



Shifting Policy and Regulations: What's next for anaerobic digestion

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Simpler Recycling (England)

Mandatory separate collections of:

- Food waste from workplaces (except micro-firms) from 31st March 2025
- Food waste from households from 31st March 2026
- Food waste from micro-firms (less than 10 FTEs) from 31st March 2027
- Defra forecasting the amount of food waste collected and available for treatment to increase by 100% to **4.8MT by 2035**



Modernising Environmental Permitting



Department
for Environment,
Food & Rural Affairs

Consultation on modernising environmental permitting for industry

August 2025

1. Enabling innovation and encouraging new technologies and techniques
2. Agile standards - rapid, predictable and integrated standard setting
3. Proportionate regulation and coherence in the framework
4. Regulator effectiveness and efficiency
5. A transparent framework

Closing date 21st October

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/industrial-emissions-team/consultation-on-modernising-environmental-permitting/consultation/>



Modernising Environmental Permitting



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‘We are minded to consult on making the anaerobic digestion of non-waste feedstocks a Part A1 activity of the EPRs, requiring sites that meet certain thresholds to hold an environmental permit. Currently, waste-fed AD facilities are regulated under the EPR and must operate under either an exemption, a standard rules permit or a bespoke permit.’



Other possible regulatory changes

- EA review and revision of Standard rule permits
- Revision of Appropriate Measures guidance
- Methane Action Plan (develop BAT for Leak Detection and Repair)
- Farming Rules for Water
- Future agriculture policies or regulations impacting use of organic materials
- Circular Economy Strategy
- Carbon budgets



End of Waste Digestate




Quality Protocol

Anaerobic digestate

End of waste criteria for the production and use of quality outputs from anaerobic digestion of source-segregated biodegradable waste





Menu | Search

Home > Environment > Waste and recycling > Waste and environmental impact

Guidance

Anaerobic digestate: resource framework

How to meet 'end of waste' status for digestate produced from anaerobic digestion of source-segregated biodegradable waste.

From: [Environment Agency](#)

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Applies to England

Contents

- 1. The purpose of the resource framework
- 2. Waste you can use
- 3. When the final product is not considered waste
- 4. Providing evidence that quality digestate has been produced
- 5. Compliance with legislation outside of waste regulation
- 6. Compliant products: loss of non-waste status
- 7. Mixing compliant products with waste and non-waste
- 8. Standards and specifications which apply to this resource framework
- 9. Updates to this resource framework
- 10. If you have questions about this resource framework

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1. The purpose of the resource framework

This resource framework relates to digestate produced from anaerobic digestion of source-segregated biodegradable waste (biowaste).

This resource framework is to help you understand when digestate products are no longer considered waste. Meaning they meet the 'end of waste' test. This is so you can:

- understand when you no longer need to follow [waste management controls](#) for digestate products

Related content

[Dispose of business or commercial waste](#)

Detailed guidance

[Classify different types of waste: your legal responsibilities](#)

[Check if your material is waste](#)

[Request a resource framework to show when a material has ceased to be waste](#)

[Waste: environmental permits](#)

Collection

[Frameworks for converting waste into non-waste products](#)

End of Waste Digestate

AD Resource Framework – Key Changes

- Waste code changes and amendment to the compostable standards acceptable.
- The point at which digestate reaches end of waste
 - Dispatch to customer, although storage for up to 10 months permitted if can demonstrate certainty of use
- Requirement for dispatch paperwork to include information on nutrient management plans
- Removal of market restriction, and additional requirement if supplying to growing media sector.
- Tighter plastics limits



AD Resource Framework – Plastics Limits

Total Nitrogen	Kg/t	Less than 1	1 to 1.9	2 to 2.9	3 to 3.9	4 to 4.9	5 to 5.9	6 to 6.9	7 to 7.9	8 to 8.9	9 or more
PAS110 Total stones	Kg/t	3.2	6.4	9.6	12.8	16	19.2	22.4	25.6	28.8	32
PAS110 Total physical contaminants (excluding stones)	Kg/t	0.04	0.07	0.11	0.14	0.18	0.22	0.25	0.29	0.32	0.36
New limit for Plastics	Kg/t	0.0032	0.0056	0.0088	0.0112	0.0144	0.0176	0.02	0.0232	0.0256	0.0288

AD Resource Framework – REA Briefing note



End of
Waste
Digestate



End of Waste Biomethane



Quality Protocol

Biomethane from waste

End of waste criteria for the production and use of biomethane from landfill gas and anaerobic digestion (AD) biogases.



Guidance

Biomethane from waste – Resource Framework

Published.

Contents

- 1. The purpose of the Resource Framework
- 2. Review and update of the Resource Framework
- 3. When the final product is no longer waste
- 4. Input material
- 5. How to meet the Resource Framework
- 6. Standards and Specifications
- 7. Unused Resource Framework compliant biomethane: loss of non-waste status
- 8. Records



Thank you!

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