
2021

ANNUAL REPORT

Cré is a member of the European Biogas Association, the European Compost Network,
World Biogas Association & International Compost Alliance



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CRÉ ANNIVERSARY

Cré was 20 years old in May 2021.

In December 2000, a group of stakeholders came together to discuss setting up an organisation on promoting composting. They decided to establish Cré Composting Association of Ireland. The launch was held on the 2nd May 2001 with Noel Dempsey, Minister for the Environment at the Green Waste composting facility, St. Annes Park in Dublin.



In photo L to R back row: Arjen Brinkman (Tobins), Brian Donlan (EPA), Cormac McGearailt (EPA), Munoo Prasad (Bord na Mona), Paul van der Werf (Environment & Resource Management), Sheena Glynn (Sita Recycling),

Front row: Oonagh O'Connor (Kerry County Council), Minister Dempsey, Mary Walsh (Cork Corporation) & Emer O'Callaghan (Cork Corporation).

On the 1st May 2002, an organisational committee was set up which consisted of Pearse Buckley (United Waste Ireland), Harry Connolly (Waste Solutions Ltd), Stephen Kieran (Killenchole Garden Compost), Norman Leeper (SFL Engineering), Donal Mulkerrins (UCC Biotreat), Emer O'Callaghan (Cork Corporation), Oonagh O'Connor (Kerry County Council), Munoo Prasad (Bord na Mona), Paul van der Werf (Environment & Resource Management), Mary Walsh (Cork Corporation) & Brendan Woods (NWP Recycling).

GOVERNMENT ENGAGEMENT

Food Waste Awareness

In 2018, a working group on household food waste recycling was formed between Cré, the three Regional Waste Authorities, the Irish Waste Management Association (Barna Recycling and Clean Ireland Recycling) and the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC). More recently, the Environmental Protection Agency joined.

A new pilot has just been completed where over 7,000 kitchen caddies, compostable liners, and an information leaflet was given directly to the public at shopping centres, recycling centres, and other public locations. Pauline McDonogh from the Mywaste.ie coordinated the 10 public give-away events of free kitchen caddies/ liners.

The working group made some significant progress this year and the key outcomes are:

- The Food Waste Working Group has developed a three-year roadmap on education of households on food waste recycling,
- There is a commitment from private waste collectors to provide kitchen caddies/ liners to household customers, and
- DECC will fund 300,000 kitchen caddy packs for householders, roadshows, and education campaigns on food waste recycling over 3 years.

Meeting with Minister Hackett on Peat / Compost / Digestate

Cré had a meeting with Pippa Hackett, Minister of State at Department of Agriculture Food & the Marine with responsibility for horticulture. We discussed how our sector can contribute quality compost and dewatered digestate in peat dilution. It was a very positive meeting, and the Minister was keen to support collection of organic resources in order to produce quality compost and dewatered digestate in peat dilution.



Cré Compostable Certification Scheme

Taoiseach (Irish Prime Minister) says Government Welcomes the Launch of the Cré's Certification Scheme for Compostable Packaging



Taoiseach Micheál Martin at the Cré Conference in 2018



Cré Compostable Certification Scheme is the only Irish scheme providing third party independent assessment that packaging is compostable in Ireland and is accepted in food waste bins (brown bins).

The Taoiseach Micheál Martin said, "It is recognised that the scheme supports producer, public and consumer awareness and action in both the circular economy and the bioeconomy through enhanced product labelling, sustainable business models and knowledge transfer. The National Waste Action plan for a Circular Economy aims to realise the full potential of the circular practices and composting, and this scheme represents an important contribution to achieving this goal"

He also said, *"I look forward to hearing the future developments of the scheme and wish Cré the best of luck in its success"*.

Peat Working Group

Malcolm Noonan, Minister of State for Heritage and Electoral Reform kindly asked Cré to represent the compost and biogas sector on the Peat Working Group to examine the issues identified during the Review of the use of Peat Moss in the Horticultural Industry. This group met 11 times (3 hours each in duration) over a six month period and produced a report.

Cré also produced its own report on how compost and digestate can contribute to peat dilution and replacement.



Various Meetings Attended:

- Stabilised biowaste meeting attended by Tim Duggan,
- National Bioeconomy Forum,
- Biomethane webinar hosted by Gas Networks Ireland,
- Percy Foster, Martin Eves, Tim Duggan, Patrick O'Toole, and Stephen Wise attended a meeting the landfill levy exemption for stabilised biowaste,
- Industry Contact Group on Waste Enforcement meeting in February, July, and November,
- Percy attended a sub-group meeting of the food waste recycling group,
- Percy attended two meetings of the Microsoft food waste group,
- Percy presented at the IBEC Food Drink Ireland on the compostable scheme,
- Percy attended the ABP Forum twice,
- Munoo Prasad attended a CEN meeting on standards for digestate/compost,
- Martin Eves and Percy attend a meeting to discuss the Food Waste trials report. The EPA, Waste Enforcement Regional Local Authorities, IWMA, and DECC participated in the meeting,
- Percy attended the End-of-Waste Working Group meeting,
- Percy attended the DECC Waste Advisory Group Meeting,
- Industry Contact Group on Waste Enforcement (exercise to identify apartment blocks in the country to focus on food waste recycling),
- Cré and EPA had a meeting regarding counting compostables plastics in recycling figures,
- Food Waste Recycling Group: Percy attended the latest meeting which is developing a national recycling campaign, and
- Cré had several meetings with Repak to discuss the support for compostable plastics.

Submissions:

- Renewable Heat Obligation,
- Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (RESS) 2 Consultation,
- Circular Economy Strategy Submission,
- Draft Ag Food Strategy Submission,
- Contribution of Compost & Digestate to Peat Working Group,
- Climate Action Plan, and
- Stabilised Biowaste.

MEMBERS EVENTS

Webinars

- Monaghan Mushrooms MBIO Research on mushrooms with the Dutch BVOR Members,
- Operators' experience to remove contamination with Compost Council of Canada and REA,
- Circular economy strategy, and
- Experience on preventing contamination in biowaste.



Young Professional Network Meetings with the following guest speakers:

- Michael McCambridge, McCambridge Bread,
- David Newman, Bio-based and Biodegradable Industries Association,
- Dan Hayes, Celginis, and
- Lunch time showing of 'Kiss the Ground' movie.

Members Meetings:

- 16th March and 16th June

Cré Online Festival

The Cré Online Festival was held over three afternoons in September in partnership with the Compost Council of Canada. The event had 12 speakers looking at Now is the Future. The event was well attended and Minister Symth spoke and attended the whole first day to learn about our sector.

We were delighted to have some high profile speakers including:

- Ossian Smyth, Minister of State with special responsibility for Communications and Circular Economy, and
- Dianna Kopansky, Coordinator of the Global Peatlands Initiative, United Nations Environment Programme.



The Minister made some key commitments:

- The Minister is funding 300,000 kitchen caddy packs for householders, roadshows, and education campaigns on food waste recycling over 3 years,
- A mandate for all households to have a brown bin, and
- Inclusion in planning permissions to ensure apartment dwellers have a brown bin.

Dianna Kopansky, Coordinator of the Global Peatlands Initiative, United Nations Environment Programme presented at the Cré conference and said *"When exploring new eco-friendly alternatives to peat moss, one in particular is in everyone's reach - organic waste. Composting reduces greenhouse gas emissions and returns important nourishment into the ground. Compost helps return carbon back to the soil, stored where it is needed where plants and trees need it"*.

BOARD MEETINGS

The board met online on these dates: 9th February, 16th February (with guest speaker Peter Olah from AORA), 9th March, 20th April, 11th May, 8th June, 9th September, 14th November.

The board had a in person meeting on 22nd & 23rd November. The meeting has started the process in developing a new strategy for Cré for the short and long term. As the working document progresses members will be consulted on it.

Board Members are:

Martin Eves (Envirogrind), Lalitha Devi Gottumukkala (Celignis), Stephen Wise (CERES), Patrick O'Toole (O'Toole Composting), Munoo Prasad (Compost & AD Research), Karen Mahon (OCAE Consultants), Tim Duggan (Enrich) and Tony Breton (Novamont).

JOINT COMMITTEE

**Joint Committee - 3 Meetings,
Carbon Task Group - 8 Meetings, and
AD Task Group - 7 Meetings.**

In 2021, we made a significant change in the structure of the committees. Instead of the AD, Carbon, and Technical committees working independently, we merged them into one joint committee which is chaired by Stephen Wise. From this joint committee task groups are set up as needed. Julian Beatty is the Carbon Task Group leader and Lalitha Gottumukkala is the AD Task Group leader.

The AD Task Group has been busy and has produced a briefing note to members on supports for AD plants in Ireland. A positive development is appearing in relation to the UK Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation which we believe will support the developments of AD plants in Ireland from January 2022.

The Carbon Task Group did a review of literature on soil carbon sequestration using compost and digestate. It then produced a short report on the topic, an executive summary, and short cartoon.

Members of the Joint Committee are Karen Mahon (OCAE Consultants), Julian Beatty (Nova Q), Kevin Monson (Weltec), Brian Murphy (Enrich), Percy Foster (Cré), Munoo Prasad (Compost/AD Research), Lalitha Gottumukkala (Celignis), Shane Doherty (Granville Ecopark), Tony Breton (Novamont), Kevin Eves (Envirogrind), Stephen Wise (Energia) and Sam Bowden (Panda).

Retired August: Brian Murphy & Shane Doherty.

Members of the AD Task Group are: Julian Beatty (Nova Q), Kevin Monson (Weltec), Lalitha Gottumukkala (Celignis), Shane Doherty (Granville Ecopark) & Percy Foster (Cré),

Members of the Carbon Task Group are: Julian Beatty (Nova Q), Karen Mahon (OCAE Consultants), Brian Murphy (Enrich) & Percy Foster (Cré).

CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION THROUGH SOIL CARBON SEQUESTRATION: The Contribution of Compost*

COMPOSTING IS A SOLUTION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

This factsheet highlights the benefits of compost in soil carbon sequestration. It does not account for the additional benefits of compost:

- ▶ in avoiding greenhouse gas emissions by diverting organic waste from landfill (where it would produce methane, a more potent greenhouse gas- a significant co benefit given Ireland's COP26 commitment to reducing methane emissions);
- ▶ in potentially displacing chemical fertilisers.

Cré believes that soil carbon sequestration is one of the critical paths to achieve net-zero emission. Furthermore, Cré believes that compost plays a leading role in optimising soil carbon sequestration, based on scientific evidence.

The Benefits of Compost



Soil carbon is the solid carbon stored in soil. Every tonne of carbon fixed in the soil represents 3.67 tonnes CO₂ equivalent.

Soil carbon sequestration is the removal of carbon from the atmosphere into the soil, where it can be stored long term (decades to centuries).

Composting is the controlled biological decomposition of biodegradable materials under managed, predominantly aerobic conditions, which allows the development of thermophilic temperatures as a result of biologically produced heat that convert the inputs to compost.

*The potential of digestate to sequester carbon was also researched; see "Examination of Digestate".



Composting & Anaerobic Digestion
Association of Ireland

For Cré Members

Briefing Note

On
New Support to Develop Anaerobic Digestion Plants in Ireland- UK RTFO
& Review of Existing Supports

From:
Cré – Composting and Anaerobic Digestion
Association of Ireland

July 1st, 2021

TRAINING



Due to covid, we organised the first online training course of the Certificate in Compost Facility Operation with 21 students. We held the training during September and October with virtual tours of composting sites.

Special thanks are to the site for allowing us to conduct the virtual tours:

- Thorntons Recycling
- Greenking Composting
- Bord na Mona Kilberry
- Envirogrind



COMMUNICATIONS

The following communication and awareness was provided:

- Monthly Newsletter to members,
- Regular updates for members and stakeholders via Twitter, the Cré Compostable Scheme, the ABC Economy, and the EPA funded standards research project,
- LinkedIn and YouTube Channel account for Cré,
- Websites: cre.ie, abceconomy.ie, biopost.ie, and compostable.ie, and
- Presentations at the US Composting Council and AORA annual online conferences.

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITY

International Compost Alliance



HEALTHY SOILS • HEALTHY PLANET

Cré is a founding member of the International Compost Alliance. The compost trade associations from around the globe met recently to discuss greater cooperation. The discussion is leading towards a MOU between all to form a global alliance – International Compost Alliance.

This MOU sets out an agreement between national, regional, and international membership-based organisations working to promote and maximise the sustainable recycling of organic materials. Over the last twenty years, the composting and organics recycling industry has seen the establishment of significant national trade bodies around the globe. During this time, we have had many positive collaborations around Compost Awareness Week.

The recycling of organic materials into high-quality compost and digestate has significant positive social, economic, and environmental benefits. As industries have matured around the globe, we are faced with similar challenges and opportunities. By working more closely together, sharing knowledge, and developing solutions collectively, we will leave healthy soils and a healthy planet for future generations.

Purpose and Membership of the Alliance

The purpose of the International Compost Alliance is to formalise co-operation and improve information sharing between Alliance organisations, and to strengthen communications of key messages to external stakeholders in accordance with the Alliance's vision and mission. Membership is open to any membership-based organisation whose remit accords with the Alliance's vision and mission.

Vision

Our vision is a world in which the recycling of organic waste is maximised in order to create quality compost and quality digestate to sustain healthy soils, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve food security, and contribute towards the circular bioeconomy.

Mission

Our mission is to work collaboratively to maximise the recycling of organic wastes and advance the manufacturing of certified, high-quality compost to benefit the environment, society, and our members.

The Alliance will strive to:

- Be a think tank and platform for sharing knowledge and ideas between Alliance organisations,
- Promote international evidence and information locally to members of Alliance organisations,
- Communicate joint strategic messages that are common to Alliance organisations and their members, and
- Communicate the benefits of the organics recycling industry to global entities such as NGOs, United Nations organisations, and relevant policy makers.

Visit www.internationalcompostalliance.org

You can watch the launch video here: <https://youtu.be/QfyyP5Q56KQ>

International Compost Awareness Week

Cré Participated in the International Compost Awareness Week with the American Compost Council, Canadian Compost Council, European Compost Network, and the Australian Organics Recycling Association.

Global alliance of organics recycling associations call for immediate action at COP26

Cré, as a member of a global alliance of organics recycling associations, called for world leaders to make COP26 a turning point in history for the recycling of food and garden waste.



European Compost Network

Cré is an active member of the European Compost Network (ECN) and participates in working groups on compost/ digestate quality assurance, compostables, and Animal by Products.

Cré has been promoting for the end point in the ABP manufacturing chain changed on EU level to occur at the plant. This means there would not be a requirement for paperwork for dispatching of compost. This is considered likely to happen and a final decision is expected in late 2021.

BVOR Visit to Ireland

BVOR represents the majority of professional bio-waste processing facilities in the Netherlands. 32 BVOR members visited Ireland in October.

Cré organised the following events for BVOR members:

- Lunch,
- Webinar with Monaghan Mushrooms MBIO research division,
- Evening Dinner with Cré Members, and
- Visit to Carbury Compost Plant.



RESEARCH



Development of Quality Standards for Compost and Digestate in Ireland

The EPA has published the Research 375: Development of Quality Standards for Compost and Digestate in Ireland. In Ireland, there are no national end-of-waste criteria for compost and digestate derived from source-separated materials. This study developed a quality standard for digestate and an updated standard for compost, it also recommends a strategy on how Ireland should implement national end-of-waste criteria for compost and digestate. It also examined best practice in other countries and options for having end-of-waste criteria.

Project Highlights: [Watch the project highlights video](#)

On behalf of the research team, we would like to thank the valuable input from members of the project steering committee, namely Caroline Murphy (EPA), Vivienne Ahern (Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications), Professor James Clark (University of York), Patrick Barrett (Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine) and John Clarke (Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine); as well as Karen Roche (Project Manager on behalf of the EPA).

Link: <https://www.epa.ie/publications/research/waste/research-375.php>

Authors: Percy Foster and Munoo Prasad

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 generation of energy. These new products and energy systems will maximise the value of wastes, whilst reducing environmental impacts.



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

The project has been extended and will be completed in August 2022.



BioPost

Cré, Trinity College and UCD have started the EPA funded three year project “Sustainable biodegradable, compostable and recyclable plastics for packaging and end of life management”, known as BIOPOST.

BioPost's aim is to develop sustainable environmentally friendly plastics to address the real world problems of current plastics.

BioPost will focus on using commercially available and indigenous novel biodegradable polymers and develop composites suitable for packaging applications and evaluate their end of life options; separation from mixed plastic waste, recyclability, compostability and biodegradability under standard industrial conditions.



The project website is www.biopost.ie and twitter account is [@BiopostResearch](https://twitter.com/BiopostResearch).