

## **Consultation on Safeguarding Scotland's Resources, A programme for the efficient use of our materials.**



### **Response by Association for Organics Recycling**

#### **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 The Scottish Government has invited comments on its programme for the efficient use of our materials.
- 1.2 This consultation builds on the Zero Waste Plan and outlines details of proposals to work with businesses, product design and packaging, reuse, influencing behaviours and ways of measuring progress.
- 1.3 The proposals are designed to deliver benefits for the economy, environmental protection, carbon savings, resource conservation and behaviour change.
- 1.4 The Association for Organics Recycling is the United Kingdom's membership organisation, working on behalf of its members to raise awareness of the benefits of biological treatment processes and use of the outputs from such processes. The Association is committed to the sustainable management of biodegradable resources by promoting the benefits of composting and other biological treatment techniques for the enhancement of the environment, business and society.
- 1.5 The Association aims to act as an advocate for the wider biological treatment industry and to represent its views in a constructive dialogue with policy makers. It envisages an industry in which best practice is shared, standards are maintained and surpassed and which makes a positive contribution to safeguarding the environment.
- 1.6 The Association currently has about 350 members including compost and digestate producers, local authorities, consultants, technology suppliers, users of treated biodegradable materials, academics, other membership organisations and individuals.
- 1.7 The Association welcomes the above consultation and the opportunity to discuss any of the points raised in this response.

#### **2 General comments**

- 2.1 AFOR welcomes the proposals for a programme for the efficient use of our materials. In general we support the proposals and actions outlined in the consultation and we have commented on the sections we feel are relevant to our members.

### 3 Comments on specific questions

*Question A: We have already decided to go ahead with the Integrated Business Resource Efficiency service and are engaging directly with the stakeholders over how it should be focused. We would however welcome views on the priorities for the new integrated service (Action 1)*

**Answer A:**

AFOR welcomes the introduction of a single service as this makes it simpler for businesses to access the information they need but we would like to ensure that the expertise within the individual organisations is retained when moving to a single service.

We would like the new service to provide practical advice to businesses on their requirements under the new legislation. AFOR would welcome engagement with the new service to facilitate communication with our members and businesses that may need the services our members provide.

*Question G: Do you agree with the actions identified to support sustainable design of products? (Action 7)*

**Answer G:**

Yes, we agree with the principals of sustainable design of products.

*Question M: We are interested in receiving feedback on these proposals, including communications, designed to influence behaviours of individuals and organisations to use material resources more efficiently.*

**Answer M:**

We would like to see any behaviour change programmes directed at all sectors producing waste, not just householders. AFOR supports the campaign for limiting food waste and the Love Food Hate Waste campaign.

With regard to the Waste Collection Systems – action 12, AFOR would welcome engagement with Zero Waste Scotland particularly with regards to food waste collections. We would like to ensure that the collection systems guidance is developed with input from the material re-processors (i.e. organic recyclers) to ensure that any end product standards are met. In addition we would like to communicate the guidance aimed at Local Authorities to our members.

*Question N: Do you support the proposal of introducing charge for single use carrier bags (Action 10)?*

**Answer N:**

AFOR supports the proposal for introducing a charge for carrier bags. We feel there is merit for compostable bags to be exempt from this charge in certain circumstances where they are likely to be composted, such as bags for transportation of food and bags for the collection of food waste.

*Question O: We would welcome comments on these proposed targets and indicators, in particular views on the merits of an absolute target or one relative to GDP, given the strong relationship between economic growth and waste generation in previous years.*

**Answer O:**

AFOR supports the headline targets identified in the consultation and would like to see the targets apply to all sectors not just municipal waste. We feel there is need for clarity with regards to weight based targets and carbon metric based measurements and how they work together. We would welcome further engagement on the further development of carbon measures relating to organics recycling.

## **Contact details**

Jenny Grant, Scottish Branch Manager, The Association for Organics Recycling,  
Head office: 3 Burystead Place, Wellingborough, Northamptonshire, NN8 1AH.  
Tel: 07796 430168, E-mail: [scotland@organics-recycling.org.uk](mailto:scotland@organics-recycling.org.uk)