



Latest news from CCS

Research Hub

We launched our Research Hub for the Compost Certification Scheme (CCS) and Biofertiliser Certification Scheme (BCS) last month. This development will seek to fill a “void” in the organics recycling industry which is currently lacking support for new R&D projects. You can find more information about the Research Hub in this document published on our website [here](#). The funds for the Hub will be raised by charging CCS and BCS operators an annual Research Fee which will be separate from the certification fees. We will be deciding on the fixed fees at our next TAC meeting in June. If you would like to have an input on this discussion then please don't hesitate to contact the CCS Producers' Representative, [Gregor Keenan](#), or attend the next Producers' Forum meeting where we will discuss the proposed fees with Forum attendees.

Technical guidance

We have updated our technical guidance on the REAL Compost Certification Scheme interpretation of PAS 100, Compost Quality Protocol and the CCS Scheme Rules requirements [here](#). The updated guidance document now includes a section on testing during process validation / revalidation which we produced in consultation with the certification bodies.

Cost-benefit analysis

We recently published another document on our website presenting an indication of the costs associated with certification of composts to renew product status and average costs of deployment of waste composts under waste management regulations. We are now reviewing this in response to the consultation outcome of the Environment Agency's Strategic Review of Charges. The 2017-2018 cost-benefit analysis document can be found [here](#) and the 2018 update will be published soon.

Compost quality

Many discussions have taken place during the PAS 100 revision process on feedstock contamination, independent sampling, and the minimum quality criteria. It was recognised that composters continue to experience issues with feedstock contamination but it was also recognised that market confidence is vital for the industry so focus should remain on quality of the outputs. We will consider how to work with the markets and waste suppliers going forward. However, with respect to the quality of outputs, it is important to consider the following: establish whether customers or end users have any additional quality requirements; communication with end users; take representative samples in accordance with the [sampling guidelines](#); inspect, assess, and possibly reject feedstock if contaminated.

Compostable packaging / products

If you would like to complete the survey on compostable packaging/products as feedstock and haven't yet done so, it is still possible through this [link](#). If you accept this input, would you be happy for us to share your details with the suppliers/manufacturers of these products? If so, please don't hesitate to respond to this email with confirmation.

Thank you all.