



Compost Certification Scheme

Producers' Forum meeting on 17th Nov 2014, York

NOTES

1) INTRODUCTION OF COMPOST PRODUCERS

There were 18 compost producers at the first Forum meeting. They represented operators from different parts of the country, using different composting technologies and supplying composts to different end markets including agriculture, amateur horticulture and growing medium sectors.

2) LEGISLATION/REGULATION UPDATES

The update considered only the most relevant areas of legislative and regulatory changes. We covered the EU Fertilisers Regulations and the implications it is very likely to have for the Scheme. Also, Jenny Grant explained the changes in the recently updated & published Quality Meat Scotland (QMS) standard. QMS has declared compost as safe for farmers to use and allows compost to be applied to land provided they are PAS100 certified, which includes meeting additional physical contaminants restrictions specified in the new QMS standard.

Finally we discussed the recent and future WRAP's projects. As the final reports of the two most recent projects had not been published before the meeting, the main focus was on the works' objectives and how they would feed into the Scheme development. The project included:

- Compost stability: Impact and assessment;
- Developing a laboratory Proficiency framework;
- Sampling and Testing for PC in PAS Compost and Digestates, and
- Screened out side-streams from composting and AD operations: Guidance on potential markets.

Some operators expressed a strong interest in the sampling and testing for PC project. Another comment considered that although it is useful to tackle end product quality problems, there was a feeling that WRAP work could also cover some areas of the feedstock contamination issues.

3) HOW THE SCHEME IS RUN

Virginia Graham explained the recent changes in the governance of the CCS, following its transfer from ORG to REAL. As part of the Scheme update, Virginia Graham explained how the Scheme is run under REAL management and outlined the recent work we have undertaken. This includes publication of the dedicated CCS web site, introduction of the Scheme rules review process and developing a framework for monitoring the performances of laboratories appointed to undertake testing under CCS (Terms and Conditions for laboratories appointed to undertake testing under the CCS, further independent audits and inter lab trials). The operators welcomed the changes and followed up with an informative discussion which provided lots of useful feedback.

4) DISCUSSION

This part of the meeting was shaped by the operators which triggered lots of very interesting & interactive debates. We discussed the on-going feedstock contamination issues, relationships with local authorities and market recognition of quality composts and the certification mark. An interesting point was made about the possibility of a different interpretation of the EU Fertilisers Regulations by Scotland and England.

5) FUTURE PLANS FOR THE PRODUCERS' FORUM

A draft version of Terms and Reference (ToRs) for the Producers' Forum was presented and discussed by Virginia Graham. It was explained that a representative of the Forum can attend the CCS Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting or if it is not possible a paper discussing a specific issue could be submitted to the TAC. There were no further comments on the ToRs.

6) DATE OF NEXT MEETING – SUMMER 2015

The next meeting of the Forum will take place in a different part of the country which will be confirmed nearer the time. More information will be available on the CCS web site.