



# The Role of Bio-waste in the Emerging Circular Economy

## Creating new jobs from managing bio-waste

John van Haeff

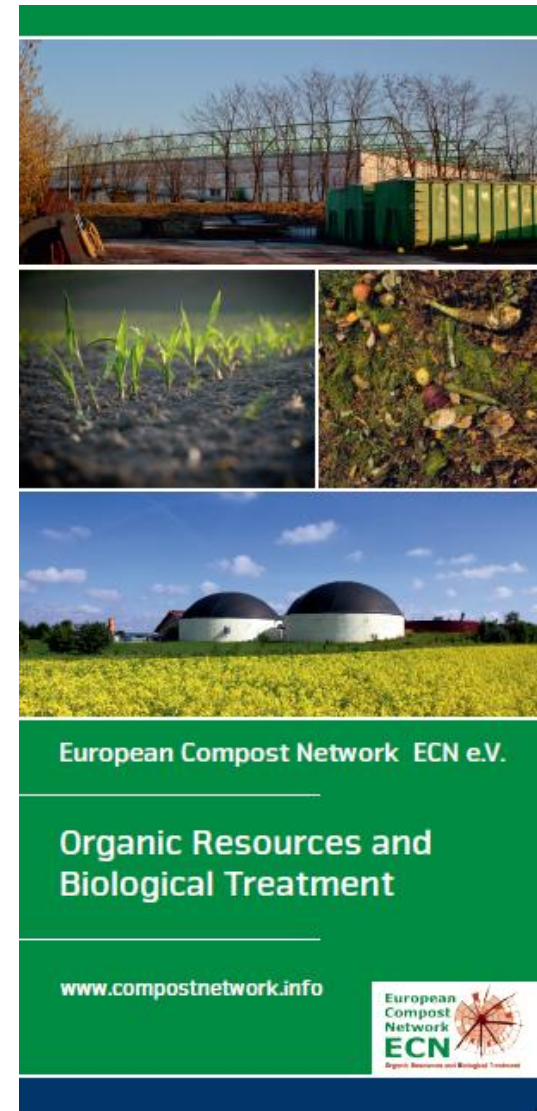
Chair of European Compost Network

24 June 2015, Brussels

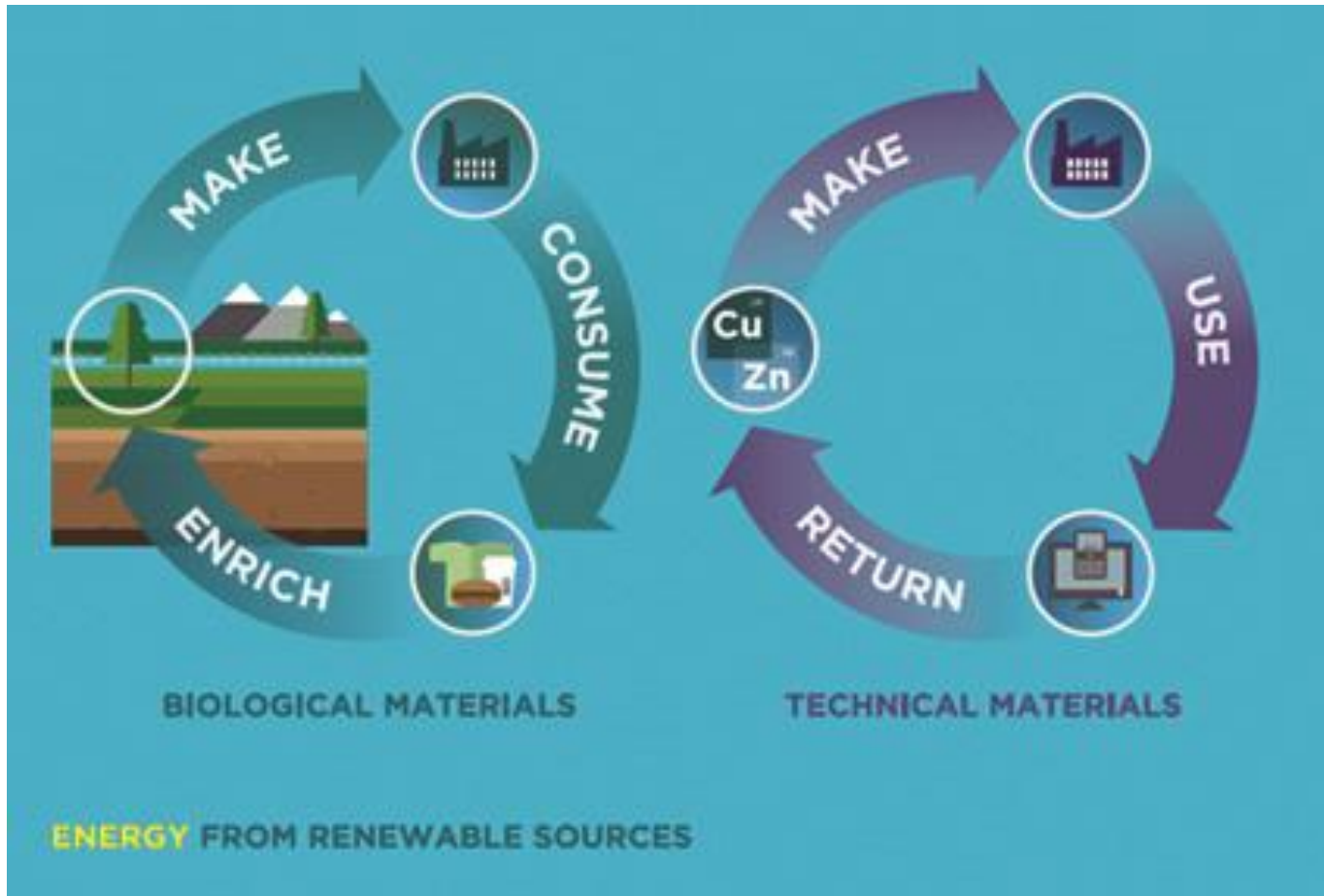
# The European Compost Network

- Network for the organic waste recycling sector in Europe
- Promoting sustainable recycling practices in composting, anaerobic digestion and bioeconomy
- Turning separately collected organic waste into products: compost, digestate, biogas, bio-based chemicals, etc.

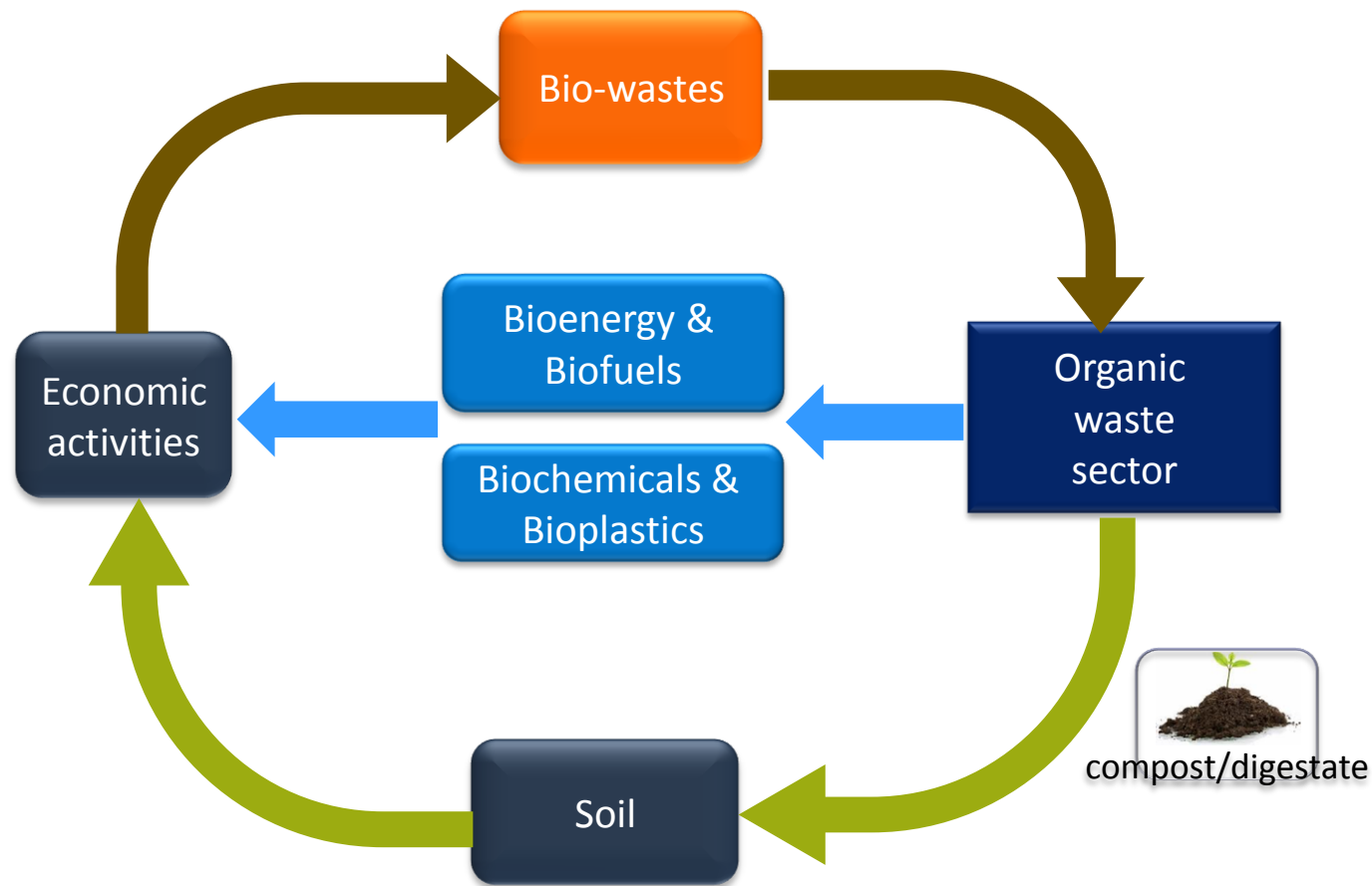
**ECN represents over 2000 treatment plants with a capacity of 20 million tonnes of bio-waste per year**



# The Circular Economy



# A sustainable biological cycle



# Potential and Separate collection of Bio-waste in Europe

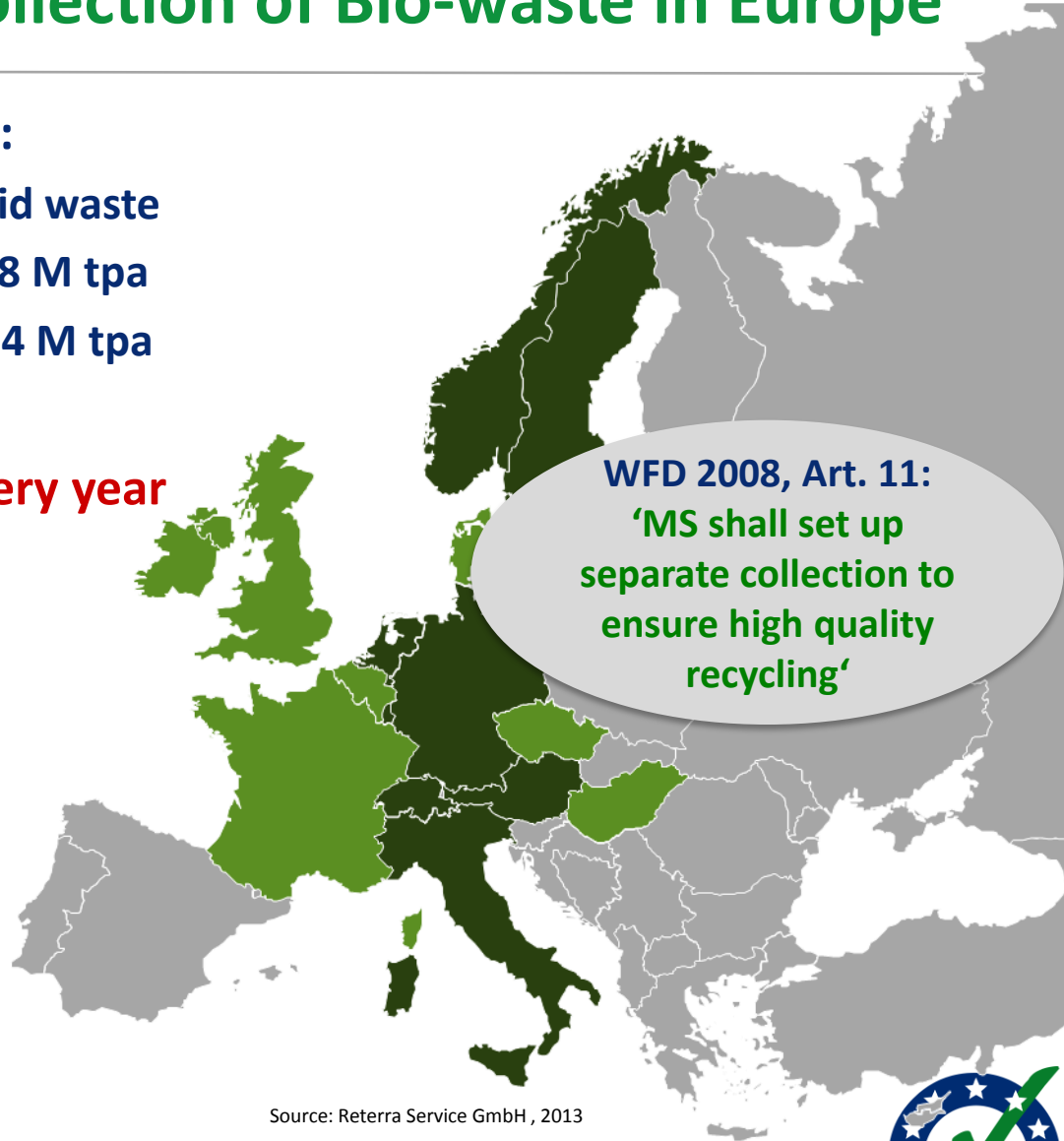
## Bio-waste a relevant waste stream:

- 20-40 % bio-waste in municipal solid waste
- Potential of bio-waste in Europe: 88 M tpa
- Recycling of bio-waste in Europe: 24 M tpa

> 50 M t of bio-waste is wasted every year

WFD 2008, Art. 11:  
'MS shall set up  
separate collection to  
ensure high quality  
recycling'

- Separate collection and composting/digestion of biowaste
- Separate collection of biowaste in preparation/implementation
- Only limited collection of biowaste



Source: Reterra Service GmbH, 2013

# Resource Potential of Bio-waste

- **Soil application:** production of organic fertilisers and soil improver
- **Application in horticulture:** replacement of peat in growing media
- **Contribution to renewable energy:** production of biogas for green power and biomethane
- **Contribute to the Bio-economy:** production of bio-based products, e.g. biochemicals, bioplastics, fibres

# Growth and Job Creation

Employment in the organics recycling sector: 1 full-time equivalent per 2.500 - 5,000 ton of bio-waste

Expecting an additional collection of 50 million tonnes of bio-waste

► create 10,000 - 20,000 in new green jobs

**Bio-waste recycling through composting and anaerobic digestate and becoming part of the bio-economy created new local jobs**

# EU Policy Recommendations

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- Full implementation of waste legislation ► Respecting the waste hierarchy
- Obligation for separate collection of bio-waste and setting recycling targets for bio-waste ► 50% bio-waste recycling in 2025
- Setting End-of-Waste Criteria for compost and digestate ► Sustainable market for bio-based, quality products

**Sustainable management of bio-waste plays a key role in implementing CIRCULAR ECONOMY and in achieving a RESOURCE-EFFICIENT SOCIETY in Europe**



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Thank you for your attention!

Info: [www.compostnetwork.info](http://www.compostnetwork.info)

