

Biowaste treatment sector: key statistics 2015

Sector Overview

The main activities are:



Compost



Anaerobic Digestion (AD)



Waste Water Treatment (WWT)



Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT)

Some sites have multiple permits with multiple activities.



£ 720 million market value pa

Annual Feedstocks

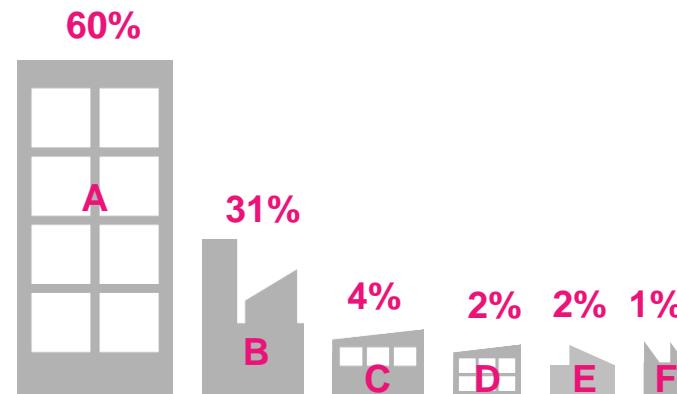
Compost - 5m+ tonnes
MBT - 3m+ tonnes

Feedstock for anaerobic digestion = 31m tonnes
Breakdown:

Farm waste	1.5
Industrial Residue	6.0
Food Waste	2.1
Residual Waste	0.6
Sewage Sludge	21

Performance

Site Compliance Ratings



X 20 persistently poor performing sites

Permit Breaches

Serious	73
Minor	865

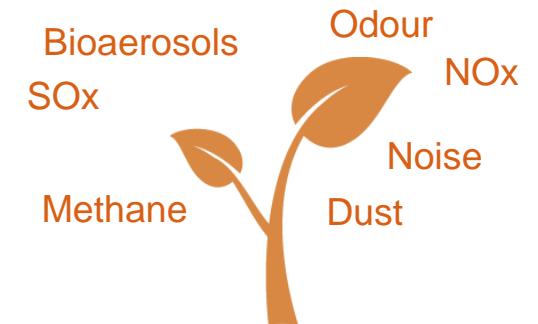


Pollution incidents at sites



Environmental Performance

The most significant environmental impact from this sector



The government made a commitment to work towards a zero waste economy.

Electricity Generation from AD

On target to produce 3-58 TWH by 2020

Enough to power 1 million homes

Anaerobic digestion which uses waste to generate energy is an important part of this.



70%

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

Corporate Outcome

We will support sustainable growth by working with businesses to help them comply with regulatory requirements, whilst continuing to improve the environment and public health. Measuring the impact of their activities using compliance assessment, data and intelligence, holding them to account where necessary but helping those who are trying to do the right thing.

Objective	Intervention
We prevent poor performers and ensure lessons learned are shared and acted upon.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will endeavour to undertake compliance assessment of all permitted sites in the sector to enable our resources to be targeted at sites of greatest risk. Ensure sites take appropriate measures to control the treatment process preventing emissions. We review permits as evidence presents to indicate permit review. Emissions are monitored, reported and minimized.
Waste is accurately described. 'Right waste right place.'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will review permits and take appropriate action promptly if evidence suggests they may be being breached. Work with partners to disrupt supply of waste to poor performing sites, seek to remove permits from persistently poor performing sites. Embed best and appropriate techniques. Take a 'waste stream' approach looking up stream to ensure producers are sending their wastes to appropriate sites and operators make appropriate acceptance checks. Run campaigns to promote awareness and accurate description. When issues are identified run awareness initiatives to promote consistent procedures.
We will seek to prevent and tackle pollution incidents when they arise.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Targeted compliance activity at sites with a history of serious incidents. Review data to determine root cause of incidents and accidents across the sector. Work with Trade Associations, sharing pollution incident data and lessons learned to improve standards of design, process control and management.
Our regulatory approach is consistent and proportionate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet with Trade Associations and Operators and respond to feedback on consistency issues. Carry out targeted inspections or audits based on risk. We will recover unpaid charges. Ensure that sites take appropriate measures to reduce environmental impacts. Regularly review permits to ensure sites operate to the highest standards. Implement findings of Anaerobic Digestion Audit project. Embed Best Available Techniques (BAT) and BAT Reference Benchmarks, ensuring best practice is followed meeting EU requirements. Improve monitoring guidance to ensure consistent emission monitoring.
Greater resilience to climate change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check sites are climate change ready in terms of infrastructure (e.g. flood preparedness). Best practice shared and embedded.

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 pollution incidents include both permitted and unpermitted sites in this sector.

Substance release and waste transfer data is collected from sites that operate under a Part A(1) environmental permit and form part of the Environment Agency's Pollution Inventory. Details of the type and amount of waste received 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.