



Announcement of Research Project

“To Develop an Industry Led Draft Quality Standard for Source Separated Biodegradable Municipal Waste Derived Compost”

September 2006

It is widely recognised that market development is a key element in the development of the composting industry in Ireland. A key element in market development is the need for a quality standard for compost. Cré will develop a draft industry compost quality standard for source separated biodegradable municipal waste derived compost in an ERTDI (Environmental Research Technological Development and Innovation Programme) research project funded by the Environmental Protection Agency. Cré gratefully acknowledges the funding from the EPA.

The project proposes to develop a desktop draft standard in consultation with the composting sector (producers and users) and regulators. At this stage the project steering committee has had it's first meeting and includes representatives from the Market Development Group, Department of Environment, Heritage, and Local Government, Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Agriculture and Food, National Standards Association of Ireland and Cré.

The project will conduct a desktop evaluation and statistical analysis of compost quality results based on compost laboratories databases of compost results.

When the results are statistically analysed, the average compost values will be determined for green waste and biowaste compost.

This will be followed by a technical appraisal of published compost quality standards from different countries in consultation with organisations in Europe who have developed compost standards already. At the end of this process making reference to the known quality of Irish composts, a first draft standard specification for compost in Ireland will be developed.

Then there will be extensive consultation of the draft standard with all stakeholders including users, producers, and regulators through two workshops. After each workshop, the draft standard will be amended to produce a final standard. The project started in September 2006 and will finish in May 2007.

This project will be conducted by Dr. Munoo Prasad (Head of the Cré Technical Committee) and Percy Foster M.Sc. (Executive Administrator) of Cré – Composting Association of Ireland Teo.

This project is funded by the Environmental Protection Agency's ERTDI (Environmental Research Technological Development and Innovation Programme) Programme.

