hub outputs available for free to Biofertiliser Certification Scheme (BCS), Compost Certification Scheme (CCS), and regulators.
  - Available upon request to all other parties for a fee ([info@realschemes.org.uk](mailto:info@realschemes.org.uk)).
- For more info, please visit [www.realresearchhub.org.uk](http://www.realresearchhub.org.uk)