
2019

ANNUAL REPORT

Cré is a member of the European Biogas Association, the European Compost Network
and the Bio-based Industries Consortium



Dear Members,

It is that time of year again to take stock of the work ongoing and completed by Cré for the year. While the economy continues to boom and words such as climate change, zero carbon and carbon sequestration, not to mention compostable coffee cups, roll off the tongue in conversation like they have been everyday topics for millennium. We have been beating that drum for more years than we care to remember.

Since its conception more than 19 years ago Cré has been championing the cause of the reduction and removal of organic waste from landfill, the creation of compost products for soil amendment and in more recent years the production of green energy via anaerobic digestion facilities.

So how have we done, this report updates on five core areas of activity;

- Feedstock - promotion of separate collection of food waste for processing in. Compost and anaerobic digestion facilities, reduction of contamination in the brown bin, certification of compostable products.
- Regulation - consultation and development of fair and forwarding thinking regulation with our colleagues who have oversight in our sector such as Environment and Agriculture.
- Research and Development - Cré has been successful/ active in a number of new R&D projects end of waste standards, bioeconomy and carbon sequestration
- Education - Cré has now for the second year conducted a very successful study tour to Italy and the broad representation of participants shows the importance of such educational activity. Other successful ventures such as the kitchen caddy trials.
- New Developments - Cré Compostable Certification Scheme, a wholly owned subsidiary of Cré CLG to be known as Cré Certification Ireland DAC. Managed by a separate independent Board of Directors, Cré DAC is proud to announce that a number of market leaders have signed up to the scheme in its early days of conception and a lot of work is ongoing in this area.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all stakeholders who have supported us throughout the year, and in particular all those members and directors who give of their time and resources, the direct beneficiary of this effort is the environment and its sustainability. We are in a unique position as a national organisation to promote a change of mindset in how waste is dealt with in Ireland, the promotion of the benefits to our ecosystem and the increased opportunity for growth of our sector is in your hands.

We wish you every success in 2020 and look forward to a successful future for us all.

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Martin Eves

Chairman of Cré



EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

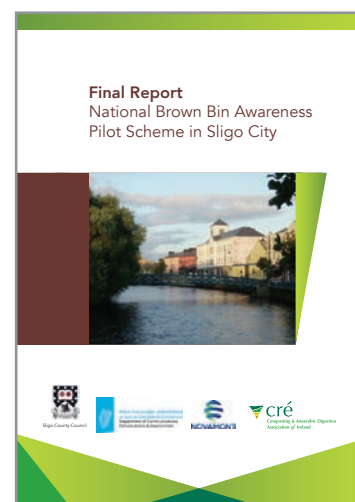
National brown bin awareness pilot scheme in Sligo City

The Sligo report was published in conjunction with Sligo County Council, Novamont and the Department of Communications, Climate Action and the Environment.

Cré published a guide for members on the new European Union Circular Economy

RED C Commercial Food Waste Survey.

RED C were hired by Cré, the Department of Communication, Climate Action and Environment, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Connaught-Ulster Waste Region, the Southern Waste Region and the Eastern –Midlands Waste Region.



Food Waste Awareness pilot schemes

In 2018, a working group on household food was formed between Cré, the three Regional Waste Authorities, the Irish Waste Management Association (Barna Recycling and Clean Ireland Recycling) and the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment. The group established pilot schemes on the provision of kitchen caddies to households in Ballaghaderreen (Roscommon), Trim (Meath) and Borrisoleigh (Tipperary). The so-called pilots were coordinated by Pauline McDonagh of the Southern Regional Waste Office and funding was kindly provided by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment. Cré conducted a waste characterisation study on food waste in Ballaghaderreen on the effectiveness of the educational tools.

Irish Composting and Anaerobic Digestion Conference 2019 was attended by 140 people. The conference looked at the circular bioeconomy and climate benefits of compost and digestate. A full page report was published on carbon sequestration benefits of compost and was published by the Irish Farmers Journal.

Cré organised a study tour to Italy in partnership with the Renewable Energy Association (ORG) and the Bio-based Industries Association for 22 people from Canada, Scotland, England and Italy.

Certificate in Compost Facility Operation with Sligo Institute of Technology

22 people completed the course in late 2018. Minister Creed was on hand to award certificates to students in Royal College of Physicians.

Cré held a training course on Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) for ABP biogas and composting sites.

Cré held a members meeting in April and a visit to biomethane upgrading plant at the Green Generation Biogas plant.



Cré held a meeting with members in February and a separate meeting with processors.

Cré and the UCD ABC Economy team held stakeholders meetings in Tipperary and Monaghan.

Cré hosted a meeting for a wide range of packaging companies on the Cré Compostable Certification Scheme and a visit to O'Toole Composting.

Cré sent regular news ezines to members throughout the year.

Regular updates for members and stakeholder were done by following Twitter accounts on Cré, the Cré Compostable Scheme, the ABC Economy and the EPA funded research project 'end of waste'

Cré did an article on compost and carbon sequestration in UK Organic Recycling Group Magazine

ANAEROBIC DIGESTION

Cré hosted three meetings with Irish Bioenergy Association (IrBEA) to discuss Anaerobic Digestion (AD) policy matters. Cré and IrBEA agreed a renewed Memorandum of Understanding to work together on policy matters.

Cré and IrBEA produce a jointed manifesto on biogas policy.

There were a number of activities held throughout the year:

- Cré & IrBEA had meetings with DCCAE & DAFM on biogas policy
- Lobbying day with IrBEA on biogas with politicians
- Cré and IrBEA joint submission on the Biofuels Obligation Scheme
- Cré and IrBEA joint submission on the Consultation of the Implementation of the EU's Clean Energy Package
- Cré's Morgan Burke chaired a biogas session at the Energy & Rural Business Show Ireland
- Cré attended the DCCAE RESS information sessions on renewable electricity



ANIMAL BY PRODUCTS

- Cré attended three ABP Forum meetings hosted by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM).
- DAFM is supportive of the Cré position on End Point for ABP in Compost and Digestate.
- DAFM is examining the Cré proposal for two new compost national ABP standards.
- Cré had a meeting with DAFM to discuss the Cré submission on Capacity in the Sector for Processing Chicken Manure.
- DAFM agreed to the Cré proposal of Where *only milk* and *cream* have been in contact with compostable materials they can go to non- Animal-by-Product green-waste composting plants.

OTHER VARIOUS MEETINGS ATTENDED

- Meeting with the Irish Bioeconomy Foundation and agreed cooperation on items.
- Attendance at the IrBEA conference.
- Waste Enforcement Industry Contact Group X 2
- McGill Summer School
- Meeting the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine on the EU Fertiliser Regulations
- Meeting BGK (German compost and digestate quality assurance organisation)
- Visiting Lipor Municipality, Portugal composting plant
- Attendance at SOFIE organic fertiliser conference in Brussels
- Launch in Government Buildings of the Draft Agriculture, Forest and Seafood Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan

RESEARCH

To Develop National End-of-Waste Standards for Quality Compost and Digestate

Cré commenced a research project on end-of-waste standards for quality compost and digestate in Ireland. This project is funded under the EPA Research Programme 2014–2020. The EPA Research Programme is a government of Ireland initiative funded by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment.



In Ireland, there are no national End-of-Waste Criteria for quality compost and digestate derived from source-separated materials. In and EPA licence for the composting and AD of plants, there is a quality standard as part of the licence, however in old licences the parameters and limit values vary considerably and in the recent licences the parameters and limit values have been adopted from the national compost standard NSAI Irish Standard (I.S.) 441:2012 for compost but also for AD plants. The I.S. 441 was not developed for AD plants and some parameters are such as stability is not suitable. This has resulted in AD plants proposing different stability measurements. In some Local Authority Waste Permits for biogas plants, there is no quality standard specified for digestate.

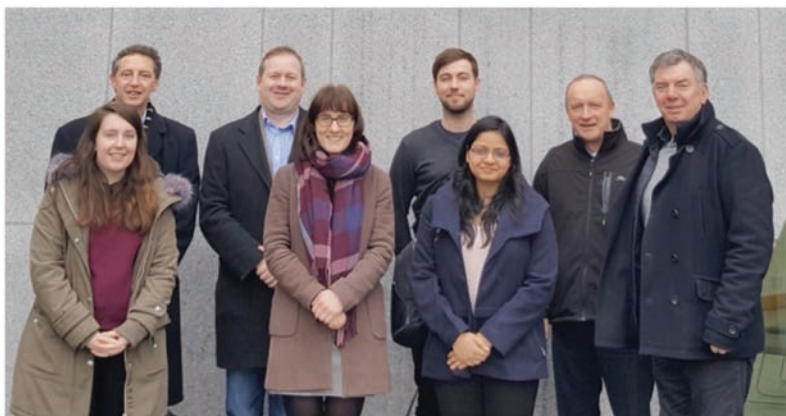
This project is examining best European practice as well as quality standards in Canada, America and Australia and will propose an approach for End-of-Waste Criteria for compost and digestate in Ireland. In addition, the project will develop a quality standard for digestate and an updated compost standard which could be used as part of the End-of-Waste Criteria.

The project findings would inform regulators and policy makers of any changes required to implement changes to quality standards in waste licences and waste permits and also what approach should be taken to develop national End-of-Waste Criteria for compost and digestate in Ireland.

Agri Bio Circular Economy (ABC Economy)

ABC Economy targets waste streams arising from food production/processing and forestry in Ireland to develop new bio-based products and generate energy. These new products and energy systems will maximise the value of wastes, whilst reducing environmental impacts.

The project led by University College Dublin with Cré and is kindly co-funded under the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland Research Development & Demonstration Programme with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. See www.abceconomy.ie



Cré has hired a leading Professor to conduct research to determine if there is plastic in tea bags

New Projects in 2020

- Cré, Trinity College and UCD have been awarded funding by the EPA for a three year project *"Sustainable Biodegradable, compostable and recyclable plastics for packaging and end-of- life-management"*
- Cré, UCD, TCD and the Irish Bioeconomy Foundation were successful in being recommended for funding on a biowastes project, depending on the funders resources in 2020, the project is expected to proceed.

EUROPEAN WORK

Cré is an active member of the European Compost Network (ECN) and participates in compostable quality assurance and is currently the chair of the ECN Animal-by-Product committee.

Specific European Union Policy work which Cré completed included:

- A contribution to the discussion on the new EU Fertiliser Regulations.
- Membership of the new ECN compostable plastics working group and attended its first meeting in Milan.
- Support for the ECN in developing new ABP standards for compost.
- Attendance at an ECN meeting in Brussels on the new EU Fertiliser regulations.
- The signing of the SOS initiative in order to highlight the importance of soil organic matter and to encourage policy makers to develop instruments to move Europe towards implementing sustainable, climate proof soil management practices.
- Participation in the International Compost Awareness Week with the American Compost Council, Canadian Compost Council, ECN, and the Australian Organics Recycling Association.
- The adoption by the European Compost Network of the Cré position paper on the ABP End Point for compost and digestate.

Cré co-hosted a meeting with the European Compost Network in Brussels with other QAS organisations in order to discuss the Cré research project on quality standards. The focus of the meeting was exchanging knowledge on plastic in compost/ digestate, stability and overall QAS issues.



Members of QAS Organisations from Germany, Finland, Portugal, Belgium, UK, Italy, Netherlands & Austria

CARBON COMMITTEE

Cré established a carbon committee comprising Percy Foster (Cré), Karen Mahon (OCAE), Brian Murphy (Enrich) & Julian Beatty (Nova Q). The committee is looking at carbon sequestration of compost and digestate.



MARKET REPORT

Eunomia has been hired to do a market report on the composting and AD sector.

SUBMISSIONS

Cré made the following submissions:

- The Draft Agriculture, Forest and Seafood Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan
- Consultation of the Implementation of the EU's Clean Energy Package
- The Draft National Energy and Climate Action Plan
- Draft Code of Good Agricultural Practice for Reducing Ammonia Emissions from Agriculture
- The Biofuels Obligation Scheme
- Proposed introduction of new Environmental Levies
- Capacity in the Sector for Processing Chicken Manure

CRÉ COMPOSTABLE CERTIFICATION SCHEME



"Giving confidence to Irish users that the product is compostable and accepted in the food waste bin."

This new scheme ensures that packaging/products are certified to European standards and tests them in an Irish composting plant to ensure that they compost under Irish conditions. The packaging/products if it compostable is awarded a certification that it is compostable in Ireland.

Packaging/products receiving the Cré Compostable Certification Scheme certificate gives confidence to Irish users that the packaging/products are compostable and accepted in food waste bins.

In 2019, we saw a significant development is the establishment of a wholly owned subsidiary of Cré CLG – a new company – Cré Certification Ireland DAC – a designated activity company. Its focus is the management of the Cré Compostable Certification Scheme. The company is managed by a separate and independent Board comprising Dermot O'Doherty (Chair), Elena Wrelton (Treasurer) and Dr Dearbháil NiChualainn. The scheme managers are Lyndsey Broxton O'Leary and Ruth Robertson and Eoin Bird is the scheme inspector.



L to R: Lyndsey Broxton O'Leary, Eoin Bird and Ruth Robertson



Who are we?

The scheme is owned by Cré – Composting and Anaerobic Digestion Association of Ireland, the national trade body for the sector. A wholly owned subsidiary 'Cré Certification Ireland DAC' will act as the certification body and provide certification of products.

Cré Certification Ireland DAC

INDEPENDENT DIRECTORS

Dermot P. O'Doherty, B.B.S., B.A., M.Econ.Sc is currently an innovation consultant. Prior to this he worked for over ten years as a senior advisor in InterTradeIreland, the North-South Trade and Business Development Body. Dermot was also a Senior Adviser in Forfás and a manager in Strategic Planning in Eolas, the Irish Science and Technology Agency.



Dr. Dearbháil NiChualain is been with Bord na Mona for eighteen years and is currently a Technical and Programme Manager leading a technical team in New Business Development. She has demonstrated a history of business analysis and review, strategy delivery, mergers and acquisitions, new product development, working in food, renewables, environmental, horticulture, aquaculture and ecology industries.



Elena Wrelton is the Environmental Compliance Manager at ELVES (ELV Environmental Services CLG) the compliance scheme for end-of-life vehicles. Prior to joining ELVES she worked for a number of years at the Ministry of Environment in New Zealand working on a range of waste and resource management issues including the operation of waste policy. She has previous governance experience as vice chair of the Amnesty International Aotearoa New Zealand Governance Team and is currently completing an MBA in Innovation, Enterprise and the Circular Economy through Bradford University School of Management.



SCHEME MANAGERS – Ruth Robertson and Lyndsey O'Leary

Ruth MEng.Sc., B.Sc has more than 25 years active experience implementing and operating quality, environmental and health and safety systems in the Pharma-chemical, manufacturing and waste industry and in providing consultancy to a range of service and manufacturing companies.



Lyndsey B.Sc. (Hons) has over 20 years implementing and operating quality, environmental and health and safety systems in semi state organisations and the private sector.



SCHEME INSPECTOR – Eoin Bird

Eoin BE (Hons) has over ten year experience working as a consultant in the composting sector in Ireland and United Arab Emirates where he has project managed research trials and the optimisation of commercial composting systems.



CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE – Henrik Lystad, Josef Barth and Dr. Billy Fitzgerald

Henrik Lystad is CEO of Norwaste (Norway) and has extensive experience and thorough knowledge of the industry from 16 years in Avfall Norge (Norwegian Waste Association) where he was a Director. He was also Chairman of the European Compost Network. Henrik has been involved in framework conditions and interest policy work in waste management and circular economy in Norway and the EU.



Josef Barth is director at INFORMA compost consultants (Germany) since 1989 and an international expert in the field of organic waste treatment, quality management, compost quality and marketing for over 25 years. His clients include governments and industrial clients all over the world. He was Executive Director of the European Compost Network for over ten years.



Dr. Billy Fitzgerald is the former Head of Environmental Science in Institute of Technology Sligo where he spent over 30 years in the development of environmental science courses including the Certificate in Compost Facility Operation.



CRÉ 2019 IN PHOTOS



Group on the Cré Tour to Italy



Group on the Cré Tour to Italy got to drive a biomethane audi car



Minister Richard Bruton T.D. launching the Sligo report together Tony Breton, Siobhan Gillen & Percy Foster



Minister Creed giving the Cré – IT Sligo Certificate in Compost Facility Operation



Cré members visit Green Generation biogas upgrading plant



April Members Meeting



Delegates at the Cré 2019 Annual Conference



Members of Cré visting the Lipor Composting plant in Portugal

CRÉ 2019 IN PHOTOS



Workshop in Tipperary for ABC Economy Project



Cré HACCP training course



Mary Coughlan, Deputy Timmy Dooley and Martin Eves at Cré Conference



Late-night selfie of the Cré Study Tour!



Presentation on Cré Compostable Scheme to DCCAE



Stephen Wise (Energia) Mary Coughlan, and Martin Eves at Cré Conference



Conor Murphy of RED C at launch of commercial food waste study



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Composting & Anaerobic Digestion
Association *of* Ireland