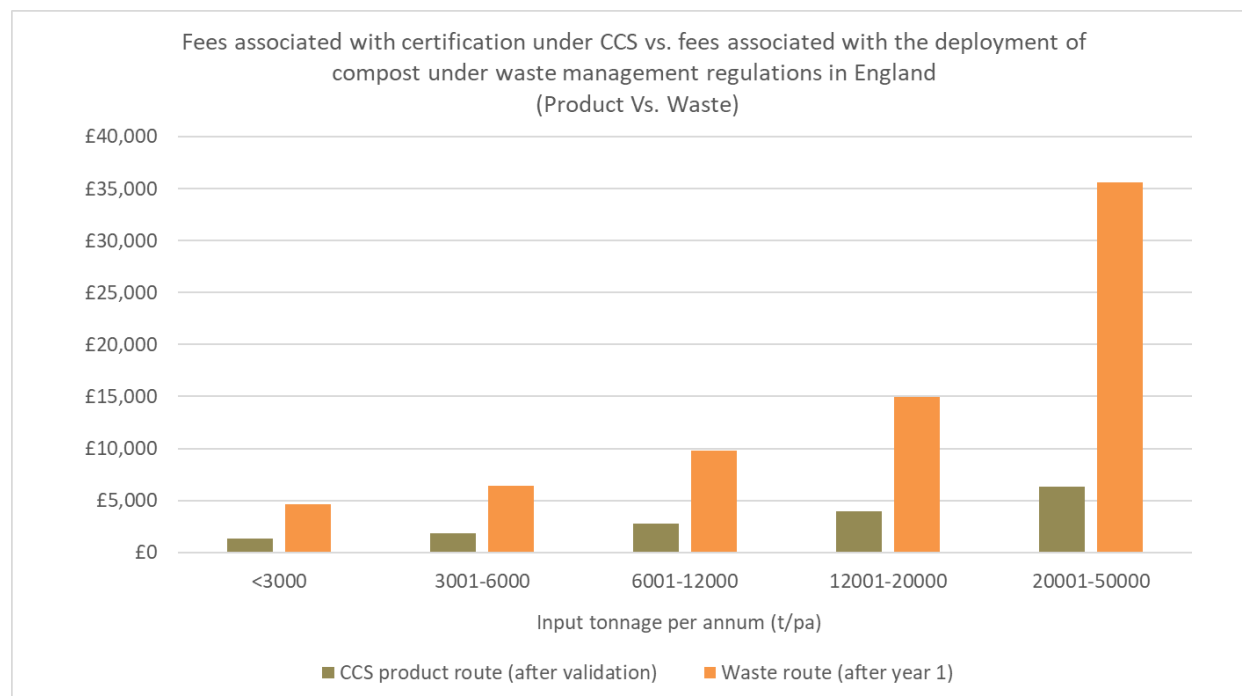


Application of compost to land as *quality compost vs. waste*

Fee Comparison - England

The graph below presents an indication of the average annual fees/charges associated with certification of composts to renew ‘product’ status and the average annual fees/charges associated with deployment of ‘waste’ composts under waste management regulations in England.



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

A producer processing 20,001-50,000 tpa incurs fees/charges of approximately £6,300 for independent certification against the end-of-waste criteria to renew their certification on an annual basis. The fees/charges associated with the spreading compost under waste management regulations in England amount to approximately £35,600 on an annual basis.

NB The total 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. The calculations only account for the required fees/charges associated with participating in the scheme ('product') and deploying 'waste' status compost.

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 fees/charges per year 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 amount of compost output (t) was assumed to be 50% of the input (50% loss). The calculations did not assume failing batches, where specific or all mandatory tests would need to be repeated.

The calculations also did not account for additional costs associated with achieving and maintaining certification e.g., an increase in the number of staff litter picking to ensure good product quality, the resource needed to ensure ongoing compliance (time spent by technical members of staff), etc.

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 producers is that spreading of certified compost 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.

The price for waste compost analysis was advised to be £350 per sample on average. The number of deployment applications was calculated from the amount of compost tonnage, 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 fees/charges might be incurred if spreading less than 1250t / 50 ha per deployment.

Overall, the calculations also did not account for additional costs associated with consultancy and soil sampling and analysis.