



Quality support for waste-derived products

Welcome to EQual

Autumn 2013

EQual is a major LIFE+ programme that will support and encourage the use of products made from waste. It is being led by the Environment Agency, with partners CIWM, Energy UK, ESA, the Northern Ireland Environment Agency, the Organics Recycling Group (part of REA) and Rijkswaterstaat, the Dutch environmental regulator. The output from the programme will help companies seeking to achieve end of waste status for their waste-derived products, support a more consistent and streamlined regulatory approach, and improve end market confidence.

Deriving value from waste by turning it back into useful products is an increasingly important activity for both economic and environmental reasons. Whether the rationale is to increase resource efficiency, improve the bottom line, reduce reliance on landfill or diversify into new markets, the EQual programme will offer support to businesses in a range of industry sectors while at the same time ensuring that waste-derived products are safe and fit for purpose.



The EQual programme is made possible with the contribution of the Life+ financial instrument of the European Community

EQual programme update

Quality Protocol web tool goes public

The Quality Protocol Checker web tool went public last month, launching in prototype form at the RWM in partnership with CIWM 2013 show in Birmingham. The launch is the beginning of a six-month open testing phase, allowing operators to use the tool and provide feedback to the EQual project team so that it can be fine-tuned to be as useful and easy to use as possible. Feedback at the show was positive, with daily demos on the CIWM & ESA stand and plenty of media interest.

Quality Protocols (QPs) set out End-of-Waste criteria for the production and use of a product from a specific waste type. Developed initially for compost and secondary aggregate producers, the QP Checker web tool offers users an easy, step-by-step guide for companies to check whether their waste-derived products meet the relevant QP requirements.

Aimed at encouraging the production and uptake of QP compliant

End of Waste in the news

Revised Quality Protocol for Aggregates imminent

A revised version of the QP covering the production of aggregates from inert construction, demolition and excavation waste (CDEW) is due to be published towards the end of this month. The review of the QP, which was originally launched in 2005, gives absolute clarity on acceptable waste types and provides clear guidance for testing, both of which improvements are designed to make it easier for businesses to ensure they comply with QP criteria.

New Quality Protocol for

products, the tool will save time and money by providing valuable guidance to operators before they go through any formal process of being audited against the requirements of a QP and any underpinning specifications (e.g. PAS 100 for compost). Feedback to date from industry operators has been very positive.

"The QP Checker for aggregates is a very straightforward and easy to use tool. It certainly gave us a nudge and a prod in a couple of areas," says John Lay, Product Quality Director for Cement and Building Products at Cemex. "If this was made available to all it would certainly raise the bar and ensure compliance to the requirements, to the benefit of all responsible businesses like CEMEX and the environment."

Jeremy Jacobs of the Organics Recycling Group (part of REA) added: "Our members have been involved in the development and initial testing of the web tool and will find it a very helpful and efficient way of checking compliance."

While initially tailored to compost and aggregates, the intention is to work with key industry bodies to expand the web tool to cover other QPs over time. Interest has already been expressed by operators and producers working with other QP-related waste streams, including end-of-life tyres.

Please test the prototype QP checker and send us your feedback. It should take around 30 minutes. You can find the web tool and instructions for feedback at www.qpchecker.info

EQual agriculture field trials



biomethane nears completion

A QP for biomethane is due to be published by the end of the year. There is already a QP for the solid and liquid outputs (digestate) from anaerobic digestion but not for biogas produced from the treatment of waste. The new QP will not only provide regulatory clarity about the point at which biomethane is no longer regarded as a waste, it will also help to establish a consistent set of standards to support direct injection of waste-derived biomethane into the gas grid and use in other appliances.

Glass regulation comes into force

The new EC End of Waste Regulation for glass cullet came into force on 11 June. The regulations state that only glass which is a suitable quality for re-melting into bottles can achieve end of waste status. Guidance on the Regulation is expected from Defra shortly and the text of the Regulation can be found at <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/regulation/129311.aspx>

Paper protest

The Confederation of European Paper Industries (CEPI), on behalf of the European Paper Industry, has recently set out its position on the EC's proposed End-of-Waste (EoW) criteria for paper, claiming that the proposal fails to address the objectives of increasing the quality and availability of paper for recycling. It staged a day-long protest in front of the main European Commission building by constructing a 'barricade' of seven large bales of paper for recycling.

Latest progress on EoW criteria for composts and digestates

In July, the EC's Joint Research Council issued



The EQual field trials are all underway, comprising agricultural trials of poultry litter ash (PLA) and paper sludge on arable soils and construction field trials focused on the use of processed incinerator bottom ash (IBAA) and pulverised fuel ash (PFA) as secondary aggregates.

Last month, the EEqual Poultry Litter Ash and Paper Sludge Steering Groups visited one of the agriculture field trials sites to see the trials in action and for discussions with the contractors carrying out the research.

Support for EoW decision making takes shape

The Definition of Waste web tool, the second tool being developed by the EEqual programme, is well underway, with initial user testing scheduled for the end of this year. When launched, the web tool will help any business wishing to establish whether its waste can be classified as a byproduct or can be turned into a product that achieves end-of-waste status.

The web tool is designed to provide a step by step guide that takes users through the decision making process, at the end of which the tool will provide an assessment of whether the waste-derived material is a by-product, achieves end of waste criteria or remains a waste.

Information and guidance to support users of the web tool is currently being prepared, for example in the Human Health and Environmental Impact Risk Assessment section where the team is looking to see how best to include information on key standards, regulations and substances of interest. In parallel, the tool is also being tailored for use by Rijkswaterstaat (the Netherlands' Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment), the main project partner on this part of the EEqual programme.

A prototype of the DoW web tool for external user testing is expected to be available in Spring 2014.

its draft final technical report for feedback by 23rd September 2013. The Council will now finalise and submit its technical report and recommended EoW criteria to the Commission, which may then draft a Commission Decision and submit it to the European Parliament for debate and voting.

REA Biogas has put together a table comparing the current ADQP/PAS110 requirements with the EU EoW proposals which can be found [here](#)

The ORG response to the draft technical report can be found [here](#)

What is End of Waste?

The concept of End of Waste – defining at what point a waste ceases to be a waste and can be classed as a product – began to take shape with the publication by the European Commission of its Thematic Strategy on the prevention and recycling of waste in 2005.

As well as reducing the negative impact on the environment of waste throughout its life-span – from production to disposal, via recycling – the strategy aimed to develop an approach where every item of waste is seen not only as a source of pollution to be reduced, but also as a potential resource to be exploited.

Accompanying the strategy was a proposal for a framework directive, which became the Waste Framework Directive (WFD). The WFD introduced the mechanism of end-of-waste criteria, the objective of which is: “to remove the administrative burdens of waste legislation for safe and high-quality waste materials, thereby facilitating recycling.”

In the UK, EoW is determined using one of three methods:

- Compliance with EU End of Waste Regulations (the legislative platform for the EoW criteria being developed by the

EQual goes to Europe

A key objective of the EQual programme is to share best practice and create a common language on end of waste across multiple EU member states. To this end the project partners have been busy presenting at several major international conferences including the Conference on the Implementation & Enforcement of EU Environmental Legislation in Malta, the 2013 Sardinia Waste Management & Landfill Symposium. and International Solid Waste Association (ISWA) World Congress in Vienna.

Papers will be available on the EQual project website shortly.

STOP PRESS

Read what the resource management media had to say about EQual's QP checker web tool:

Resource.uk.com

Rebnews.com

Letsrecycle.com

Commission). Currently, scrap metal and glass are the only two materials that have been completed and have regulations).

- Meeting a Quality Protocol (QP). The QP programme has produced 11 [QPs](#). We are currently working on further QPs, including IBA, Biomethane and Steel Slag.
- A material-specific submission to the Environment Agency's End of Waste Panel (or appropriate regulating authority in the case of the devolved UK governments).

For more information about the EQual programme go to

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/equal>
or call 0117 934 4612

