

Biowaste Treatment Sector 2016

Overview

Permitted sites



797 regulated sites:

- 591 waste sites
- 206 installations

Main activities:

320



Composting

200



Anaerobic Digestion (AD)

185



Waste Water Treatment

25



Mechanical Biological Treatment

Industry facts



3,600 employees



£720 million market value



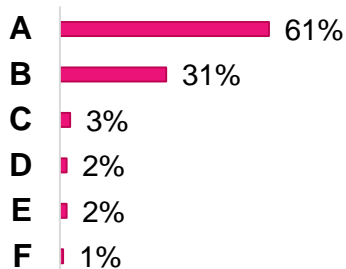
£17 billion of food is wasted per year. This could be used to create energy



Annual feedstock for AD and composting is over 36 million tonnes

Performance

Compliance ratings



13 persistently poor performing sites

Pollution incidents



Serious 20
Minor 370

Permit breaches



Serious 56
Minor 677

Annual emissions

What happens to waste from the sector?

Total = 11.4 million tonnes

Incineration – 20%

Landfill – 13%

Recovery – 21%

Transfer – 3%

Treatment – 39%

Other – 4%

Industry focus

10
TWh

The electricity generated by AD in the UK

70%

The proportion of waste recovered from AD and composting which is used in agriculture

Corporate outcomes 2016 to 2020

Our objective is for:

- A cleaner, healthier environment which benefits people and the economy;
- A nation better protected against natural threats and hazards, with strong response and recovery capabilities;
- A higher visibility, stronger partnerships and local choices

Our approach	How we will put this into practice
<p>We will make sure more permit holders in the sector are complying with the regulations and we will take tough action if they don't. We want to see more permit holders performing at a consistently high level.</p> <p>We will continue to work within current EU legislation until such time new legislation is implemented after the European Union exit.</p>	<p>We will concentrate our compliance resources on the permit activities that pose the highest risk.</p> <p>We will carry out assessments at permitted sites to check compliance with the relevant legislation and take prompt action if they are not.</p> <p>We will work with permit holders to identify the root causes of poor performance and put in place steps to rectify.</p> <p>We will use our evidence and permit data to understand the permits which require a permit review so that they minimise impact on the environment.</p> <p>We will keep permit holders and trade associations updated on how they may be affected.</p>
<p>We will protect the environment and public health by having accurately described and characterised waste which is removed from businesses.</p> <p>We will ensure waste goes to the correct permitted sites. The final outputs from permitted sites shall be fit for purpose and meet the equivalent safety standards of BSI (British Standards Institution) and the Quality Protocol.</p>	<p>We will provide advice and guidance to permit holders on how waste should be described using the Duty of Care Code of Practice.</p> <p>We will promote the Right Waste Right Place initiative with our permit holders.</p> <p>We will engage with operators to ensure waste is accurately described and recorded.</p> <p>Where regulations are being breached we will take prompt and appropriate action.</p>
<p>We will protect the environment and public health with a consistent and proportionate regulatory approach.</p>	<p>We will work closely with permit holders and our Trade Associations and other stakeholders.</p> <p>We will develop an annual plan of where to focus our regulatory effort.</p> <p>We will actively recover unpaid subsistence charges so that our compliance assessment work is funded.</p> <p>We will regularly review our permits to ensure they meet the Best Available Techniques Reference document and other appropriate measures.</p> <p>We will review the results of our anaerobic digestion audit and share the results of best practice with our Trade Associations and permit holders.</p> <p>We will review our monitoring guidance and implement consistency across the sector.</p>
<p>We will make sure permit holders are more resilient to climate change.</p>	<p>We will provide advice and guidance on mitigating the effects of climate change.</p>
<p>We will implement the outputs of the Strategic Charges Review to ensure we recover the correct charges to fund our regulatory work.</p>	<p>We will keep permit holders and trade associations updated on how they may be affected.</p>
<p>We are transforming our information systems and supporting guidance to be more customer-focused to support businesses and make it as easy as possible for them to do the right thing.</p>	<p>We will listen to those we regulate and communicate clearly with them making our guidance and advice clear and easy to understand. We are digital by default, to make transactions with us as easy as possible, while recognising that some businesses prefer more traditional approaches.</p>

Data Sources:

The Environment Agency holds records for the number and type of regulated sites, the number of pollution incidents and permit breaches, and the compliance rating for each regulated site. The number of serious pollution incidents include both permitted and unpermitted sites in this sector. See the [2016 datasets](#) that support this report.

Details of the type and amount of waste received and removed is collected from regulated sites which undertake waste activities under the Waste Framework Directive.

Industry data has been collected from a variety of sources including industry trade organisations and publicly available resources.