

Recycled nutrients market development plan

Latvia

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LATVIAN BIOGAS ASSOCIATION

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SUMMARY

The increased use and market development of recycled nutrients has been a hot topic in Europe for several years, and nutrient recycling is a key element in moving towards a circular economy, which is the key to more sustainable production and consumption systems in the future.

In Latvia, there has been no discussion on the development of a market for recycled nutrients. Also no analysis has been made about the organic fertiliser potential volume that could be produced in Latvia from recycled nutrients. However, taking into account the development guidelines for the Baltic Sea Region and also the future objectives of the European Commission in terms of environmental protection and emission reduction, activities to develop a market for recycled nutrients in Latvia will also need to be implemented in the near future.

In order to facilitate the development of recycled nutrients market in Latvia, Latvian Biogas association in the framework of the EU Interreg Centralbaltic programme project "Sustainable biogas" has developed proposal for the digestate quality assurance system and recycled nutrients market development plan for Latvia.

In this document necessary steps and actions to be taken for the recycled nutrients market development are described.

The market development plan is based on an analysis of information on recycled nutrients policy in Europe and the Baltic Sea region, as well as in the situation in Latvia.

The Latvian Biogas association proposes to implement following activities to facilitate the development of recycled nutrients market in Latvia:

- 1) Develop and approve end of waste legislation for certain materials.
- 2) Develop and improve legislation on the circular economy principles implementation as defined in planning documents.
- 3) Develop a regulatory framework for the recycled nutrients quality assurance system establishment.
- 4) Implement digestate quality assurance system.
- 5) Develop support mechanisms which would promote the interest of biogas producers in certifying products according to the requirements of the digestate quality assurance system, as well as making investments in the production of digestate as the final product of recycled nutrients.
- 6) Implement information and education activities for different target groups to inform about the benefits and ways of using recycled nutrients products.
- 7) Create a brand for digestate quality assurance system.

For each action point responsible bodies and implementation deadline is indicated.

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The Sustainable Biogas project worked together with the biogas sector and various stakeholders to reduce nutrient discharges from the whole production chain of the biogas production: from the handling of raw materials to the production and to the safe utilisation of nutrient-rich digestates.

According to the results of the project, sustainable nutrient management in biogas production requires careful consideration when planning, permitting and operating the biogas facilities so that the regional nutrient balance is considered, storages for the feedstocks and digestates are adequate and appropriate, and digestate application is based on the plant needs.

Improving the quality of recycled nutrients and promotion of their use are needed. In addition, the reconciliation of the partly contradictory objectives for sewage sludge management - pollution prevention, nutrient recycling and climate change mitigation - should be continued.

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