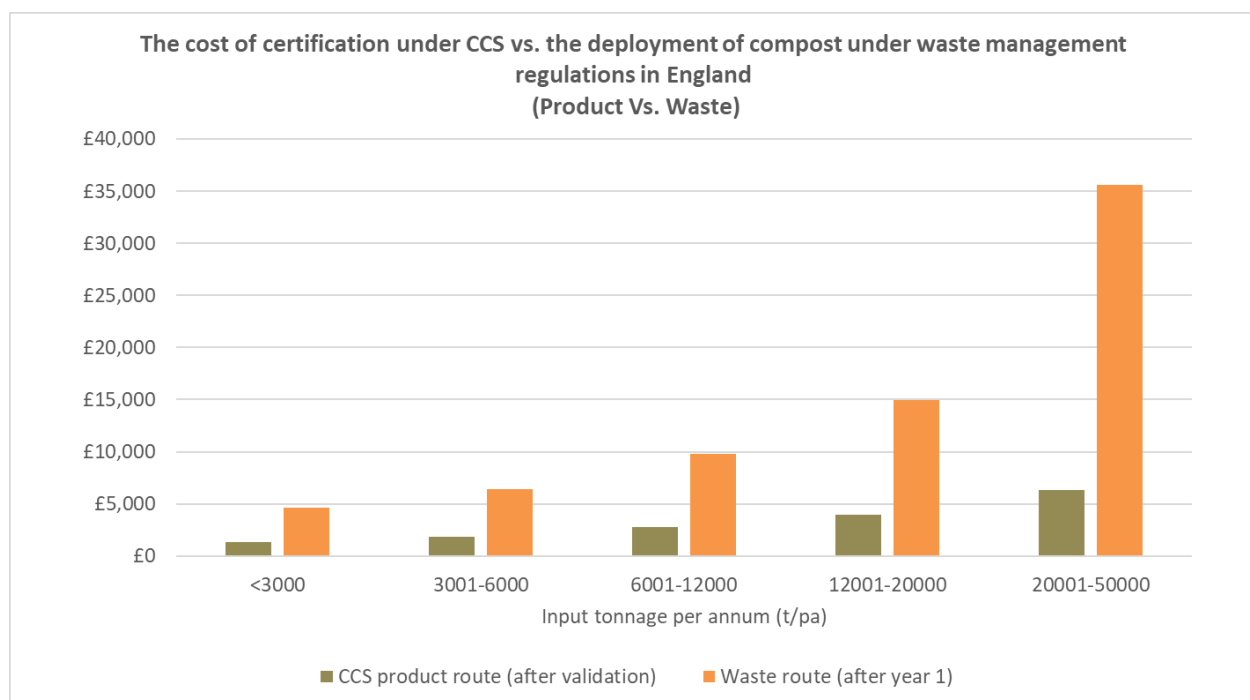


Application of compost to land as *quality compost vs. waste*

Cost Comparison - England

The graph below presents an indication of the average annual costs associated with certification of composts to renew 'product' status and average annual costs of deployment of 'waste' composts under waste management regulations in England.



Compost producers were assigned to categories based on their annual input tonnage as per the pricing structure of the scheme certification bodies. Costs for certification and land spreading of waste were calculated using the highest input value in each category. The largest portion of certified producers falls in the category of operators processing between 20,001 and 50,000 tonnes of organic waste per annum.

An operator processing 20,001-50,000 tpa would incur an annual cost of approximately £6,300 for independent certification against the end-of-waste criteria to renew their certification. The spreading of waste compost under waste regulations in England would cost approximately £35,600.

NB Note that the costs associated with certification and deployment depends on lots of different factors and are site/operation specific. These calculations were based on a number of assumptions and are indicative only.

Assumptions and supplementary information

Price for certification: Annual charge for renewal of certification by scheme certification bodies + annual Research Fee contribution to the Research Hub + laboratory testing for the full PAS 100 suite.

The graph presents average costs for each input category. The price for laboratory testing was calculated based on the testing requirements in PAS 100 and at the average price rate from quotations obtained from the approved analytical laboratories in England. The calculations did not assume failing batches, where specific or all mandatory tests would need to be repeated. The amount of compost output (t) was assumed to be 50% of the input (50% loss).

The revenue associated with sales of certified quality compost has not been taken into account and should be considered a cost incentive for Compost Certification Scheme applicants. One other widely recognised benefit for certified producers is that spreading can take place immediately, should a last-minute request for Quality product be received. This avoids any time lag in ensuring deployments are in place, as is necessary for waste compost.

Price for waste deployments: Annual environmental permit subsistence charge + deployment charge for each deployment + 2 samples and analysis of waste compost per year.

Price for waste analysis was advised and considered to be £350 per sample on average. The number of deployment applications was calculated from the amount of compost output, spreading rate, and maximum area for deployments. The spreading rate of waste compost was assumed to be 25 t/ha based on average green waste and food included waste compost application at maximum N loading. The maximum area of land for deployment was assumed to be 50 ha. Higher costs might be incurred if spreading less than 1250t / 50 ha per deployment.

The calculations did not account for additional costs for consultancy and the price of soil sampling and analysis.