Organics Forum Meeting

3rd November 2025

Welcome and Housekeeping

1. Welcome

2. Housekeeping
   - All please stay on mute unless speaking
   - The session will be recorded for note taking
   - Copies of presentations will be shared following the meeting
   - Questions via raise hands or chat – take questions after each presentation. Please introduce yourself.
   - No AI notetakers
   - Compliance with competition law – no commercially sensitive discussions

Agenda

1. Welcome and Housekeeping - Graeme Kennett, REA Organics Chair, WRM
2. Biowaste Regulatory Update - Dan Pursglove, EA
3. Digital Waste Tracking - Tom Ellis, EA
4. REA's CEO Address - Trevor Hutchings, REA
5. Closing the loop on compostables – the Compostable by Design Platform - Claudia Amos, CbDP
6. Organics Sector Readiness for Simpler Recycling - Griff Palmer, WRAP
7. REA Organics Update - Jenny Grant, REA Organics
8. Thanks and close

Environment Agency update – Biowaste updates and key risks

Daniel Pursglove
Senior Advisor – Biowaste Treatment
3rd November 2025

Environment Agency

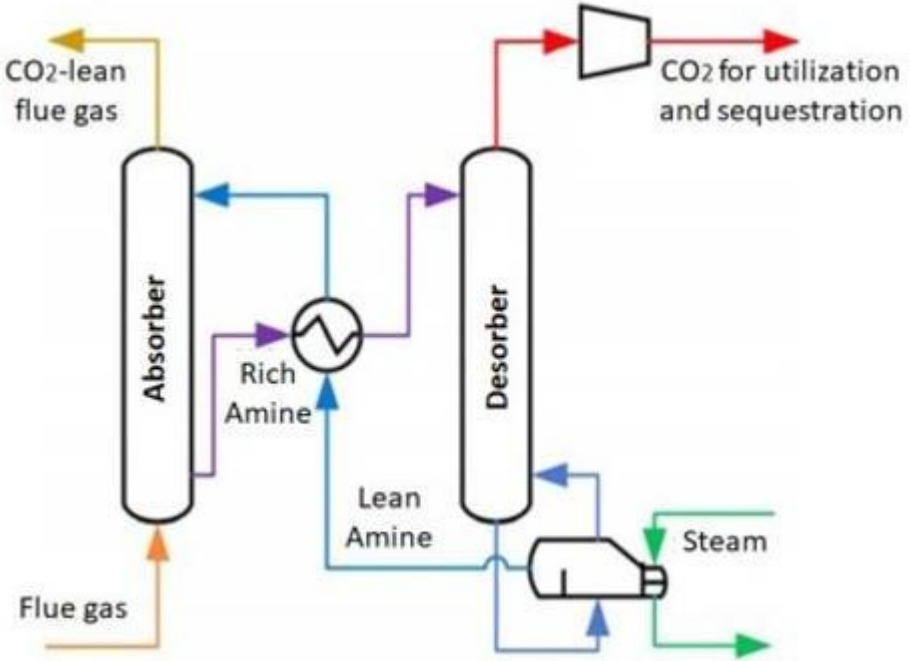
Resource Frameworks

Published 20th October 2025

- Renamed Resource Framework
- Wastes restricted
- Wastes removed
- End of waste clarified
- Clarification on storage
- Tightened plastics limits
- End user nutrient management plan
- Transition period RPS 358

Environment Agency

Biogenic carbon capture and decarbonisation ready – Standard rules consultation



Environment Agency

Defra consultation – modernising environmental permitting

Streamline permitting

Encourage innovation

Regulator effectiveness

New activities

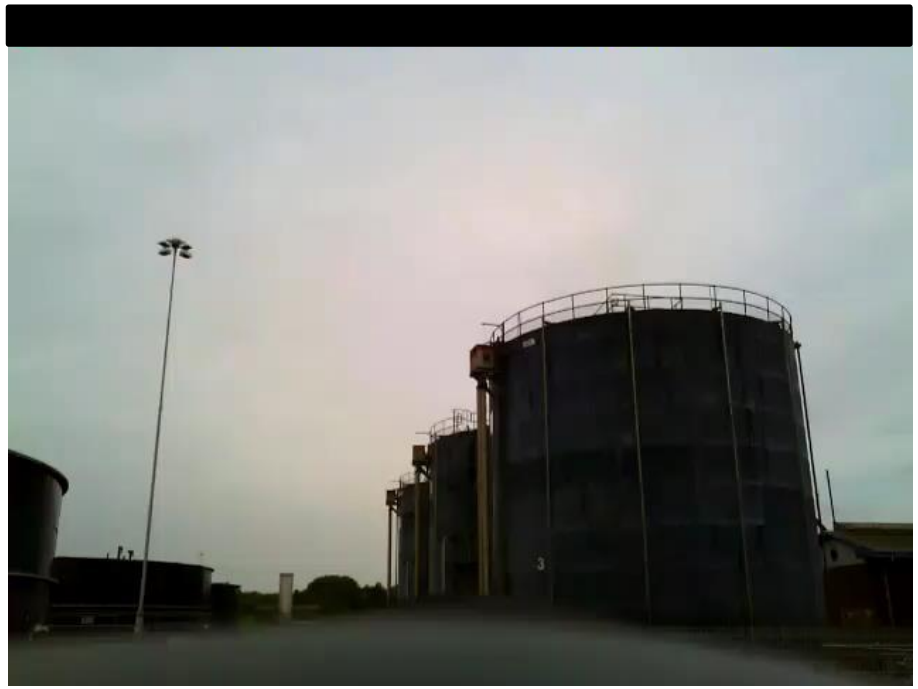
Non waste AD

Environment Agency

Ongoing EA key issues

Environment Agency

Biogas leakage



Environment Agency

New approaches to monitoring methane

Environment Agency

Other updates

- Simpler recycling
- MCERTS for LDAR
- MEAD 2
- BS EN ISO 24252

Environment Agency

Thank you

Environment Agency

Digital Waste Tracking

@ Renewable Energy Association Organics Meeting

4th November 2025

Tom Ellis
Policy Lead

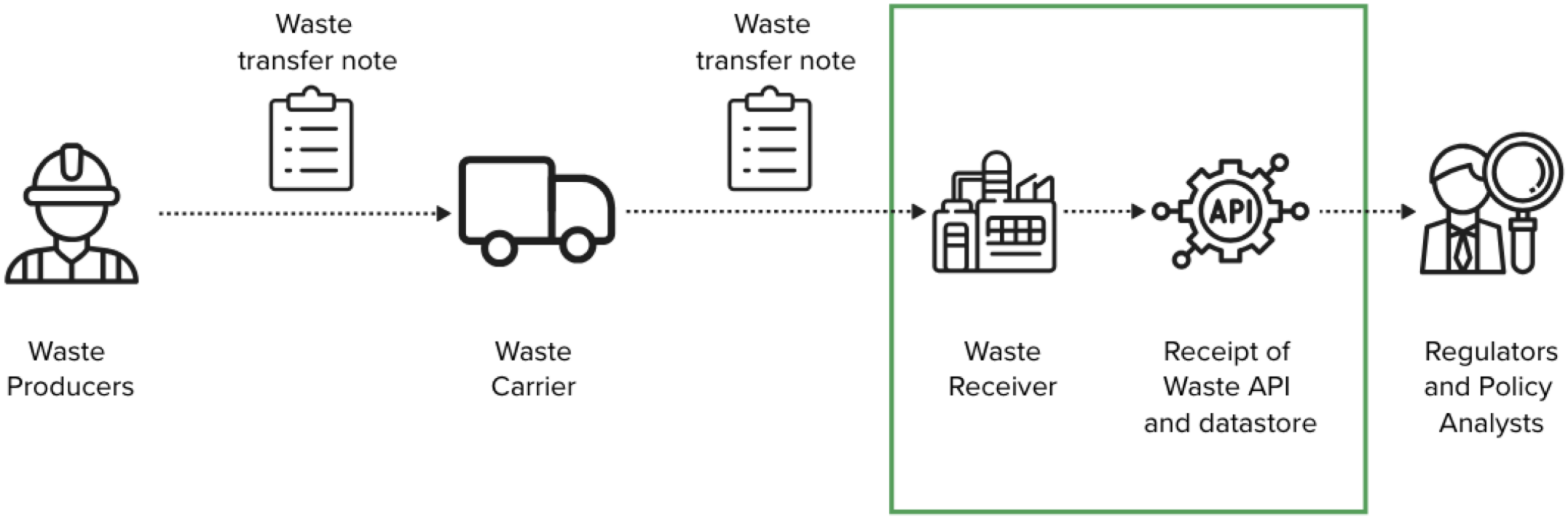
Environment Agency

Project Refresh

- July 2025 – Defra announced new phased approach to implementation:
  - Phase 1 will focus on permitted receiving sites entering information about waste being received. Mandatory from October 2026
  - Phase 2 (subject to funding) is planned to expand this to the rest of the waste movement chain and exempt sites from 2027
- Waste Transfer Notes, Consignment Notes, Waste Returns, and Consignee Returns will continue in Phase 1
- API focused approach - This means those with existing waste management software can still carry on using it, but an API will be integrated to send relevant information onto the digital waste tracking system. This limits the changes needed to business processes.
- A secondary option is being developed for those without commercial waste management software

Environment Agency

Waste Receivers Only – from October 2026



Hazardous waste consignment note

Waste Returns

Consignee Returns

Environment Agency

Digital Waste Tracking is Defra-led in collaboration with four nations governments & regulators. After delaying implementation, we needed to:

1

Understanding industry needs and co-design solutions to work for all users

2

Focus on priorities (strategic alignment, risk, user impacts, & feasibility) & consider broader implications

3

Consolidate ways of working to increase transparency & collaboration

And here's what we did, with much more work ongoing:

- Started Co-Design Groups
- Outlined Phase 1 data fields, inc. Description & validation
- Large-scale comms and engagement to involve operators and gather feedback

- Vast amounts of User Research
- Phased approach to reduce risk, learn from users, & listen to industry readiness feedback
- Recruiting users to test an early version of the service

- Set up a Github Page for access to technical information
- 1-1 software vendor integration calls
- Sharing Co-Design Group meeting summaries with selected trade associations

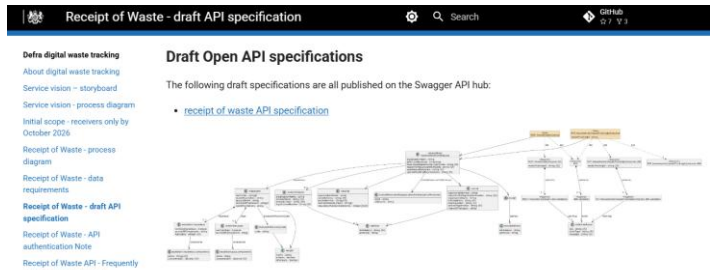
Key Industry Engagement

Github Page

GitHub is a web-based platform used for collaborative software development.

Here's a taste of what the GitHub page contains:

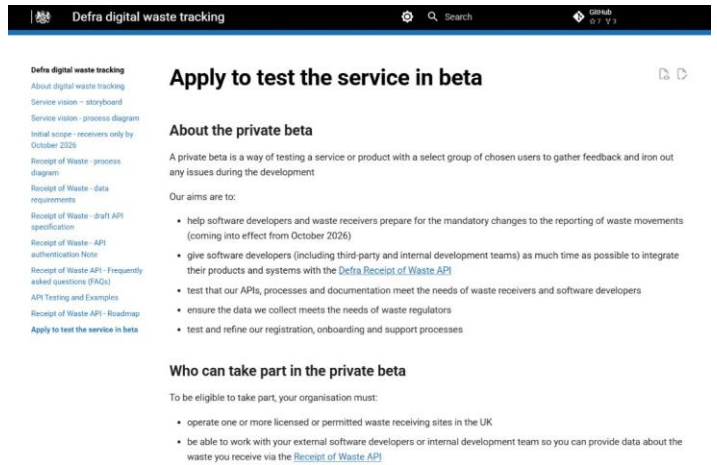
- Continually updated information on the project, with version control to keep track of all changes made
- Technical specs such as all Phase 1 data fields, API schemas, testing examples, process flows
- General info on scope, roadmaps, and user testing



Test the service

In November we will begin a 'Private Beta' phase which involves inviting a limited number of users to test an early version of the service to gather feedback and make improvements.

Private beta will begin this month and we are inviting waste receivers to apply. You could help test out APIs and processes to help shape the service. No information submitted during private beta will be used for regulation.



Environment Agency

Get Involved or Find Out More

Information Links

- Mandatory digital waste tracking - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
- Introduction of mandatory digital waste tracking - Defra - Citizen Space
- Consultation document Introduction of mandatory digital waste tracking.pdf (defra.gov.uk)
- Government response - GOV.UK
- Introduction to mandatory digital waste tracking: summary of proposals (defra.gov.uk)

Participation

- To get involved in testing, please complete our online application form: apply to voluntarily test the report receipt of waste service.
- Join the Waste Tracking User Panel to help shape the digital service
- To keep up to date with Digital waste tracking please subscribe to our full Newsletter using this link: Get the latest news and updates on the Circular Economy Reforms
- Enquiries: wastetracking@environment-agency.gov.uk

Environment Agency

CEO Address

Trevor Hutchings - REA

Organic Forum Meeting, The Association for Renewable Energy and Clean Technology (REA)

3rd November 2025

COMPOSTABLE BY DESIGN

PLATFORM

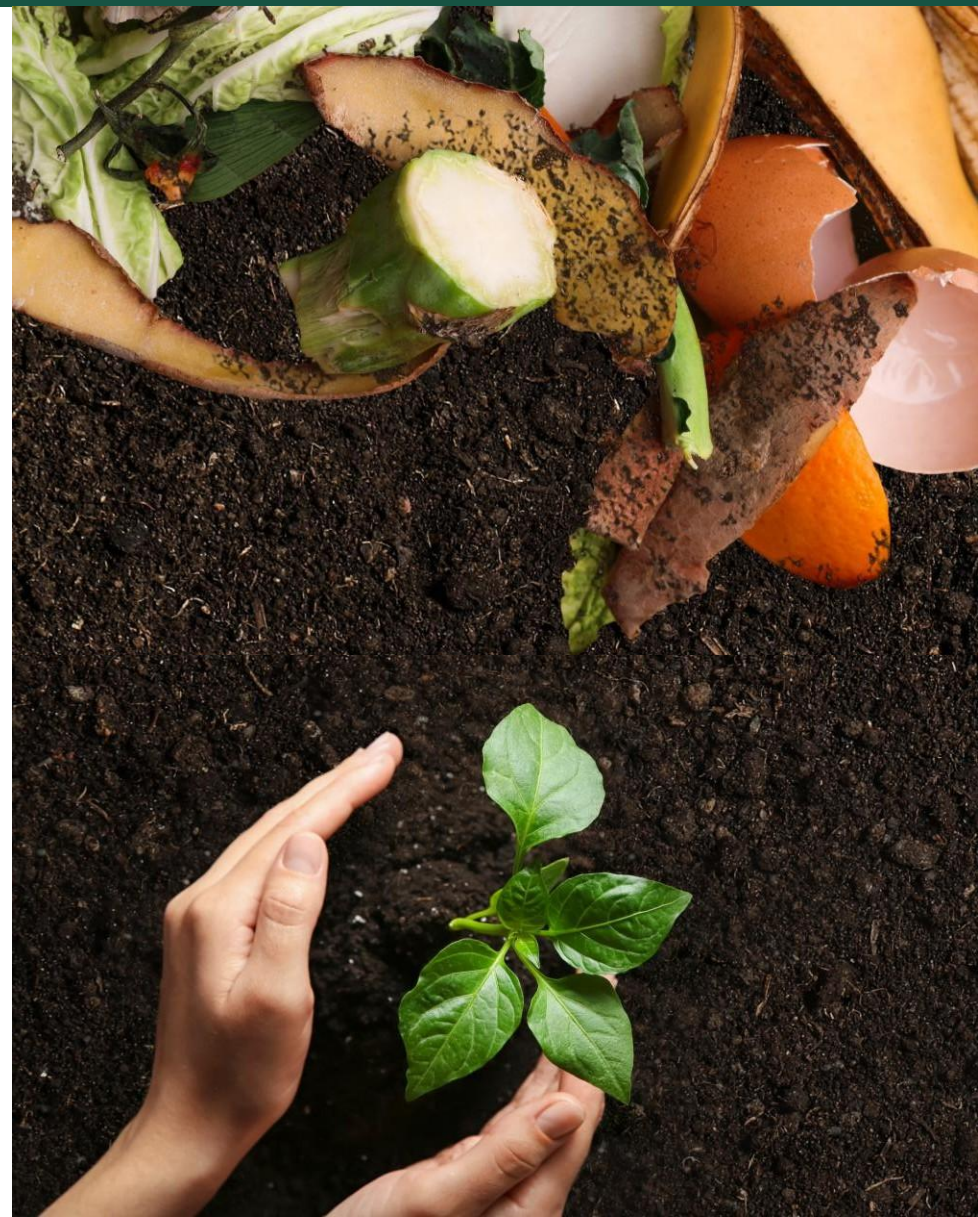
COMPOSTABLE BY DESIGN PLATFORM

WHO WE ARE

A cross-value chain initiative promoting collaboration and innovation in compostable packaging and products, and associated bio-waste treatment technologies and processes

FOUNDING BELIEF

Using suitable compostable applications contributes to a circular economy by improving bio-waste recycling, boosting collection rates, and minimising contamination



VALUE-CHAIN REPRESENTATION

Retail and Brands

Unilever, DELTA CAFÉS, PEPSICO, KraftHeinz, JDE Peet's, Kimberly-Clark

Bio-waste recycling associations & technology providers

kompost & biogas verband, REA, Jones Celtic BioEnergy Technology Providers, TotalEnergies, interseroh Die Recycling-Allianz, Consorzio Italiano Compostatori, BIOMASSE suisse, cré Composting & Anaerobic Digestion Association of Ireland

Film or paper producers, packaging converters

AHLSTROM, starkraft, BIOPAP, FUTAMURA, Sinclair, Metsä, stordenso, Taghleef Industries, Graphic Packaging INTERNATIONAL

Certification Bodies & Testing Laboratories

TÜVRheinland® DIN CERTCO Precisely Right., Normec OWS, OK compost, TÜV AUSTRIA

Resin producers

NOVAMONT, ingevity, BASF We create chemistry, kaneka, BIOTEC, NatureWorks, FKuR, TotalEnergies, Corbion, BIOME BIOPLASTICS

Institutes & Universities

BOKU UNIVERSITY, RESEARCH CENTER ITENE, iSP Institute of Sustainable Processes UNIVERSITY OF VALLADOLID, AIMPLAS PLASTICS TECHNOLOGY CENTRE

OUR VISION AND OBJECTIVES

VISION

A future where **appropriate** compostable packaging and products are widely accepted and effectively recycled at scale across bio-waste facilities in Europe supporting sustainable bio-waste management and the circular economy.

Promote Circular Economy

Unlock bio-waste Recycling Routes

Foster Collaboration and Innovation

Build Awareness and Educate

ELEMENTS TO CATALYSE CHANGE

Suggest a financial mechanism to facilitate the adaptation of processes (EPR)

Establish a framework to guide which applications are suitable to be compostable

Explore innovations for processing of compostables in bio-waste recycling facilities

Provide clear labelling and communication practices

Insights in bio-waste recycling infrastructure in Europe

Suggest real world tests that could boost bio-waste recyclers' confidence in compostables

OUR KEY DELIVERABLES

A Framework and Best Practice Guide for Field-testing the Disintegration of Compostable Products and Packaging in Industrial Composting Facilities

Design recommendations for compostable packaging and products

Framework for EPR for compostable packaging and products

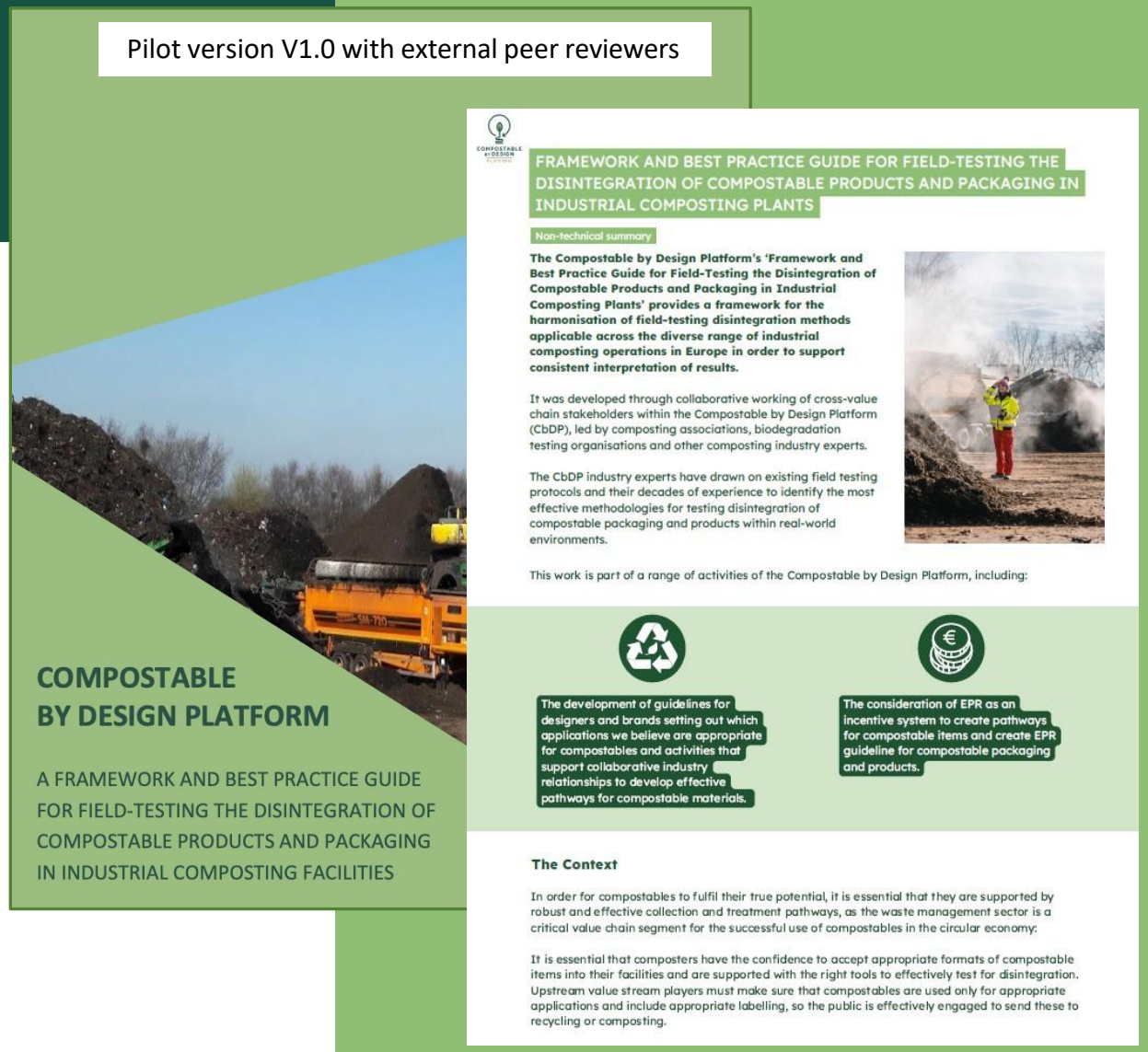
Bio-waste recycling infrastructure map for Europe

COMPOSTABLE BY DESIGN PLATFORM

WHAT'S COVERED

1. STANDARDS AND PRODUCT CERTIFICATION
2. COMPOSTING PROCESSES
3. COMPOST QUALITY
4. FIELD-TESTING GUIDANCE
5. EXISTING FIELD-TESTING PROTOCOLS

Pilot version V1.0 with external peer reviewers



Non-technical summary to be published Nov'25

FRAMEWORK AND BEST PRACTICE GUIDE FOR FIELD-TESTING THE DISINTEGRATION OF COMPOSTABLE PRODUCTS AND PACKAGING IN INDUSTRIAL COMPOSTING FACILITIES

Field-testing of the levels of disintegration under different ‘real-world’ conditions can be an important step to supplement laboratory testing, enabling composting facility operators to:

- Test the actual disintegration of compostable packaging and products within real-life conditions,
- Understand the impact of variable composting conditions, and
- Understand how compostable items will disintegrate during the composting process

Such field trials have been carried out for decades — including early tests in the 1990s — but often in an uncoordinated and non-standardized manner. This has made it difficult to compare and interpret results across sites and materials.

Establishing harmonized protocols for large-scale composting trials remains essential to ensure reliable assessment of disintegration performance under industrial conditions.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Compostable by Design Platform expresses its gratitude to all sponsors and technical experts who provided their insights and supported the development of this document.

Composting and Testing Experts:

AIMPLAS
BOKU University
Biomasse Suisse
Biodegradable Products Institute
Consorzio Italiano Compostatori
Cré
DIN CERTCO
Normec OWS
Renewable Energy Association (REA)
TUV Belgium, Austria

Anthesis Group and Ceres Waste, Renewables and Environment co-ordinated the workstream and led the development of this document in 2023/24 and 2024/25 respectively.

STANDARD AND PRODUCT CERTIFICATION

European standards EN 13432 and EN 14995 specify several tests that packaging or products must meet to be claimed suitable for industrial composting.

Biodegradation, heavy metal concentrations and ecotoxicity can only be tested in a laboratory.

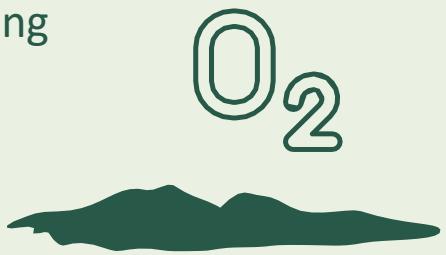
Field-testing is a direct way of assessing disintegration of compostable products and packaging in an operational industrial composting facility

Conducting field-testing trials within different facilities using different industrial composting methods can demonstrate disintegration across the varying operational conditions found in practice and enhance confidence across the bio-recycling and composting sector.

BIO-WASTE TREATMENT PROCESSES

Across Europe, there are typically two types of industrial bio-waste treatment.

Composting



Naturally occurring aerobic micro-organisms (bacteria and fungi) decompose organic material in the presence of oxygen, converting it into a stable organic residue (compost), carbon dioxide and water.

Anaerobic digestion

Naturally occurring anaerobic micro-organisms (bacteria) decompose organic material in the absence of oxygen, converting it into digestate and biogas. The anaerobic digestion treatment timescales are typically shorter than composting ones.

In Europe, the European Composting Networks stated that composting is the dominant method, accounting for approximately 59% of the total bio-waste processed, while anaerobic digestion is used for about 41%

TYPICAL COMPOSTING PROCESS & PARAMETERS

These are the stages of a typical industrial composting process

1. Organic waste received on site
2. Screening and shredding
3. Main composting stage
4. Maturation
5. Screening grades compost into final product by particle size

These are the key composting parameters

- Oxygen
- Volume, shape, porosity
- Aeration and turning frequency
- pH levels
- Moisture content
- Temperature and time
- Feedstock mixing ratios

FIELD TESTING GUIDANCE - CONSIDERATIONS

Technical competency

Test coordinators should possess a high level of technical competence before conducting field tests and should work in collaboration with an experienced composting site manager.

Location & partnership

An industrial composting operator is a key partner for field tests. They provide suitable space, equipment and professional site support, and must hold the necessary authorisations and permits for handling test samples.

Sample preparation & incorporation rates

The method of inputting compostable items must be reviewed as well as the ratio of the sample to the bio-waste mixture. Control samples are essential for creating valid reference points.

Operating parameters

Field trials should replicate standard industry conditions, including temperature, aeration, moisture content, pile shape, pile turning and turning frequency, where applicable.

Monitoring method

A structured approach to monitoring disintegration involves staggered retrieval of test samples throughout the composting process.

Disintegration data collection

Accurate collection of disintegration data is essential and should be carried out by experienced operators, with final evaluation performed by accredited laboratories.

COMPOST QUALITY

The EU Fertilizing Products Regulation (EU) 2019/1009 defines quality and safety criteria for composts and digestates marketed within the EU..

When certified compostable materials are properly disintegrated during the composting process, they do not affect compost quality or compliance with national or European quality assurance schemes.

The European Compost Network's Quality Assurance Scheme provides a pan-European framework for compost certification, complemented by national schemes in countries such as Austria, Flanders, Germany, Italy, or the UK.

Pan-European
ECN-QAS

Austria

Flanders, Belgium

Germany

Italy

UK

EXISTING FIELD TEST PROTOCOLS IN EUROPE

One of the oldest and most established is the "full-scale" test developed by the **Italian Biogas and Composting Association (CIC)**. This protocol is detailed in UNI-PdR-79:2020 and is an integral part of CIC's certification scheme for compostable products, known as "Compostabile CIC".

Similarly, **Cré, the Composting and Anaerobic Digestion Association of Ireland**, has developed its own certification scheme, which includes a dedicated field-testing protocol, to aid acceptance of compostable items at their members' facilities.

FOOD WASTE BIN COMPOSTABLE

cré IRELAND

COMPARATIVE OVERVIEW OF FIELD TEST PROTOCOLS

Criteria	CIC Test “full scale”	CRE	US - ASTM
Type of field-test	Mesh bags	Mesh bags	Mesh bags (D8619) and Dosing/loose (D6818)
Type of compostable item	Both paper and bioplastic based, Test used for items to be certified	Must be certified to EN 13432 and certification must apply to the product.	Both paper and bioplastic items that meet ASTM D6400 or equivalent.
Instructions about preparation of samples	Sample sizes reduced to pieces, 10 x 10 cm.	Samples tested whole.	No size reduction of sample. Samples are pre-soaked in water to simulate being food soiled.
Definition of the composition of input mixture of bio-waste (i.e. standard mixture)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Concentration/amount of samples inside composting	Minimum of 1% (fresh mass basis) placed samples in net bags	Samples tested whole in net bag containing 2 kg amount of bio-waste	Max 20% by volume.

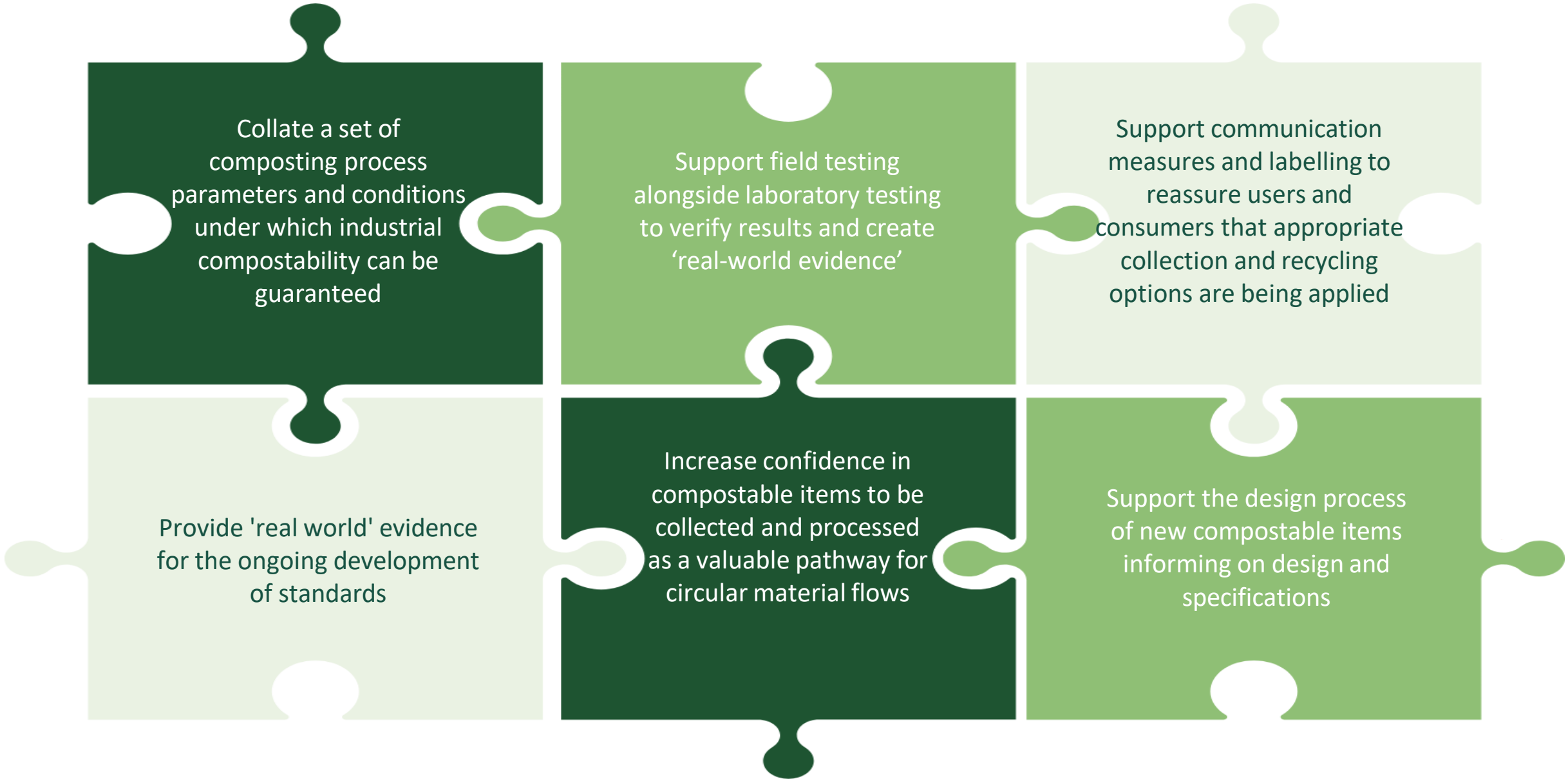
COMPARATIVE OVERVIEW OF FIELD TEST PROTOCOLS

Criteria	CIC Test "full scale"	CRE	US - ASTM
Duration of disintegration or endpoint	12 weeks	On completion of batch in accordance with test site standard operating protocol.	No fixed time. Endpoint is when a stable and mature compost has been produced, or the sample disintegrates, whichever is first.
Sample collection for the field-test (i.e. who takes sample from the producer of the product to be tested)	Done on site of the applicant by a third-party certification body.	Samples supplied by applicant.	Not restricted.
Time temperature profile	Min values and frequencies of measurement defined.	Not defined, batch must be run in accordance with site's standard operating protocol.	Values defined, and frequency of measurement, for temperature, moisture, oxygen, C:N, bulk density, and pH.
Reference	UNI PdR 79:2020	N/A	ASTM D8618 and D8619

KEY MESSAGES FROM EXISTING FIELD TEST PROTOCOLS

- **Diverse but converging methods:** European and North American protocols differ in duration, sample prep and endpoints, yet all aim to assess disintegration under realistic industrial composting conditions
- **Compost maturity is key:** Certified compostable items disintegrate fully in facilities producing mature, biologically stable compost
- **Short-cycle limitations:** Facilities with short composting cycles may not create conditions sufficient for full disintegration, expectations should match process capabilities
- **Adaptive testing approaches:** Multiple short-cycle tests (recirculation) can simulate longer composting conditions
- **Need for harmonisation:** Standardising field-testing protocols across regions would enhance result reliability and mutual acceptance internationally

FRAMEWORK AND BEST PRACTICE GUIDE FOR FIELD-TESTING THE DISINTEGRATION OF COMPOSTABLE PRODUCTS AND PACKAGING IN INDUSTRIAL COMPOSTING FACILITIES



COMPOSTABLE BY DESIGN PLATFORM

CONTACT US

If you are interested in joining the CbDP or would like further information, please contact us.

CbDP Secretariat

info@compostablebydesign.com

https://compostablebydesign.com/

https://www.linkedin.com/company/compostable-by-design-platform

Recognising that effective solutions require collective effort, the Platform brings leaders together from all segments of the compostable materials value chain.

Organics sector readiness for Simpler Recycling

PSE303-005

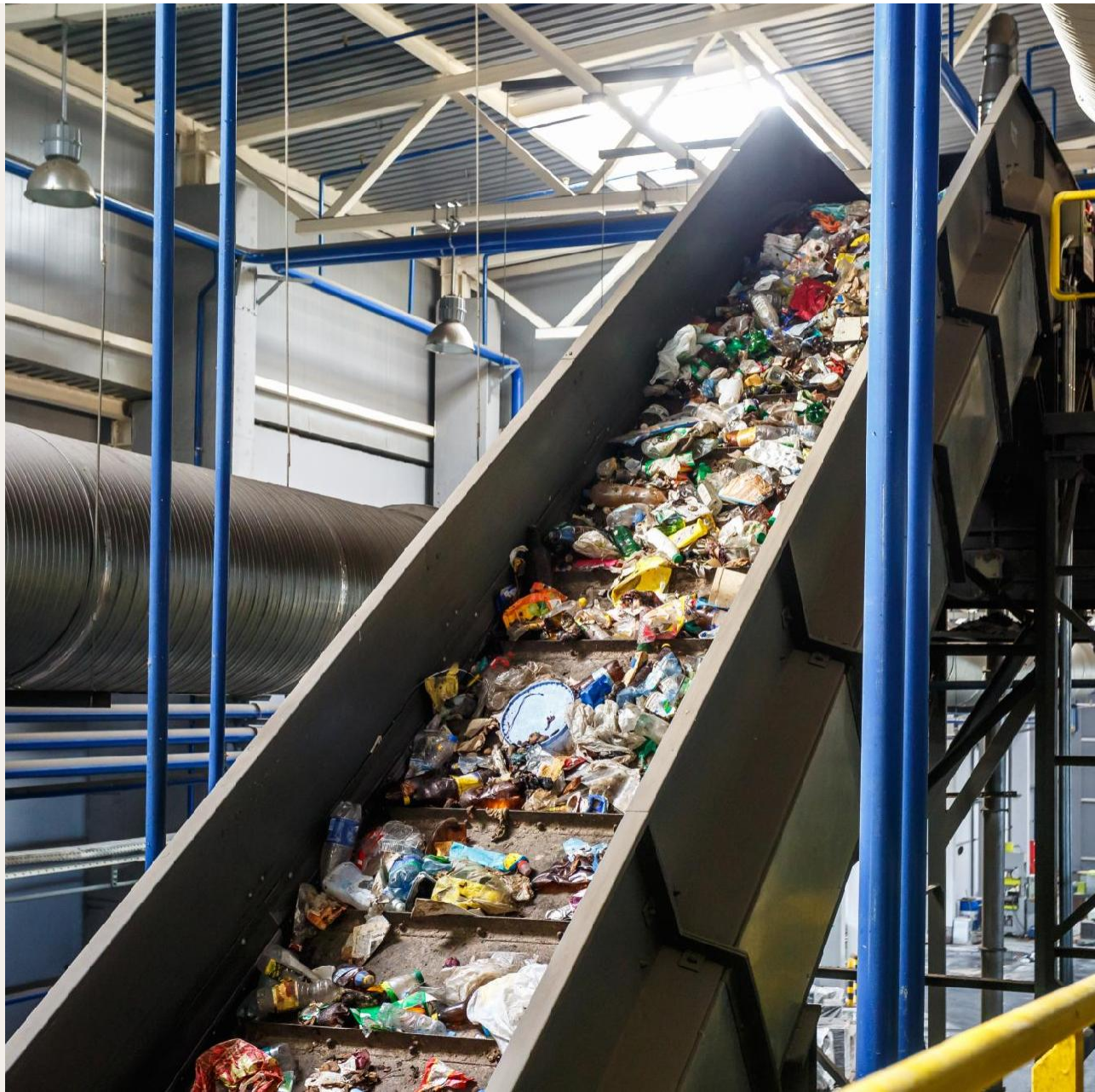
03.11.25 | Griff Palmer,

Introduction

WRAP is a global environmental action NGO transforming our product and food systems to create Circular Living. We examine sustainability challenges through the lens of people's day-to-day lives. We transform the systems that provide the products we consume. We catalyse action from policy makers, businesses, NGOs and citizens to make it happen.

Background

- WRAP are providing support to Defra with the implementation of Simpler Recycling
- This support has been ongoing and includes previous projects such as the Organics roadmap
- This project builds on the Organics roadmap and will explore risks raised with the readiness of facilities for the full implementation of Simpler Recycling

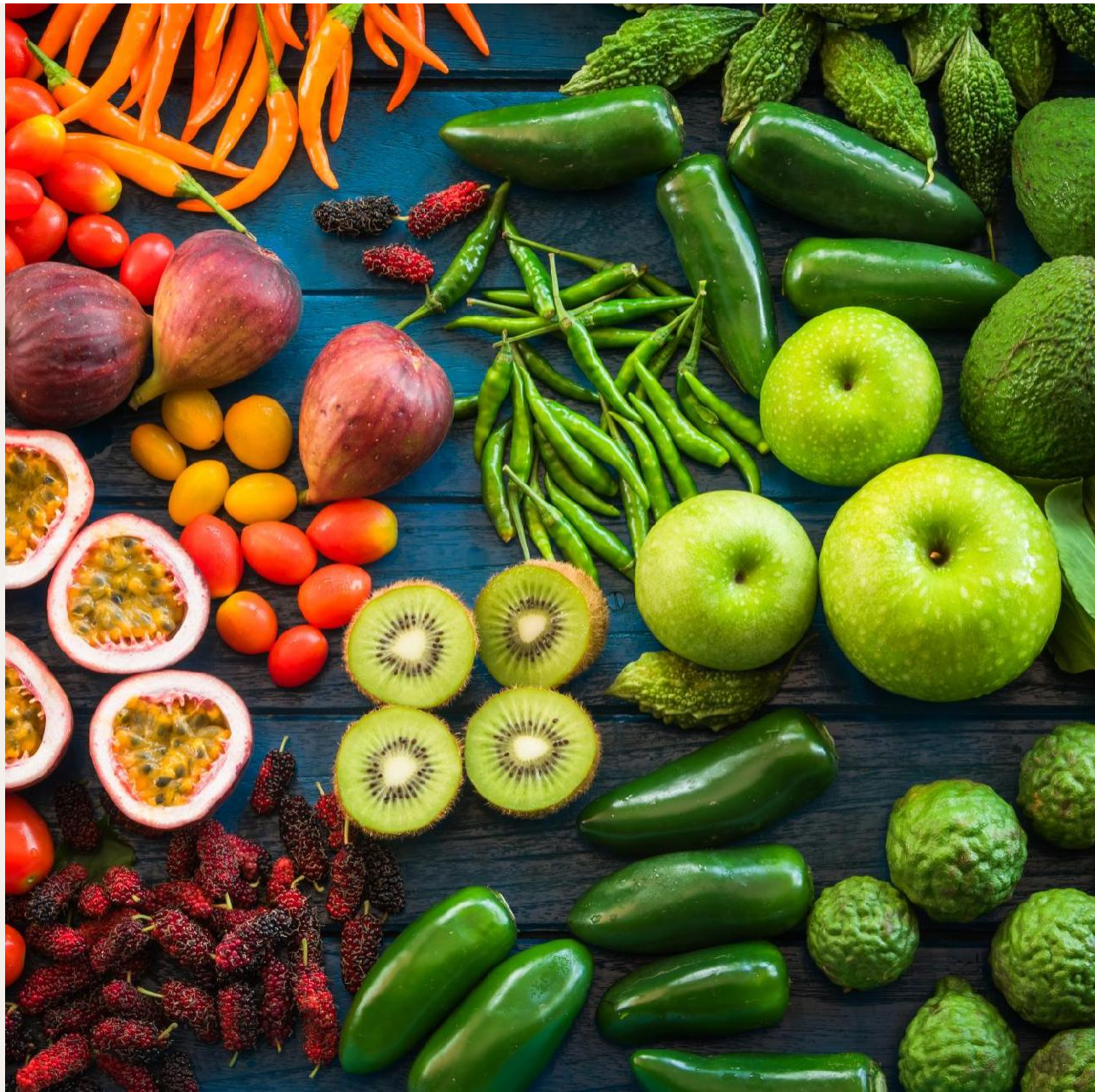


Project aims

- Understand the readiness of the organics sector for Simpler Recycling
- Assess sector readiness to take additional household and business material
- Understand the risks and challenges to accepting this additional material, as well as other readiness challenges the sector is experiencing
- Explore how HH and business gate fees will be impacted by Simpler Recycling
- Explore if current/planned reprocessing capacity is sufficient for expected tonnage increases

Working together

- Conduct one-to-one interviews with AD and IVC facility operators to assess sector readiness along with risks and challenges
- A good cross section of the sector will be key to ensure all risks/challenges that the sector faces are represented and that regionality is understood
- An opportunity to raise issues the sector is facing in the implementation of Simpler Recycling and to have input on potential solutions



Outcomes

- Summarise the findings of the interviews outlining sector readiness and any key risks/challenges that were raised.
- Highlight key interventions/solutions that were proposed
- Feed these findings back to Defra to inform support for the implementation of Simpler Recycling
- The results of this will be fed back to the sector to ensure all relevant issues/risks were raised

Timelines

- Plan is to conduct interviews in the second half of November and through December
- Findings will be feed back to the sector in Q1 2026/27
- The key findings will be followed up on and explored to devise strategies to support the sector and mitigate identified risks

Contact us

- If you are interested in attending a one-to-one interviews and are the operator of an AD or IVC facility, please get in contact with us

- penny.huckle@wrap.ngo
- griff.palmer@wrap.ngo

Thank you.
Any questions?

Policy updates

Jenny Grant - REA

Organics Updates

- Resource Frameworks
  - Published 20th Oct – details here
  - Webinars held and recordings available

- Circular Economy Strategy
  - Engagement with Taskforce
  - England consultation due out Autumn
    - Proposed interventions on circular use of biowastes
  - Scotland consultation live

- Scottish Government re biodegradable Landfill ban
  - Temporary RPS on enforcement

Organics Updates

- Regulatory reforms
  - Modernising EPR consultation
  - Exemptions. - response here
  - EA improvements
  - Carriers, brokers, dealers reform
  - Waste crime

- Compostables
  - Compostable by Design Platform (Europe)
  - EC instructions for review and revision of standards for organically recyclable and home compostable packaging
  - Contributing to BBIA task forces and BB-REG-NET project where relevant to compostables
  - Contact Emily for further info

Consultations

- Submitted recently:
  - Defra: Modernising Environmental Permitting
  - Defra: Call for Evidence on Expanding the role of the private sector in nature recovery
  - EA: Simpler Recycling Charging proposals

- Open consultations:
  - SEPA - Call for Evidence: Non Waste Anaerobic Digestion over 100 tonnes per day: Permit technical requirements – 9th January.
  - Scot Gov – Circular Economy strategy – 13th January.
  - Environment Agency: Amendments to standard rules: Incorporation of decarbonisation readiness requirements, carbon capture at anaerobic digestion facilities and withdrawal of SR2009 No 4 – 18th December.
  - Environmental Audit Committee call for evidence on seventh carbon budget – 4th November.

Circular Economy Directorate Roadmap 2025

October 2025 – Dates shown are subject to change and future Spending Reviews

Key: pEPR | DRS | SR | DWT | CE

2025

January – pEPR regulations come into force, Scheme Administrator appointed

January – DRS: regulations comes into force for England and NI

March – CE: Deadline for applications to the Farm Food Redistribution Grant

March – SR: Publication of Guidance *

March – SR: Collection of dry recycling and food waste required for all business (excl. Micro firms) *

April – pEPR: Deadline for Producers to submit pEPR data for July to Dec 2024 *

April – End of Local Authorities providing data to calculate 2026/27 payments

April – pEPR: RAM Update Published

May – Deposit Management Organisation (DMO) appointed

June – CE: Single-use Vapes Ban comes into force

June – CE: WEEE Online Market Place SI laid – in force later this summer

June – CE: Farm Food Redistribution Grant Awarded, start of Funding and Monitoring & Reporting begins

June – pEPR: Modulation Policy Published

June – pEPR: Base Fees Published *

July – pEPR: Assessment Notices released to LAs

October – pEPR: Deadline for re-processor and exporter registration *

October – pEPR: Deadline for Producers to submit pEPR data for Jan to June 2025 *

October – pEPR: RAM Roadmap published

October – pEPR: Producer invoices issued

Current Position

Autumn – CE: Circular Economy Strategy Published for Consultation

Autumn – Digital Waste Tracking: Service available to invited user groups

November – pEPR: LAs receive notice of assessment for 26/27 payments

November – pEPR: LA receive ½ 25/26 payments

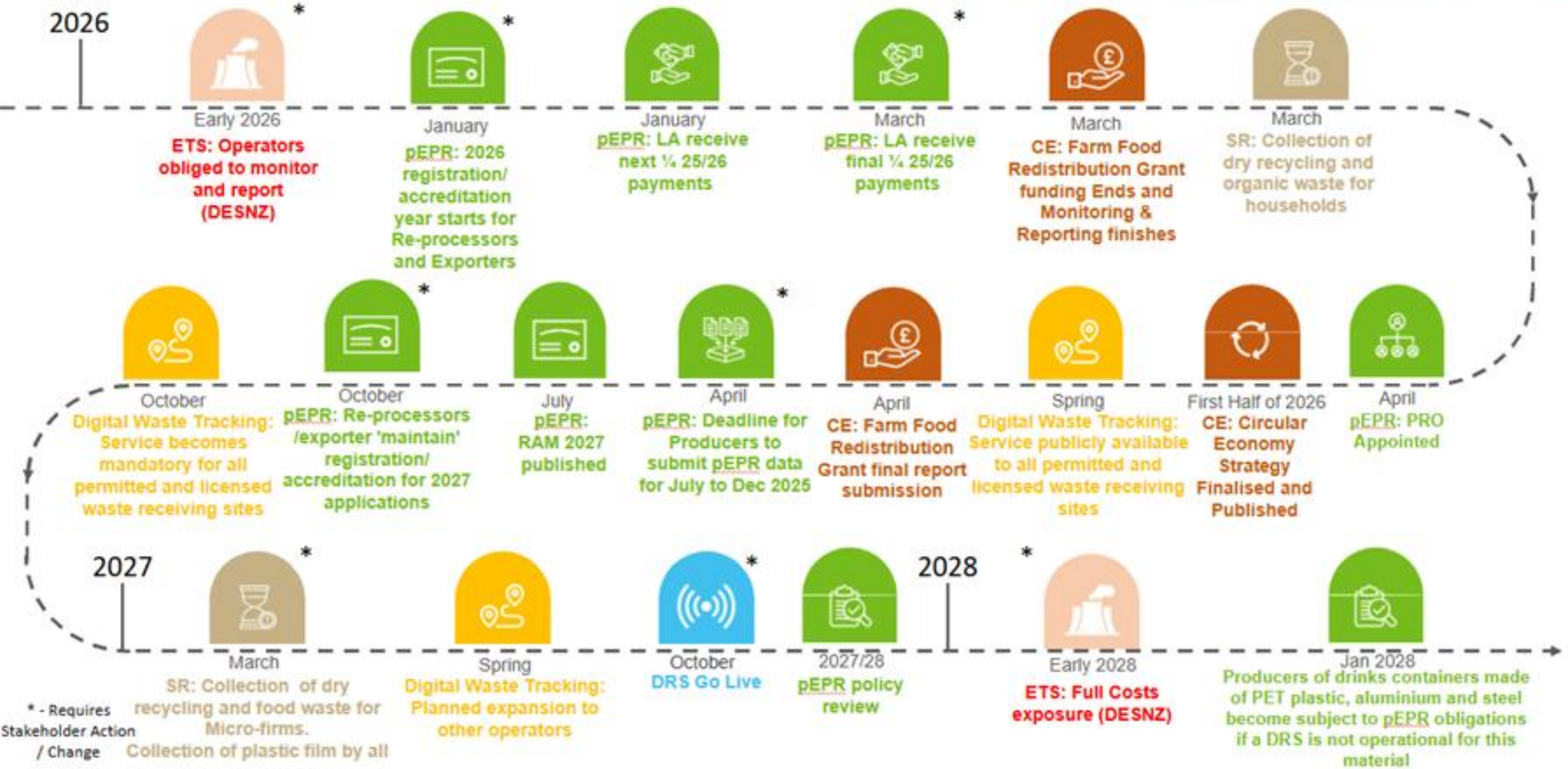
December – CE: LA Vehicle Seizure Review Guidance Doc and Case Studies Published

* - Requires Stakeholder Action / Change

Circular Economy Directorate Roadmap 2026+

October 2025 – Dates shown are subject to change and future Spending Reviews

Key: pEPR | DRS | SR | DWT | CE



* - Requires Stakeholder Action / Change

Dates for your diary

Green Gas Forum meeting	20th November	London
Future farm fuels	December	London
HACCP training course	18th February	Online
Organics Conference	19th March	Nottingham
Wood Heat Conference	22-23rd April	Nottingham

Thank you

Jenny@r-e-a.net