

2017 ASSOCIATION REPORT

We would like to take this opportunity to update you on the work which has been carried out in 2017.

FOOD WASTE AND WASTE POLICY

- ▶ Mary Coughlan joined the Cré team to help policy matters.
- ▶ Cré has had several meetings with the Department of Communications, Climate Action and the Environment (DCCA) to discuss waste-policy matters in addition to attending the National Waste Forum.
- ▶ Cré met with a Special Advisor to the Minister of DCCA to discuss brown-bin policy
- ▶ Cré had meetings with the following politicians:
 - ▶ Minister Denis Naughten, (DCCA)
 - ▶ Minister Sean Kyne (DCCA) and Michael Heydon (Chair of the Fine Gael Parliamentary Committee)
 - ▶ Timmy Dooley, Fianna Fáil Environmental Spokesperson
 - ▶ Eamonn Ryan, Leader of the Green Party
 - ▶ Pat "the Cope" Gallagher, Leas-Cheann Comhairle of Dáil Éireann
- ▶ Lobbied MEPs in Ireland to support EU Circular Economy Package
- ▶ Visit to O'Toole Composting Plant by Timmy Dooley
- ▶ Brought regional prevention officers to a compost site to understand brown bin collections and contamination
- ▶ Joint meeting with all the Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authorities to discuss brown bin enforcement
- ▶ Report on the Sligo Brown Bin Education Trial (in press)
- ▶ Meeting with waste collectors in Ireland to discuss issues they had on brown bin collections

Cré gave a presentation on the sector to the following groups:

- ▶ Connaught –Ulster Local Authority Waste Enforcement Staff
- ▶ Connaught –Ulster Local Authority Senior Engineers
- ▶ Connaught –Ulster Local Authority Director of Services

ANIMAL BY PRODUCT REGULATIONS

- ▶ ABP Forum meetings hosted by the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine (DAFM) were attended twice.
- ▶ Cré attended a meeting with DG SANCO on ABP on behalf of European Compost Network (ECN)

ANAEROBIC DIGESTION

- ▶ Billy Costello of Green Generation kindly allowed Cré to show a working biogas plant to some key stakeholders in the Department of Communication, Climate Action and Environment, Department of Transport, including Minister Naughten's special advisor.
- ▶ Cré is a Steering Committee member of the EPA Funded Research Project *The role of incentivisation in the development of biomethane production, using anaerobic digestion*.
- ▶ Cré successfully secured research funding from the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland for a project entitled *Guidelines for an Anaerobic Digestion Plant*.

BIOECONOMY

- ▶ Cré attended a workshop on the bioeconomy in the Taoiseach's Department
- ▶ Cré attended an EU Bioeconomy Stakeholder Event in Brussels
- ▶ Cré met with Department of An Taoiseach on the National Bio-economy Strategy

OTHER WORK

- ▶ Cré has played an active role in the ECN strategy on lobbying the Circular Economy discussion
- ▶ The Cré Board of Directors met in February, May, and November
- ▶ The AD committee met up to prepare the draft submission on renewable electricity consultation
- ▶ Cré gave a presentation on the status of the industry at the German Chamber of Commerce AD conference.
- ▶ The first GIY campaign was done in January promoting brown bins to householders.

The following meetings were attended:

- ▶ Agrivalor course and visit to the Teagasc AD plant;
- ▶ Bioeire workshop on the Bio-economy;
- ▶ Bord Gáis meeting on grid connection policy;
- ▶ Cré attended EU funding workshops in Belfast and in UCD;
- ▶ Cré attended the EPA Environment Ireland / IWMA conferences;
- ▶ Cré met a researcher of National Economic Social Council on a compost site;
- ▶ Cré met Irish DAFM representative on the EU Fertiliser regulation on a compost site;
- ▶ EPA Food Waste Summit;
- ▶ Meeting DAFM National Contact Point for EU Bio-economy Funding;
- ▶ Percy Foster attended a European Compost Network board meeting in Brussels;
- ▶ Percy Foster attended the SFA's affiliates meeting.

EVENTS

- ▶ Cré Annual General Meeting held on 9 May
- ▶ Christmas Dinner to be held with members on 4 December
- ▶ Italian Bio-economy Study Tour

PUBLICATIONS

- ▶ 2017 Cré Diary
- ▶ Cré Newsletters

SUBMISSIONS

- ▶ A Discussion Document for the *Preparation of a National Policy Statement on the Bioeconomy*
- ▶ Clean Air Strategy
- ▶ Commission for Regulation of Utilities Consultation on Connection Policy of Biomethane to Gas Grid
- ▶ Draft EU Fertiliser Regulations
- ▶ National Mitigation Plan
- ▶ Nitrate Regulations
- ▶ Renewable Energy Support Scheme
- ▶ Renewable Heat Incentive
- ▶ Siting Guidance
- ▶ Submission on *Ireland 2040 Our Plan –National Planning Framework*
- ▶ Summary of Cré's Key Submission Points on *Brown Bin Rollout and Supports for Anaerobic Digestion under a Future Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme*
- ▶ Technical Committee provided comments back to the ECN Growing Media QAS
- ▶ Waste Brief

MEMBERSHIP

Cré is a member of the Small Firms' Association, the European Biogas Association, the European Compost Network and is represented on the Board of Directors of the European Compost Network.

