



## **EQual - Ensuring Quality of waste-derived products to achieve resource efficiency**

EQual is an innovative demonstration programme, supported by LIFE+ and seven key partner organisations, which will encourage the appropriate use of waste-derived products. It will achieve this by providing tools, techniques and information to improve decision-making, and increase confidence in waste-derived products that meet end of waste status.

The Environment Agency are leading the programme with six partners who are, Agentschap NL, The Chartered Institution of Wastes management, Association for Organics Recycling, Environmental Services Association, Northern Ireland Environment Agency and Energy UK.

### **Developing an end of waste e-tool**

#### **What it will do**

There is no set way for business to demonstrate whether their waste derived product has achieved end of waste status, in accordance with the Waste Framework Directive. However there are guidance documents such as Quality Protocols in the UK, and end of waste regulations published by the European Commission which can help with this assessment. The e-tool being designed will be especially useful for those whose waste derived product does not fit within guidance currently available.

The e-tool will seek to encourage waste recovery and recycling; improved resource efficiency and reduced regulatory burden on business; as well as offering a potential competitive advantage.

Through the e-tool the aim is to:

- Improve current practice and consistency. Users must meet a set of key criteria in order to fulfil the end of waste requirements.
- Encourage more businesses to re-use and recycle waste materials rather than disposed of them, by showing users how to assess the potential use of that waste material.
- Provide clear and consistent information to regulators and other interested parties.
- Provide efficiencies to both businesses and regulators by clarifying the information required to make an end of waste decision, and provide a bespoke tool to work through the process.

#### **More information about the e-tool**

The e-tool will be web-based enabling businesses to make their own end of waste decisions. The e-tool will evaluate whether a material is a *by-product* (Article 5 of the Waste Framework Directive) or whether end of waste has been achieved (Article 6 of the Waste Framework Directive).

End of waste decisions vary in their complexity, but essentially the material must not cause adverse impacts on either the environment or human health, there needs to be a market for it and it must meet a certain standard or specification as appropriate. This e-tool will help users make robust decisions about many different types of waste-derived products.



### How to get involved

A prototype of the e-tool will be developed during 2012, and more detailed trials and evaluation of the tool will take place during 2013-2014. We are working with a wide range of organisations, including industry and business, consultants, regulators and environmental groups during this time. The intention is to provide a tool that is taken up in the UK and the Netherlands initially, and can then be adopted and adapted by other European Union members.

Please contact us on the email address or telephone number supplied below if you would like to be involved.

For further information about the EQual Programme please contact:

[equal@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:equal@environment-agency.gov.uk)

call 0117 934 4612, or visit our web-site:

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/equal>