



Composting & Anaerobic Digestion
Association of Ireland

2022 Annual Report



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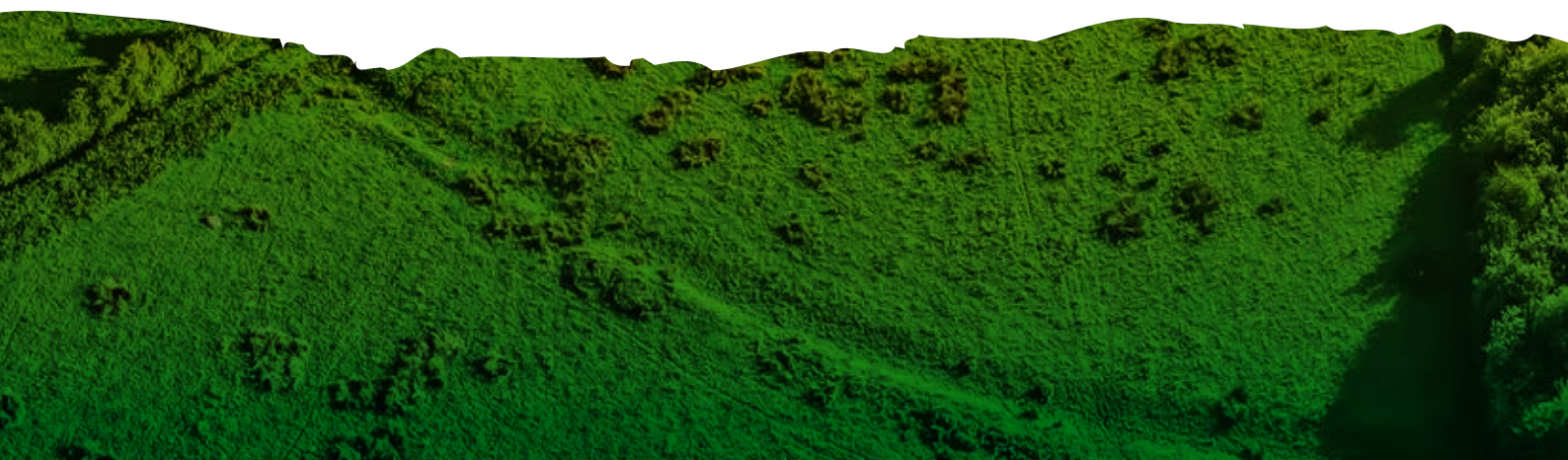
Board Members are:

Martin Eves (Envirogrind), Stephen Wise (CERES), Patrick O'Toole (O'Toole Composting), Munoo Prasad (Compost & AD Research), Tim Duggan (Enrich) and Tony Breton (Novamont).

Joint Committee Members are:

Members of the Joint Committee are Julian Beaty (Nova Q), Kevin Monson (Weltec), Percy Foster (Cré), Munoo Prasad (Compost/AD Research), Lalitha Gottumukkala (Calignis), Tony Breton (Novamont), Kevin Eves (Envirogrind), Stephen Wise (CERES), Michael Murphy (Ormonde Organics) and Sam Bowden (Panda).

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





Foreword

A Chomhaltáí Cré,

To some, it may have appeared that 2022 for Cré was a quiet year, just ticking over, yet this is far from the reality behind the scenes. It was clear that if our industry was going to not just survive but thrive moving forward, we needed a plan and that plan had to have at its core the problems which have dogged our processing members for years; the quantity of feedstocks, the decreasing quality of feedstocks and the lack of value driven demand for products. On the face of it, these should be relatively simple problems to solve, but the truth of our politics and geography belies a different story. It is complicated. It is difficult. We need to make it simple. We need to make it work.

Our focal point is our processor members in Ireland. In my first year as Chair, I had the pleasure of meeting many of you in person where often frank and frustrated views were exchanged and we also introduced quarterly processor meetings. Thanks to the efforts of the indefatigable team of Percy and Mary we have been able to similarly tactfully frank conversations with policy makers at all levels. Our messages are being delivered like never before and our voice is being heard. Zoom is easy, but nothing beats sitting down around a table to understand the real barriers and find workable solutions.

The culmination of all this effort is our Blueprint for Biowaste which was agreed at the AGM in November. It may only be three pages but it contains everything we need to enable a sustainable and dare I say, profitable, industry delivering a range of high quality products and solutions long into the future.

Beyond the Blueprint, Percy has worked tirelessly to deliver the seamless service for Cré members. He has organised countless events, research, essential training as well working closely with the Mywaste team to deliver the first Food Waste Recycling Week. On behalf of all the members, thank you Percy.

Cré is the most relevant Association dealing with household, commercial and industrial organic wastes in Ireland. Only we and our members fully understand what goes to land and how to manage this in the most economically and environmentally beneficial ways. Moving forward, we need to embrace anaerobic digestion in all its form, enhance existing infrastructure and improve soil health.

Our sites need re-investment not just to embrace new processing technologies but to reduce emissions and move to locally sourced renewable energy where possible.

It's been an honour, pleasure and a definite challenge being your Chair for this my first year and I look forward to working with you all to deliver the Blueprint, the real work starts now. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Nollaig Shona duit
Tony

Summary

This year we had the following in person events for members:

- BBQ and Site visit to Carbury Compost
- Annual conference
- ABC Economy End of Project Event
- Annual General Meeting
- Plant manager meetings x 2

Online events:

- Plant manager meetings x 4, with focuses on Biogas Health and Safety, Renewable Heat Obligation, Beyond Peat project and updates
- Young Professional x 1
- Members meetings on updates x 2
- Joint Technical Committee x 1

Board Meetings x 6

Ministerial Representation:

- Meeting in Government buildings with Minister Symth to explain the sector
- Minister Symth visited Envirogrind Compost plant
- Cré food waste breakfast meeting with Minister Symth
- Meeting with Minister McConalogue to explain the compost and biogas sector
- Meeting with Minister Hackett to explain the compost and biogas sector
- Meeting with Minister Heydon to explain the compost and biogas sector
- Photo at Bloom with the Taoiseach and Minister McConalogue
- Oireathas meeting on anaerobic digestion
- Launch of Enfield Compost Give away with Minister English

European Representation:

- Presentation on biowaste opportunities at the European Parliament

Submissions:

- Climate Action Plan
- Circular Economy (Environmental Levy) (Single-Use Cup) Regulations
- Circular Economy Fund
- 2022 increase to the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation Rate and the establishment of an Advanced Biofuel Obligation Rate
- EU Commission - Consultation on bio-compostable plastics
- Food Waste Prevention Roadmap

Training:

- Certificate in Compost Facility Operation visit to Thornton's composting site
- HACCP Course for biogas and compost plants

Government Engagement

Cré had several meetings with Ministers and key officials during the year:

- Minister Symth to explain the sector and the new Cré Market Report
- Minister Symth visited Envirogrind Compost plant
- Cré food waste breakfast meeting with Minister Symth and other stakeholders
- Meeting with Minister McConologue to explain the compost and biogas sector
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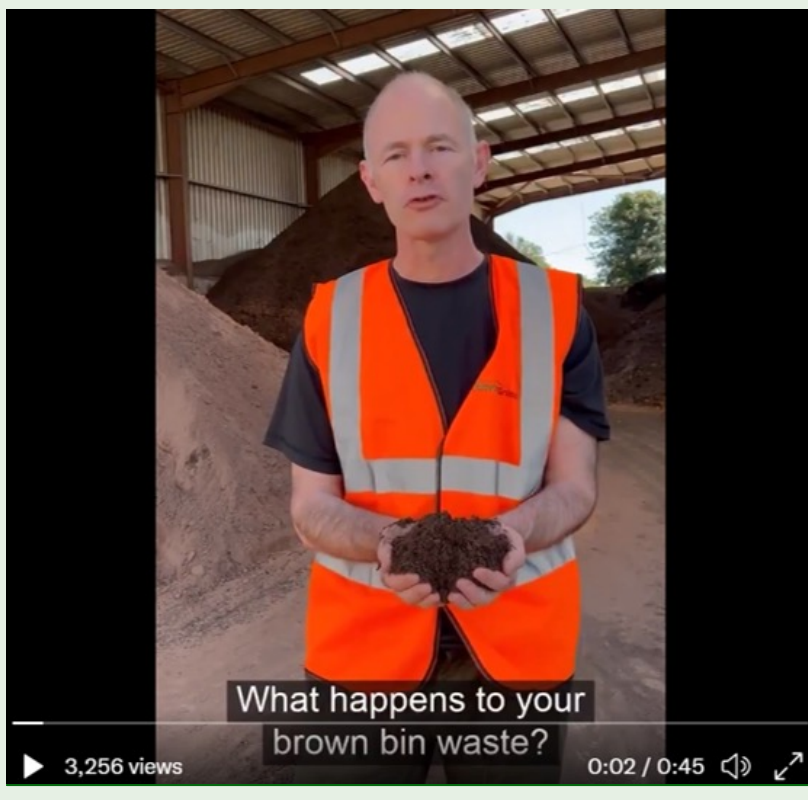
Cré Food Waste Recycling Breakfast Meeting

Cré hosted a food waste recycling meeting in the St. Stephen Green Club with over 40 guests in which its new Report on Feedstocks processed was launched by Ossian Smyth, Minister of State with special responsibility for Communications and Circular Economy. Among the guests were politicians from many of the political parties, corporate organisations such as Compass Catering, Musgraves, EY, LIDL, Restaurant Association of Ireland, Enterprise Ireland, mywaste team and officials from the Government Departments.



Minister Smyth Visit to Envirogrind

Minister Ossian Smyth TD visited the Envirogrind composting site in Donegal. During the six hour visit, Cré gave an overview of the sector, discussed the issue of feedstocks availability, contamination in food waste and the opportunities that the sector can provide in peat substitution and green energy from anaerobic digestion. The tour of the plant involved explaining windrow composting of garden waste, in-vessel composting of food waste and type 8 processing of residual waste. During the visit the Minister recorded some videos which he has shared on his twitter account.



Food Waste Recycling Week

During the national food waste recycling week. Cré supported the mywaste team by co-organising:

- Compost give away in Enfield with Enfield Tidy Towns and SuperValu
- Compost give away in Atlantic Technology University Sligo
- Food Waste Breakfast meeting
- Social media images campaign

We want to thank all the key parties involved in Food Waste Recycling Week such as the mywaste.ie team and the Department of Environment as well as the many local authorities and compost sites who organised very successful compost and kitchen caddy give away events.



Cré Report

Quantity of Feedstocks Processed in Composting and Anaerobic Digestion Plants on the Island of Ireland in 2020





Oliscoll
Teicneolaíochta
an Atlantaigh

Atlantic
Technological
University

Training

Some of the students on the Certificate in Compost Facility Operation visit to Thorntons's Kilmainhamwood compost plant. The course was primarily conducted in 2021 and the students got their results in the year- well done to all who passed. The course is a continued partnership with Atlantic Technological University Sligo.



Students at Thorntons Compost Site

HACCP Course

The HACCP course for compost and biogas plants was organised twice during the year with over 20 people trained.

Members BBQ & Visit to Carbury Compost

On 14th June, Cré organised a visit to Carbury Compost. After members had an enjoyable BBQ in Johnstown Estate Hotel which was followed by a meeting with the compost and biogas plant managers.



Irish Composting and Anaerobic Digestion Conference

Ossian Smyth, Minister of State with special responsibility for Communications and Circular Economy presented at the conference. Cré held a very successful conference on September 1st. It was great to see the conference back in person and the numbers attending showed the sustained interest in our sector. Special thanks are due to the sponsors of the conference – Celignis, Fehily Timoney, Biobag, Enrich and Envirogrind. Minister Smyth kindly recorded a message for the delegates and this can be watched back here



Research

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 Autumn 2022.

We held two events in 2022:

- Workshop on New Potential Technologies in the Bioeconomy
- End of Project Event



A Guide for Local Authorities was also published

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.



Communications

The following communication and awareness were provided:

- Monthly Newsletter to members
- Regular updates for members and stakeholders via Twitter, the Cré Compostable Scheme, the ABC Economy, and the EPA BIOPOST Project
- LinkedIn and YouTube Channel account for Cré
- Websites: cre.ie, abceconomy.ie, biopost.ie, and compostable.ie
- Presentations at the US Composting Council and AORA annual online conferences
- Social media images for members to use during food waste recycling week

International Activity

European Parliament

In December Percy made a presentation on biowaste at the European Parliament Intergroup on 'Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development', hybrid event on "Food waste collection: Unwrapping the biowaste potential" hosted by MEP Ms. Wiener, and organised in collaboration with the European Circular Bioeconomy Policy Initiative





Cré is a founding member of the International Compost Alliance. The compost trade associations from around the globe meet regularly to discuss greater cooperation.

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.

European Compost Network (ECN)

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

European Biogas Association (EBA)

Cré is the Ireland, national member of the EBA, contributing to policy developments and participating where appropriate.

Selection of Meetings Attended:

- Meeting of the Industry Contact Group to the National Waste Enforcement Steering Committee
- ABP Consultative Forum meeting
- Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine (DAFM) Bioeconomy Research Forum
- Meeting with DAFM and Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) on Bioeconomy Action Plan
- Coordinated a meeting with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), DAFM and DECC on End of Waste Standards for compost and digestate
- Meeting with DECC to discuss opportunities in processing biowaste in composting and biogas plants.
- Cré attended a working group for the development of Ireland's Invasive Alien Species Soil and Spoil Pathway Action Plan.
- Bioeconomy Forum meeting at the Farm Zero Carbon farm in Cork
- Meeting with National Waste Permit Collection Office
- Various meetings on garden waste planning exemption
- National Bioeconomy Forum meetings
- Meeting with Department of Environment, Climate Action and Communications on food waste/PRI
- National Waste Plan Workshops
- Food Waste Recycling group meetings
- Presentation at the Compost Council of Canada's online conference
- Presented at the UK BBIA spring seminar in London
- Presented on food waste recycling to the Green Team of Pepsicola
- EU Commission two day workshop on biowaste in September. The workshop saw an exchange of experiences and ideas around biowaste collection.
- Attendance at Gas Networks Ireland Renewable Magazine Roundtable
- Compost Give Away event in Enfield Supervalu
- Compost Give Away event in ATU Sligo
- Bloom Festival, Phoenix Park
- International Compost Alliance meetings
- Biorbic event in UCD which was examining policies in the bioeconomy
- Meeting with NSAI on updating IS 441 standard for compost



At the Cré conference, Tony Breton made a presentation to Martin Eves (former Chair) of the above caricature. The board & Percy commissioned (with their own funds) this to say thanks to Martin for his many years of service as chair.



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www.cre.ie