NEW PUBLICATION

ACR+

Managing Biodegradable Household Waste : What prospects for European Local Authorities?

ACR+

WHY THIS REPORT ?

Biowaste makes out an important (between 1/3 and ½) and relatively homogeneous fraction of the European household bin. Its characteristics makes it problematic in landfills, where it generates methane and leachates. So that a European Directive requires today that each Member State reduces drastically the quantites of biowaste which are landfilled : up to –65% by weight by 2016 in comparison of the quantities produced in 1995.

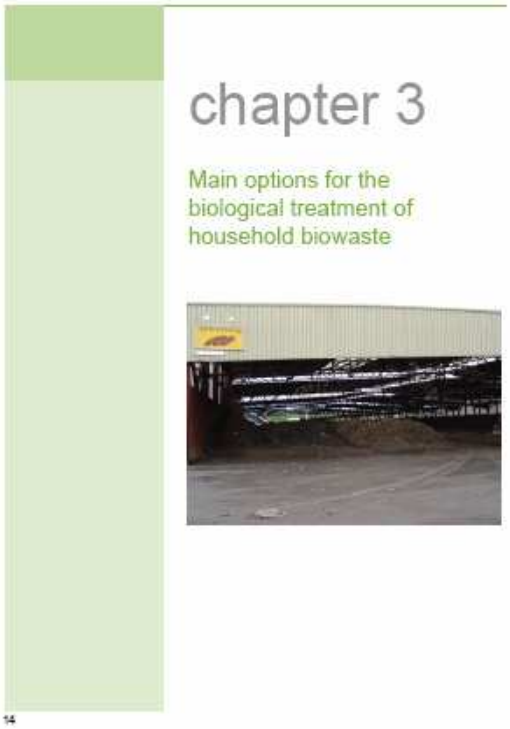
But biowaste is also an important source of organic material that forms the core of life and which our soils are often seriously lacking today.

What to do with these waste, how to collect and treat them ? Answers may vary, as they depend on the characteristics of the waste arisings, of the rural or urban character or the area, of the possibilities to manage or not kitchen or garden waste together or not with other flows… The experiences of cities and regions presented in this report place a value on initiative at the local level and show that it is possible to sustainably manage biodegradable waste while addressing issues of quality and transparency.

STRUCTURE & CONTENT

Regulatory, economical and technical information, benefiting from the contributions of numerous experts in the scope of several meetings organised on that purpose by ACR+, is presented around 8 questions forming the 8 chapters of the document :

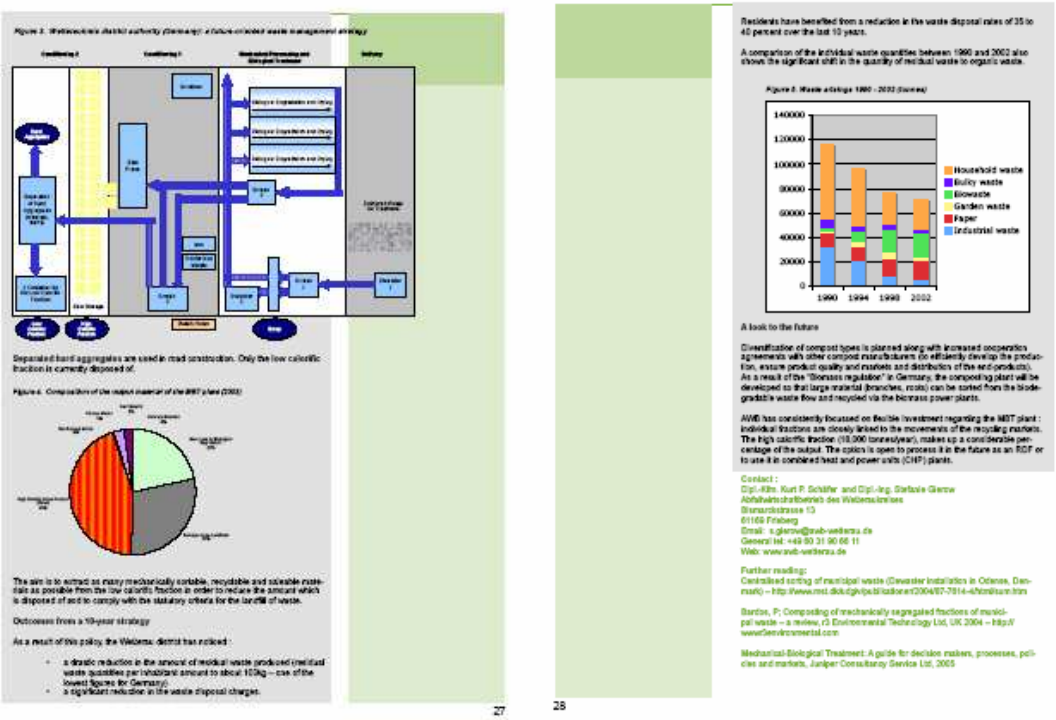
1. Why worry about the management of the biodegradable fraction of household waste?
2. What does this fraction consist of?
3. What are the principal biological treatment options for biodegradable waste?
4. How can authorities go from a waste management to a product manufacturing perspective?
5. What are the options for collection ?
6. Why encourage decentralised composting?
7. What are the management costs for biodegradable wastes?
8. What are the potential tools for an integrated biodegradable waste management strategy at local level?



The content is articulated around 4 levels of text :

- the main text
- summary in the margin
- highlighted practical case-studies
- bibliographical references « to go further ».

Numerous graphs, tables and pictures illustrate also the content.



AMBITION & INTEREST OF THE DOCUMENT

The report **« Managing Biodegradable Household Waste : What prospects for European Local Authorities ? »** seeks :

- to increase reflection while expressing some of the questions that European local and regional authorities (LRAs) ask (or should ask) in relation to the management of biodegradable household waste;
- to provide food for thought while highlighting the positive attitudes and imagination of European LRAs;
- to strengthen the knowledge and skills of local and regional actors.

ORDERING THE DOCUMENT

« Managing Biodegradable Household Waste : What prospects for European Local Authorities ? » is available in three languages (English, French and Spanish) on CD-ROM.

It is free for ACR+ members. For the non-members of the association, it can be ordered at a price of 60,- euros at ACR+ secretariat.
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The Association of Cities and Regions for Recycling and sustainable Resource management (ACR+) is a network of about 80 members, mainly local and regional authorities with the shared aim to promote the sustainable management of waste and resources, encouraging prevention at source, reuse, recycling and all forms of recovery.

The Association welcomes political decision-makers and technicians who wish to share their expertise and play a proactive role in the development of municipal waste management policies and techniques.

ACR+ is also a potential partner for all stakeholders concerned with waste, eco-consumption, dematerialisation, et cetera.

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