

SCOTTISH ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AGENCY

Plastic contamination in digestate:

Lessons learned

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World Biogas Expo June 2022

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A SHORT HISTORY...

Mandatory separate collection of food waste began in 2014

Even before that, quality assurance schemes and trade bodies had negative views on waste derived fertilisers

Market demand and quality are closely connected

Ultimately, the market dictated what was acceptable







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Figure 1: Food waste hierarc

Preventing food waste across the supply chair should, where possible, be used by redistribu consumption may be suitable as a source of r former foodstuffs used in animal feed are strict by animal health officers in Local Authority Tradi

SEPA Guidance | WST-G-049 | version 1 | issued Decer

PAS 110:2014

Specification for whole of separated fibre derived f of source-segregated bio

Working together for

a world without wash

wrap

called "digestate", which is rich in nutrients such as nitroge healthy plant growth and fertile soil. The majority of AD derived digestates are applied to land to

SEPA

Background

For the purposes of this position statement, 'digestates' m fibre), liquor, and separated fibre from anaerobic digestion.

This Regulatory Position Statement sets out how SEPA v outputs from the AD process.

Regulation of Outputs from Anaer

Anaerobic digestion (AD) is a managed biological process in

naturally occurring micro-organisms in the absence of oxys

Regulation of AD Outputs

- The regulation of AD outputs depends upon the following crit 1. Whether the digestate meets the specification in Scotland'
- The conditions set out in SEPA's Position on the Use
 Whether the digestate was produced using only ag non-wastes (e.g. energy crops grown specifically for

Digestates derived from waste materials are normally regar waste management legislation. However, in certain circu controls.

Note, that in all cases the digestates can only be used w or animal health or the environment.

The use of the digestates must comply with all other regulato practice. For use in agriculture, such requirements include: • CAR Diffuse Pollution General Binding Rule (DP GBI

- Prevention of Environmental Pollution From Agricu code) and the Four Point Plan
- Nitrate Vulnerable Zones Regulations (NVZ regulation)

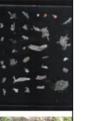
Part 1- SEPA's Position on the Use of PAS110 Diger

SEPA considers that the application of waste controls to the and Additional Scheme Rules for Scotland would be disprop regulatory controls to waste derived digestates from AD pr complies with the conditions listed below.

 AD facilities and processes that produce the di environmental authorisation and operate in complian

Such as limits on physical contaminants (including plastic) as set of

QMS Information on the Diffuse Pollution regime including copies of Get http://www.sepa.org.uk/land/and_publications.app. SEPA Poelition Statement (IWST-P5-016) version 51 Issued February 20





eunomia 👪

Understanding Microplastics in the Scottish Environment

The sources, fate and environmental impact of microplastics in the Scottish terrestrial, freshwater and marine environment

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Cover images: Domestic fo

Simon Hann Olly Jamieson Alice Thomson Chris Sherrington 28th November 2019



this work)

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Work undertaken between October 20

Cover images: Top - plastic fragments I

Bottom - past example of visible plastic

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Lessons learned

Quality is key at all stages of the chain

Link between high quality recycling and LA recycling targets

Communication between all sectors in the chain needed

Funding

Research







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