



REAL'S CERTIFICATION SCHEME FOR QUALITY COMPOSTS

Compost Certification Scheme Newsletter



The Compost Certification Scheme (CCS) has been established as a robust and reputable quality assurance and end-of-waste scheme. In this newsletter, you will find various ways in which the scheme has been developed this year accompanied by related industry news.

Research Hub

Second meeting of the Research Panel

The Research Hub's Research Panel met for the second time on 13 June 2019. Key agenda items included the presentation of the Research Hub's SurveyMonkey results and the prioritisation and selection of Research Project Proposals, to take forward to tender.

The Panel discussed each of the thirteen shortlisted Research Project Proposals, as included in the SurveyMonkey and, informed by the survey results, decided to take forward one research project in

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2019. The chosen project is simple in its objectives allowing the project to run productively, ensuring success, whilst the Hub simultaneously develops and finalises its procedures.

The first project of the Research Hub

The first project taken forward by the Research Hub is titled 'The development of a Research Library for the Organics Recycling Industry'. Existing industry research will be collated, and a gap analysis will be undertaken. The collation of existing research across both the compost and anaerobic digestion industries will allow research 'gaps' to be identified and distinguish areas of research that are limited, or altogether absent.

The establishment of the Research Library can prevent the duplication of research studies and importantly, prevent misuse of research resource. The Panel is of the opinion that the findings of this project have the potential to shape and inform the objectives of future Research Project Proposals submitted to and taken forwards by the Research Hub. The Research Library will be an informative and valuable resource for both the composting and anaerobic digestion industries.

Other research projects that were shortlisted from the Panel's shortlist include, 'Reducing plastic and other contaminants in compost (and digestate) feedstock', 'PAS 100 plant response testing: options for change' and 'Digestate value in agriculture'.

Plans for 2019 and beyond

The Research Hub will run a tender to appoint a contractor for the first project of the Research Hub. The tender period will run throughout September and October with the successful contractor anticipated to be appointed at the end of November. Look out for the Tender Invitation Document coming soon!. The contract period will run throughout December and into 2020.

The third meeting of the Research Hub, due to take place at the end of October, will provide an opportunity for the Panel to discuss the progress of the first project as well as an opportunity to discuss subsequent projects of the Hub.

Previously, the Hub was accepting research project proposal submissions within a designated 'submission period'. The Panel has decided proposals can be submitted to the Hub at any time and outside of a designated 'submission period'. Projects submitted outside of the period will be 'banked' and reviewed at a later period.

Our 'decision making tree' enables scheme participants to identify a point of call (organisation or individual) if they have a scheme related enquiry. The tree can be found on the CCS website under the certification tab.

2018 REAL Annual Report

You can find our recently published 2018 Schemes' Annual Report on our website [HERE](#) for information about the status of the Scheme by 2018 end.

Compostables Survey

We would be very grateful if CCS participants could spare five minutes to fill out our survey on compostable packaging and non-packaging products. We are gathering views from operators to feed into the government's call for evidence on standards and labelling for compostable packaging. The survey can be accessed [HERE](#).

CQP review

The Environment Agency has announced that it will be reviewing all the current Quality Protocols over the next 12-18 months with the review of the CQP (and ADQP) prioritised. There are three potential outcomes of the initial review, which are:

- The Agency supports the current version or with only minor amendments
- The Agency does not support the current version and when asked, if industry requires it to be revised and updated, any revision undertaken would be chargeable to industry
- The Agency does not support the current version and when asked, if industry does not or cannot require a revision, the CQP will no longer be supported and all QP compliant material will revert to waste

We are liaising with the Environment Agency about the CQP review. We have sought initial views from

CCS Position and Sampling Guidance

REAL's CCS Position on Technical Requirements was updated in June 2019. This document accompanies the Scheme Rules and is used by scheme participants and the Certification Bodies to ensure consistency with interpretation of requirements and provide clarity on technical requirements within the Scheme.

The updated positions were discussed and agreed with the Certification Bodies and later circulated to the Technical Advisory Committee for final comments before being published. The updated version of the Technical Requirements document includes two new sections; 'Checking and agreeing quality requirements with customers' and 'test failures during certification renewal'.

We have also released a new sampling guidance document, which replaces the previous 'Guidelines on Sampling Compost' document, issued in 2012. The sampling guidance has been updated from the previous document to reflect and include changes that have been made to PAS 100, as well as changes to the British Standard BS EN 12579. The document intends to guide operators to take representative samples of their compost and ensure consistency of sampling. This guidance will be used for a sampling workshop at a compost site in the UK, with details to be confirmed shortly.

Market development

Our Market Development Working Group (MDWG) met for the second time in June, and the agenda covered a wide range of topics following the first meeting. One agenda item was the topic of PAS promotion. The group discussed ways to promote PAS 100/110, and the labelling of quality products, to the markets.

The Environment Agency had confirmed that a review/gap analysis of the ADQP and CQP will be undertaken in the near future.

Engagement with the industry may take place, depending on the outcome of the review. The MDWG will be circulating a survey to CCS participants to gather views on potential changes considered by the MDWG, principally additional waste inputs and market sectors.

More information about the MDWG can be found on the CCS website [here](#), including the Terms of Reference and meeting summary notes.

PAS 100 compost testing

operators at the last CCS Producers' Forum and our MDWG will soon be issuing a survey to all operators to gather further views on specifics.

EU Fertiliser Product Regulations

On 15th July, The EU published new regulations for placing fertilising and other products on the internal EU market. The regulations focus on making use of recycled or organic products for fertiliser. At present, there are partially harmonised regulations for fertilisers made from inorganic material.

Products that are compliant with the requirements of the EU regulations can move freely within the internal EU market and help promote a circular economy. The initiative was identified as one of the key legislative proposals under the Circular Economy Action Plan.

EU Member states can choose to continue to implement their national rules and regulations.

The regulations set limits for several contaminants in EU marked fertiliser, e.g. a 60mg/KG limit of cadmium within organic and phosphate fertiliser. There are also certain requirements for input waste, treatment processes and techniques, and the fertilising products, ensuring that the products do not have an overall adverse impact on environmental or human health.

The EU Fertiliser Product Regulations will apply from 16th July 2022, three years after they came into effect.

Industry engagement

We have been attending meetings of the Agency's Biowaste Regulatory Forum (BRF) and CIWM's Biowaste Special Interest Group (Biowaste SIG) to keep informed of wider regulatory/technical issues and/or developments. These meetings

This summer, the CCS Approved Laboratories are going through their fifth round of annual audits. This is now a combined audit process with the laboratories assessed against a new set of Terms and Conditions. For two of the CCS Approved Laboratories, this will make the auditing process more efficient and for REAL, this has freed up resource to look into the development of a proficiency testing programme. This proficiency testing programme will be set up for tests specific to the scheme. We will soon be releasing the Tender Invitation Document for this development.

We have initiated a tender process for the appointment of a new Independent Laboratory Auditor. The auditor will be in place from the beginning of next year and will work closely with us over the next two years to continue monitoring performance. You can find the Tender Invitation Document [here](#) and we welcome submissions.



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provide the opportunity to promote the schemes and liaise with various industry bodies and DEFRA.

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