



REAL'S CERTIFICATION SCHEME FOR QUALITY COMPOSTS

Compost Certification Scheme newsletter



This Christmas we are celebrating the further development of the Compost Certification Scheme (CCS) which has been established as a robust and reputable quality assurance and end-of-waste scheme. CCS has been tailored to work for all relevant stakeholders including the end users of quality compost, providing assurance on the safety and quality of certified material. We champion the ways in which the Scheme and its participants contribute to the concept of the circular economy, healthier UK soils, and market confidence in compost derived from waste.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Here you will find industry-related news and events that we would like to share with you accompanied by various Scheme developments that we are celebrating this festive period.

We would also like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Certification Body contact details

Organic Farmers & Growers (OF&G)

+44 (0)1939 291 800

NSF

+44 (0)1993 885 610

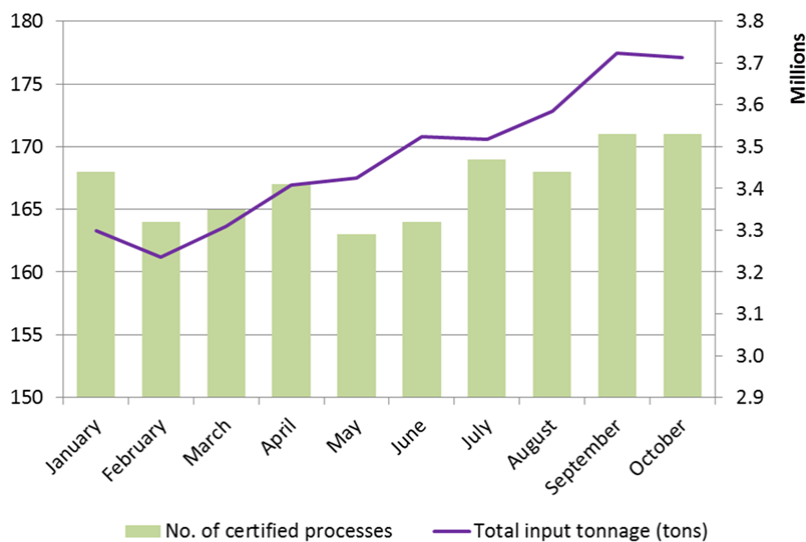
Aardvark Certification

+44 (0)1984 624 989

Laboratory contact details

Alliance Technical Laboratories (ATL)

+44 (0)1449 721 192



Since the beginning of this year, there has been a steady increase in the amount of input material that certified sites are processing on an annual basis, despite the fluctuation in the total number of certified processes. In January, approximately 3.3 million tonnes of feedstock material was processed annually by certified sites and by November, approximately 3.7 million tpa of feedstock.

Revision of PAS 100

We are very pleased to be leading, as the sponsor, the revision of PAS 100. The initial stakeholder consultation phase of the revision process provided us with the means to strengthen our relationship with various stakeholder groups and understand their views on certain proposals. After the public consultation period, we look forward to learning more about what changes have been considered to ensure the standard remains fit-for-purpose in today's organics recycling industry. However, we've also set up a series of workshops to address some of the more contentious issues and continue engaging with individuals who are interested in contributing to the revision. Anyone is welcome to attend these workshops as a Review Panel member and can express their interest by emailing info@realschemes.org.uk.

Certification Bodies

D&F Associates

+44 (0)1514 208 741

Eurofins Agro Testing UK Limited

+44 (0)7557 268 480

Natural Resource Management (NRM)

+44 (0)1344 886 338

REAL CCS contact details

info@realschemes.org.uk

+44 (0)207 981 0875

Strategic Review of Charges

The changes to the regulatory charging scheme proposed by the Environment Agency could make it more expensive for producers to landspread waste. We anticipate that CCS certification could become more attractive as producers not only save money spreading their material with "product" status but they can also generate more revenue through marketing and selling the material as a product. We will be engaging with the Environment Agency on this consultation.

EU Fertilisers Regulation

We have been keeping up to date with the latest developments surrounding the EU Fertilisers Regulation. The introduction of these regulations could open up a big market for operators and we look forward to exploring the opportunities this might present us.

There are now three certification bodies appointed to provide independent assessments of conformance on behalf of REAL CCS. We are proud to be able to offer compost producers with the choice of three organisations and highly competent certification personnel. This competition helps to ensure that they provide their services to the highest standard and we are very happy to be working closely with Organic Farmers & Growers (OF&G), NSF, and Aardvark Certification Ltd (ACL).

Laboratories

The Appointed Laboratories have recently completed their third round of full annual audits. The introduction of independent auditing improved our understanding of their practices and with each audit round comes improved performance and conformance with our [Terms and Conditions](#). We work closely with the laboratories to address any new issues and they are very cooperative when engaging with our work. Regular liaison with the independent laboratory auditor also allows us to identify areas of auditing that we could improve. We look forward to working with the laboratories and independent auditor even more closely next year.

CCS Producers' Forum and TAC

The CCS Producers' Forum provides a great opportunity for us to engage with operators. The discussions contribute to our understanding of how the Scheme works for participants and we can learn how the industry changes from composters' perspectives. We were delighted to engage with a large number of composters at the [CCS Producers' Forum](#) in June and the views they shared on PAS 100 were useful for drafting the first version of PAS100: 2018.

The link between the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Producers' Forum provides means for industry stakeholders, including the environmental regulators, to participate in discussions on issues raised by composters. The TAC meetings also provide a great opportunity for us to engage with farm assurance schemes, such as Red Tractor, and ensure that we consider a cross-section of views when proposing future developments to the Scheme. The most recent TAC meeting allowed us to seek advice from experienced

Training course

In November, we contributed to the delivery of the Renewable Energy Association PAS 100 training course. It was a very good turnout and interesting discussions took place on PAS 100 compliance with respect to the current version and changes in the industry.

CCS Annual Report 2016

We published our first [annual report](#) this year presenting an overview of the Compost Certification Scheme by the end of 2016. We presented data on process numbers, process types, input tonnage, product types, and production of quality compost. Next year we hope to present data on quality compost supplied to end markets.

Organic Recycling Report 2015

WRAP published the [Organics Recycling industry status report 2016](#) earlier this year presenting a snapshot of the UK's organics recycling sector. Approximately 5.92 million tonnes of food and green waste was produced through industrial composting facilities and an impressive 3.21 million tonnes of quality compost was produced by certified compost sites!

WRAP risk assessment report

In January WRAP published their highly anticipated [report on compost quality and safety for agriculture](#). The findings demonstrated that the risks associated with application of quality compost to land were low or negligible. These were very welcome findings for REAL CCS and we will continue to share the knowledge of these risk assessment reports at any available opportunity.

organisations like WRAP regarding our proposals for R&D support and to gather views from the producer representatives on our proposed fees.

CCS plans for 2018

We are excited for the year ahead and our plans for promoting the Scheme further afield, updating the Scheme documents, and strengthening our relationship with different organisations. We will continue to engage with individuals and stakeholder groups on the revision of PAS 100 and we will continue to work with UKAS to set up specific accreditation for the certification bodies against the Scheme documents. Furthermore, we look forward to proceeding with our plans to set up a Research Hub that will support R&D projects and allow us to keep informed of relevant technical developments in the industry.

Merry Christmas



SEPA's revised regulatory position statement

After consulting with industry last year, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) revised their [position statement](#) on how they will regulate the use and handling of compost. More stringent limits for plastics have been introduced to bring the limits in line with Quality Meat Scotland (QMS) standards. SEPA is very supportive of operators in Scotland and we look forward to building our working relationship with SEPA and the other environmental regulators in 2018.

Compost Certification Scheme is part of Renewable Energy Assurance Limited.
Compost Certification Scheme 6 Spring House, Graphite Square, Vauxhall Walk, London SE11 5EE / Tel: +0207 981 0875
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