



environmental
services
association



Annex 1: introductory text and survey questions as posted on Survey Monkey

A cross-industry working group is delivering continuous improvement in the quality of compost and digestate products. We are seeking feedback from compost and digestate producers on the impact of feedstock quality.

The survey is very short and *all information provided will be anonymous* – it will not be possible to link responses to any individual or organisation.

The anonymous results will be used to target cross-industry action to improve the quality of feedstocks.

1. Does your feedback relate to composting or AD?

- Composting
- AD
- Both

2. Is feedstock contamination an important issue for your business?

- Yes
- No

3. Is feedstock contamination more significant for household or commercial waste? Only tick one answer:

- Household waste contamination is more significant
- Commercial waste contamination is more significant
- Contamination in household and commercial waste is equally significant
- Feedstock contamination isn't an issue

4. How big an impact does feedstock contamination have on the quality of the compost or digestate produced by your business?

[INSERT SMALL TEXT BOX] (On a scale of 1-10, where 1=low impact and 10=high impact)

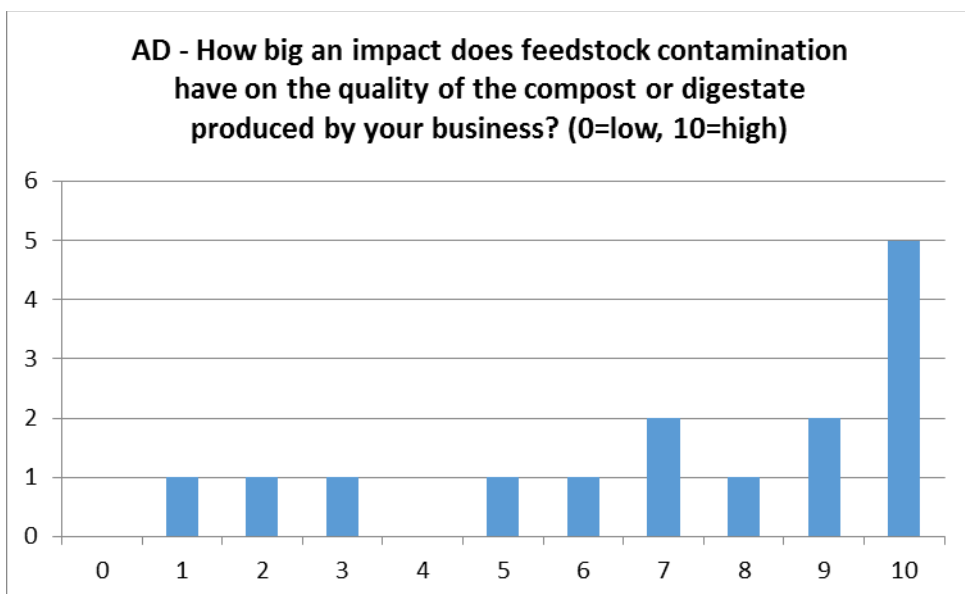
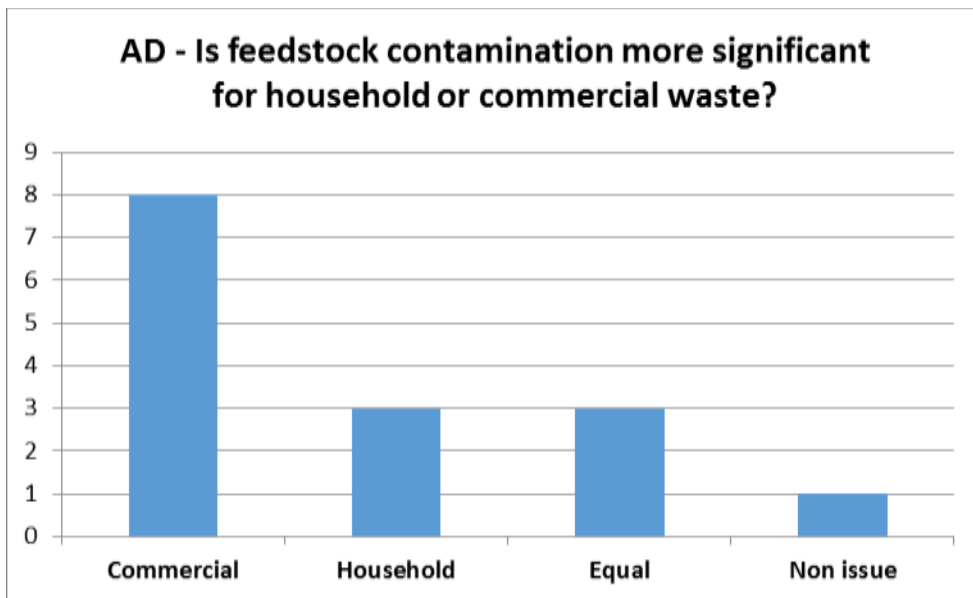
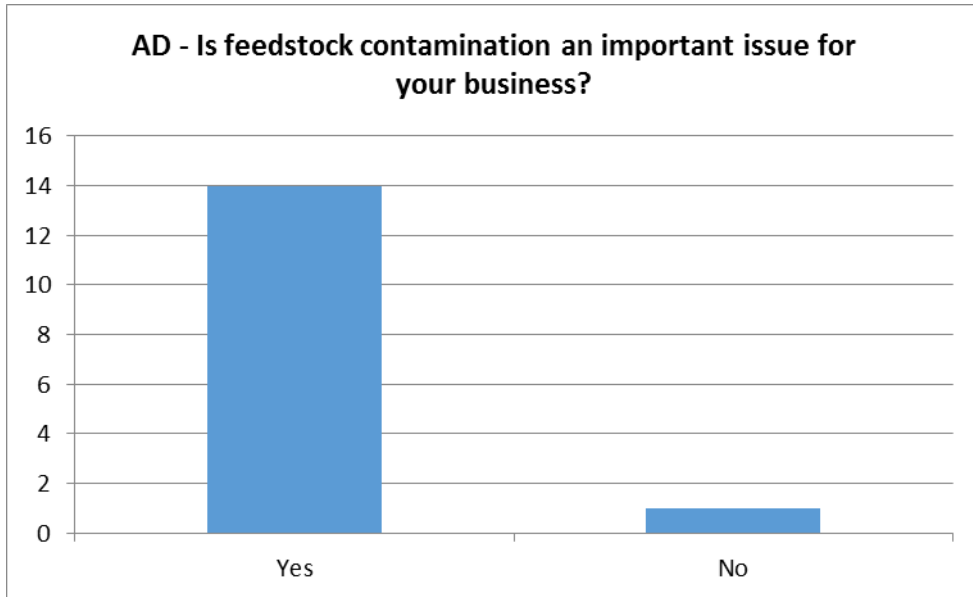
5. Are the levels of feedstock contamination changing?

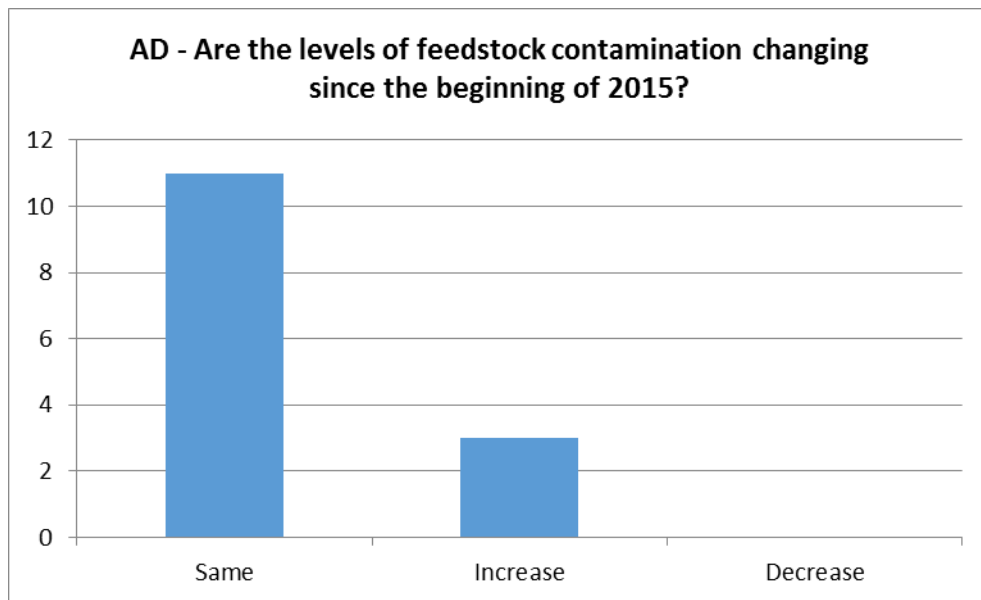
- Increase in contamination levels since the beginning of 2015
- Decrease in contamination levels since the beginning of 2015
- About the same

Why do you think that is? [INSERT FREE FORM TEXT BOX]

6. Do you have data on contamination in waste derived input material for AD or composting? If so, please could you email your regular contact at ADBA/CIWM/ESA/ORG/REA/WRAP/Zero Waste Scotland to discuss whether it would be possible to share it?

Annex 2: survey responses - AD





Are the levels of feedstock contamination changing – why do you think that is (AD)?

Feedstock of known quality, single type wastes / feedstocks used

Large organisations based in England aren't bothered about compliance, as it isn't law in England, so why bother about Scotland

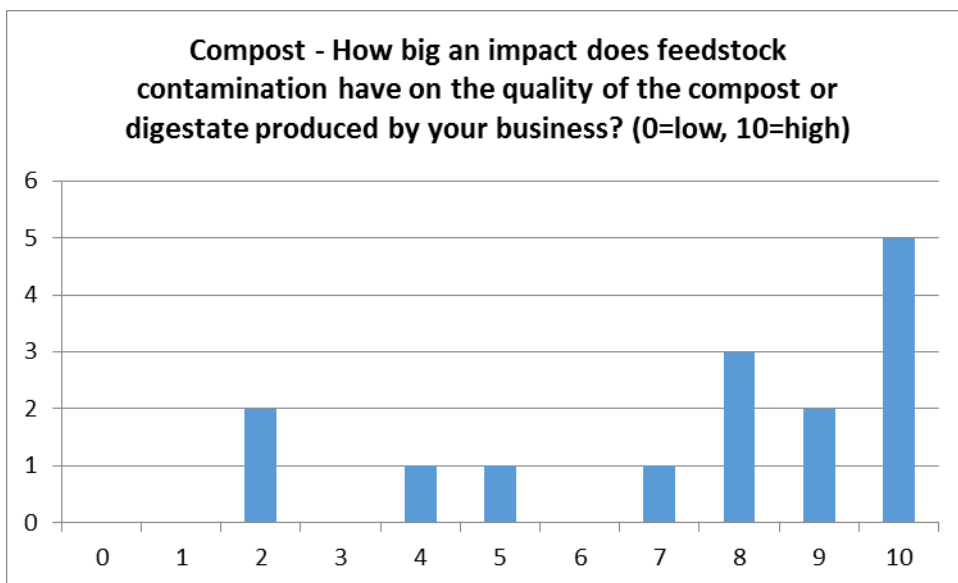
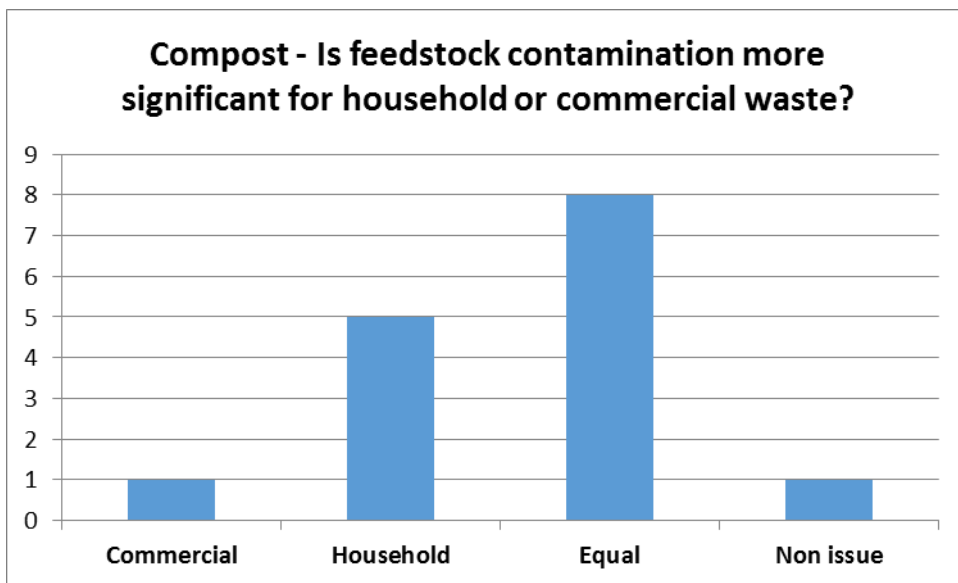
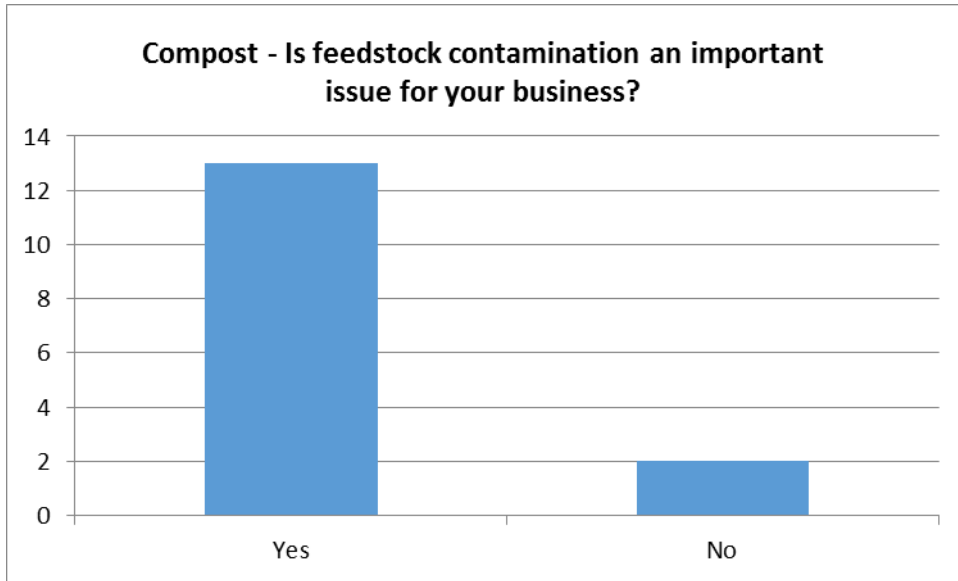
No driver for waste producers to change at their end

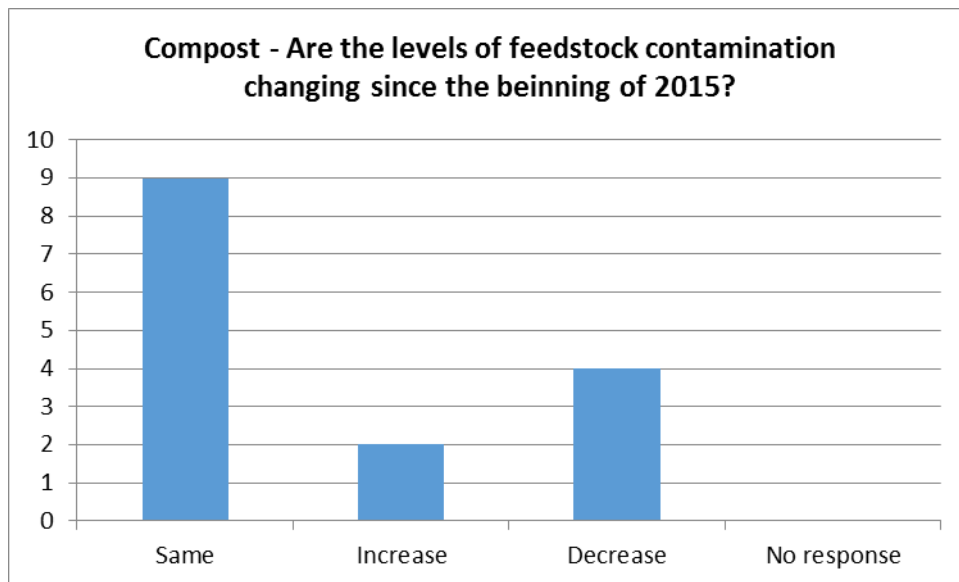
We actually don't have a clear view on this as we have only just started receiving food waste for an AD process

Lack of feedback to feedstock producers on the need to control their waste more stringently and train staff on the right and wrong things to do. Lack of commitment on the part of management to improve segregation of waste before delivery to sites.

More food waste is being recycled by businesses, but they don't want the hassle of separating out packaging etc, so it is sent to us to deal with

Annex 3: survey responses - compost





Are the levels of feedstock contamination changing – why do you think that is (compost)?

We constantly work on educating our customers about the need to segregate the incoming waste.

Some commercial operations do not train their staff well in segregating the waste they generate or in some cases deliberately hide contamination to save them time and money involved in tipping contamination elsewhere. Householders generally contaminate through ignorance or indifference which can only be controlled by constant communication and reiteration of simple messages. For us, contamination has little impact on the quality of our output compost because it accumulates in our oversize where it has an impact on the cost of treating this material. The biggest issue with contamination is the attrition on our shredders from hard contaminants such as metal, concrete, stones, gravel etc.

Communication with our suppliers.

Complacency/misunderstanding from householders, budgets not available to councils to tackle contamination through education/ reward programmes, cost of legal and legitimate disposal of some waste streams too high and temptation to contaminate other waste streams to great as a result.

The contamination levels fluctuate throughout the year - normally at the start of spring. Different councils have more interest in ensuring householders are aware of acceptable inputs.

WCA's have limited resources to control the quality of kerbside collected feedstock.

Since 2014 our feedstock sources have changed from household, commercial and recycling centre waste to just commercial and recycling centre waste. Since the change the contamination levels have dropped significantly.

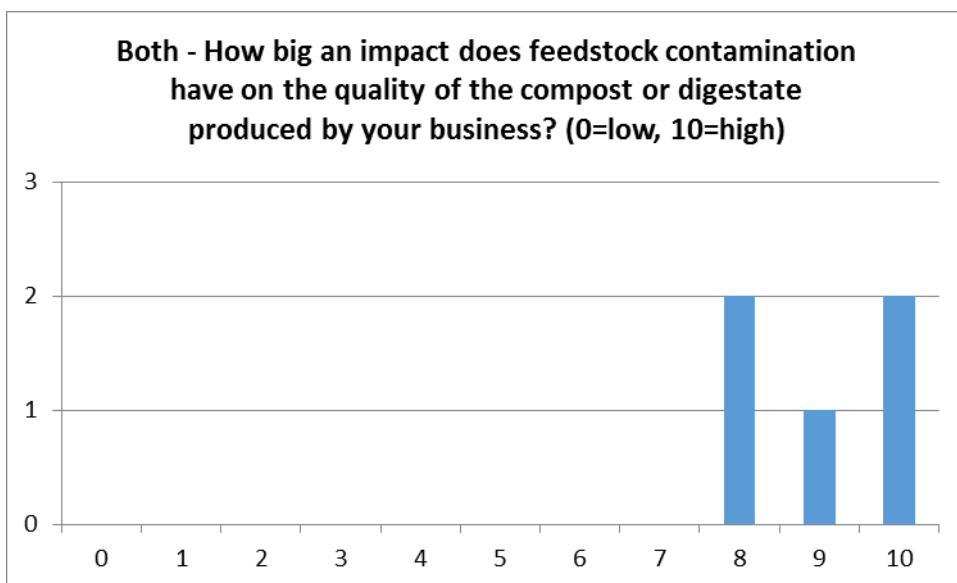
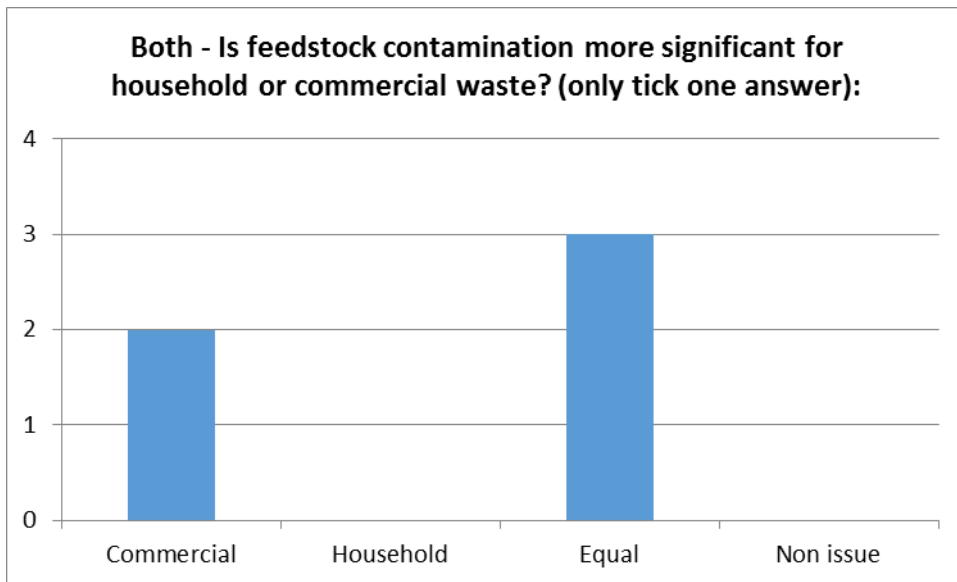
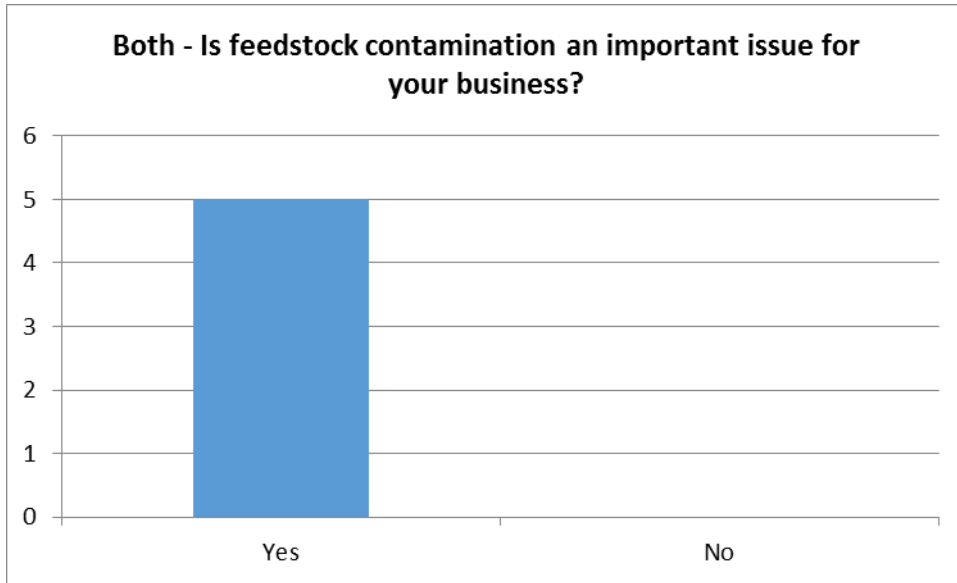
We have introduced lower acceptable limits for visible contamination.

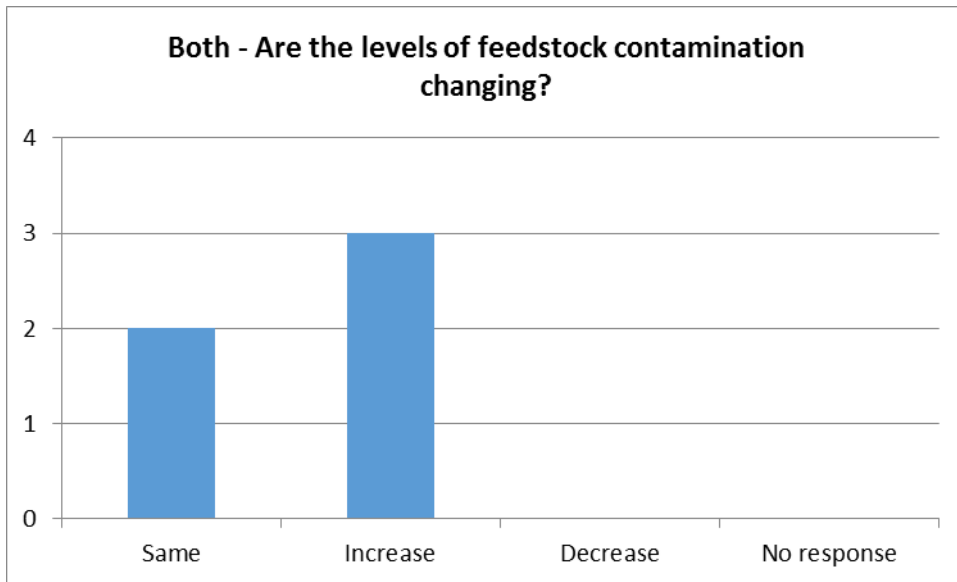
A scheme in place by local authority to advertise the refusal to pick-up cross contaminated bins put this into practice and 6 months later quite a difference.

Council cut backs reducing time effort allocated to improving feedstock quality. Pressure from suppliers on composting sites not to reject / complain about contamination in feedstock. Falling gate fees and pressure to win waste adds to this problem.

Reduction in local authority municipal collection changing from weekly to fortnightly.

Annex 4: survey responses – both AD & compost





Are the levels of feedstock contamination changing – why do you think that is (both AD & compost)?

New regs forcing businesses to recycle that are not focussed on quality of feedstock.

New contract with comingled garden waste and food waste still resolving contamination issues.

No actions are being taken by local authorities and private/commercial customers will just move .

Poor control of composting material and ever present plastic.