

ACR+ tackles biowaste head on

Despite the ongoing debate between the European Parliament and the Commission about the legal instrument that should be used at EU level to deal with biowaste generation – either the existing instruments, in particular the Waste Framework Directive (WFD) and the Landfilling Directive, or a new specific Directive for biowaste – EU institutions agree at least on two essential things:

- biowaste is one of the priority flows to deal with in Europe (about one third of Europeans' garbage, with a 10 per cent increase potential until 2020)
- biowaste management must comply with the waste management hierarchy defined in the WFD (prevention, preparation for re-use, recycling, energy recovery, disposal)



ACR+ has made biowaste prevention one of its priorities and has taken part to several European projects in line with the EU institutions' objectives. Two projects are aimed at gathering and disseminating to cities and regions good practices for waste prevention: Miniwaste (www.miniwaste.eu) and Pre-waste (www.acrplus.org). Another project is the European Week for Waste Reduction, the European annual rendez-vous for waste prevention, where participants implement awareness raising actions about waste prevention, including biowaste prevention (www.ewwr.eu).

Furthermore, when considering biowaste, it is important to adopt a holistic approach, in particular with the view to take into account the consequences of biowaste for climate change and cross management of sewage sludge. For cases studies about the minimisation of greenhouse gas emissions coming from waste, check the LG Action project. And save the date for the ACR+ conference in Budapest on 3-5 March 2011 on sewage sludge. For more information about Miniwaste contact Philippe Micheaux, ACR+ Project Manager (pmn@acrplus.org).

European Week for Waste Reduction

After a successful first edition of the European Week for Waste Reduction (EWWR) in 2009 (2672 actions in 20 territories across 10 countries), this year the Week is reaching even more countries with even more organisers deciding to get involved in its implementation. In total, the 2010 edition will be coordinated by 30 organisers from 16 countries.

The organisers' role at this stage is to promote the EWWR in their territory, that is to say, contact the local government, NGOs, businesses, schools and other potential participants (so-called 'project developers') to encourage them to participate in the EWWR, and provide them with all the various communication tools.

Now that the organisers have been appointed, project developers can propose the actions they want to put forward during November 20-28, 2010 to the appointed organisers in their area (or to the EWWR Secretariat, enacted by ACR+, if there is no organisers for their territory). The initiatives covered by the EWWR are raising awareness of waste prevention for the public - whether few or many, for corporate staff, for consumers, etc. These actions can take different forms, such as courses or seminars that focus on waste prevention, composting initiatives in buildings and schools, information booths at the entrance of supermarkets, etc. Check the EWWR website for more ideas of actions, tips and practical information. Project developers can register their actions until November 5.

The European Week for Waste Reduction is a three year project supported by the LIFE+ Programme of the European Commission until 2011.

For more information visit: www.ewwr.eu

For more information about the EWWR contact Philippe Micheaux
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