

ACTU' ASSISES



May 2013

n°3







Major curves are to be negotiated

The Assises again, this year, are going to focus on the waste universe, and all current issues will be addressed with no taboo. The four workshops of October 2nd and 3rd that are put forward in this 3rd newsletter are a demonstration thereof. These issues include the challenges of recycling channel industrialisation, hindrances to return of organic waste to the soil, the recycling of waste produced by building sites or the emphasis to be put on energy recovery...

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Recovery of organic waste – facing reality

TECHNICAL WORKSHOP 4:
How can organic waste be (properly) recovered?
Wednesday 2 October 2013, 4-6 pm



Jean-François BIGOT
Director of Major Projects
Séché Environnement

The subject is worthy of debate. Although the improvement of waste organic content recovery is a shared objective, vigorous discussions sometimes take place about what waste is concerned and the means required to organise its “return to the soil”. It is exactly the subject matter proposed for a discussion with all players around the table of Workshop 4 of the Assises.

“Nobody questions the interest of the return to the soil of the organic part of waste, but there are complex issues that sometimes cause things to be held up, depending on the nature of such waste, and that need to be tackled head-on”, said Jean-François Bigot, Director of Major Projects of Séché Environnement and facilitator of the Workshop. “We need to discover the reality and understand the diversity of answers that have to be given.”

It is well known indeed that the treatment of green waste or of waste from food industry seldom causes a problem. Likewise, the management of biowaste of large producers of the food and restaurant industry or of retail industry more often raises collection concerns than treatment concerns. However, the debate is much more complex for the sludge from urban sewage – as to the best treatment, traceability –, or for composts derived from household waste – as to how separate collection needs to be organised once waste streams have been reduced and what obligations – of means or of results – need to be introduced.

Farmers, local authorities, associations...

“To move forward, to understand why some defend the subsidiary principle versus possible European rules, and to overcome reluctances, it is obviously very useful to be more knowledgeable of all stakeholders’ analyses, which are far from unanimous. In particular through the presence of representatives of the farming world, we will gain a better overview of farmers’ analyses, known for being varied, with non-neutral differences, depending on products, crops or regions”, Jean-François Bigot explained. “Likewise, there is a need for clearer overview of what other stakeholders like local governments or economic players think of their obligations. Lastly, we must learn from how this issue is tackled in other European countries”.

Jean-François Bigot said that with stakeholders anxious to express their views on regulatory issues, concrete examples and the various concepts, the discussions in the Assises might be lively: “The interest of this workshop precisely lies in how it is likely to contribute to bring the discussion out in the open.”





Construction waste – A potential source of materials

TECHNICAL WORKSHOP 5:
Waste from building sites: a resource that
needs to be explored
Thursday 3 October 2013, 8:30-10:30 am



Pierre-Louis DUBOURDEAU

Head of the Department of Risk and Nuisance Prevention
Regional and Inter-departmental Directorate for Environment and Energy
DRIEE - Ile-de-France Region.

How can obstacles to the stepping up of the recycling of inert waste from construction industry? The workshop 5 of the Assises des Déchets will focus on this waste, which represents an insufficiently exploited alternative mineral resource. The analysis of Pierre-Louis Durbourdeau, the facilitator of the workshop, is provided here.

A sizeable potential

Construction waste represents a source of almost 300 million tons. The 2009-2013 Waste Plan, consistently with the 2008 Waste Framework Directive, has set an ambitious target to prevent, recycle and develop other methods to recover materials from this waste, for up to 70 % of the weight of such waste by 2020. Key challenges in the improvement of construction waste prevention and recovery are today related to inert waste produced by construction industry.

A challenge – Saving resources

Reuse and recovery of inert waste represent a substantial potential of resource savings, in a context of increasingly difficult access to raw materials. In the French Ile-de-France Region, it is estimated that needs for aggregates will represent 38 million tons by 2020 compared to current consumption levels of 33 million tons, with a 45 % dependency rate for the region. Moreover, such recovery contributes to the reduction of nuisances and of air pollution, for instance by a reduction in transportations, as well as to the protection of landscapes or of biodiversity (decrease in numbers of waste storage centers, etc.).

Tools in place

Various tools have been developed to encourage prevention and recovery of material from waste

produced by deconstruction or demolition sites, such as: tools to encourage good practices, construction diagnostics that have been mandatory since March 1st, 2012, land planning through construction waste prevention and management plans to be developed or reviewed by mid-2013. The latter leverage should also help act on embanking waste, which often ends up being stored.

Obstacles to overcome

Significant obstacles still limit the recycling of waste from construction industry. They are, in the first place, economic obstacles. The cost of recycled materials is often higher than that of natural aggregates. A parallel waste treatment business has been flourishing as a result, in spite of the regulation in force, and at a very low cost. The conditions to control such business as well as tools for their recovery are still to be created: What will be the “economic instrument” mentioned in the Grenelle Conference, what tax avenues should be preferred, how should these challenges be incorporated to career schemes?... Obstacles are also in regulations and standards: What is the percentage of materials contained in recycled construction concrete supposed to be? They are also technical: How should the quality of recycled materials be controlled? And they are psychological – especially as far as project owners are concerned.



DRIEE Ile de France website:
www.driee.ile-de-france.developpement-durable.gouv.fr



Energy upgrading at a turning point?



Elisabeth PONCELET

Coordinator of « Energy, impact and territory » department
Sustainable Consumption and Waste Management Division - Ademe

TECHNICAL WORKSHOP 6:
Energy recovery perspectives
Thursday 3 October 2013, 8:30-10:30 am

Energy upgrading, once a much resented waste treatment channel, seems to be regaining public esteem, although certainly not as a priority channel but as a complementary channel. Elisabeth Poncelet from the Sustainable Consumption and Waste Management Division of the ADEME (French Agency for Environment and Energy Management), will facilitate the workshop on that topic in the next Assises des Déchets.

One thing needs to be clarified first: Is incineration becoming a first choice solution again?

Absolutely not. The priority remains the development of prevention and recycling, and there should be no slackening in efforts in this regard. Energy upgrading is not a mass waste treatment solution any more – only one incinerator is built in France every year, while the other types of treatment channels are growing at a steady pace. Nevertheless, it is important to divert the maximum of remaining waste from storage. Besides, the aim of the European strategy is to consider waste as a resource by 2020, and waste management policies are supposed to incorporate resource conservation. For all these reasons, energy upgrading is one of avenues that need to be further explored. Waste, as a source of energy, is easy to mobilise, although environmental and health concerns should never be neglected.

Hence the position of incineration is being re-determined by energy perspectives rather than the treatment method in itself?

It's at least part of the explanation. In a difficult economic period and after several years of price increases, it has become necessary to balance and stabilise the cost of waste treatment. It is all the more true as the foreseeable energy price increases will make waste recovering or upgrading more competi-

tive. The other element in the analysis is the notion of complementariness, in a multi-channel scheme: energy upgrading channel is integrated with other channels in accordance with prevailing hierarchy, which entails giving priority to prevention and recycling, but also enabling local communities to work out a comprehensive approach for the treatment of their waste.

Does this mean that there has been some technical and organisational progress in the field?

Yes, definitely, especially as regards efforts for preparation and upgrading of SRF (solid recovered fuel), of liquid or gaseous bio-fuel and of biogas, often only requiring the adaptation of the existing industrial sites and for which, therefore, there is a certain social acceptance. There is also increasing ownership by industries, as potential users, of such energy sources, with closer ties between them and waste management industrial players. There is progress, at last, in terms of community approaches emerging here and there, in which energy upgrading may appear as the last but necessary link of circular economy. Workshop 6 of the Assises is intended to foster all-encompassing discussions on national, European and global economic, social and technological challenges, including many field experiences.



ADEME website:
www.ademe.fr



From a waste industry to a recycling industry

TECHNICAL WORKSHOP 7:
Technologies: the new potentials that
can be exploited
Thursday 3 October 2013, 8:30-10:30 am



Muriel OLIVIER

Director of Communication and Corporate Relations
VEOLIA PROPLETE

The recognised performance level of waste industry has been achieved thanks to a lot of technology development intended to promote waste recycling and upgrading. The ongoing dynamic takes many forms, a number of which will be addressed in a workshop of the Assises that will focus on innovation and technology.

As explained by the director of communication and corporate relations of Veolia Proprete, Muriel Olivier, in charge of facilitating the workshop, "to meet the objective of waste incineration and storage reduction set by the laws promulgated following the Grenelle Conference, new waste treatment and transformation channels need to be developed. We will provide a very concrete insight on already up and running technologies."

Automatic sorting is one of explored avenues. It allows optimising upgrading, in particular in high-performance sorting centres encouraging secondary raw materials recycling and Solid Recovered Fuel (SRF) production for cement factories or even dedicated thermal power channels.

Automatic sorting, circular economy, bio-fuels...

The development of recycling channels for the benefit of circular economy is another core issue. There are promising examples of collaboration between industrial producers and recyclers such

as the Association Alliance Chimie Recycling (2ACR) or Osilub, a joint subsidiary of Veolia and Total, in Le Havre, specialised in engine oil processing.

There are also promising perspectives in the field of production of bio-fuels from waste such as used cooking oils, biogas produced in storage centres, methane, etc. Treatment solutions are up and running but the economic balance of these new channels is fragile. New gasification methods implemented by other countries with no equivalent in France will also be discussed.

"There is a remarkably diverse array of methods, and we will draw up the fullest possible overview," Muriel Olivier concluded. She added: "The ministry of Productive Recovery expressed its interest for such scaling up of the French recycling industry. However, fundamental questions such as the awareness of the potentials and the funding of the transformation of our industry need to be raised."



VEOLIA PROPLETE website:
www.veolia-proprete.com

12^e Assises des déchets

WEDNESDAY 2nd October 2013

09.00 am Welcome of participants

10.00 am Opening of the conference
Welcome speeches

10.30 am Intervention of a personality

11.00 am Debate in plenary session: PS1
What are the results of the
2009-2013, Waste Plan so far?

12.30 am Lunch

2.00 pm Debate in plenary session: PS2
Is hierarchy in prevention needed

3.30 pm Break

4 to 6.00 pm Parallel Technical Workshops:

1. Statistics: a public policy tool to improve?
2. Treatment capacities: a new sizing pattern
3. Recycling: proximity versus industrialisation?
4. How can organic waste be (properly) recovered?

8.30 pm Dinner



Thursday 3rd October 2013

8.30 am Parallel Technical Workshops:

5. Waste from building sites: a resource that needs to be explored
6. Energy recovery perspectives
7. Technologies: the new potentials that can be exploited
8. Nuclear facilities: dismantling and lifecycle-related challenges

10.30 am Break

11.00 am Debate in plenary session: PS3
Superposition of plans threatens coherence

12.30 am Lunch

2.00 pm Debate in plenary session: PS4
Challenges and propositions for the future

3.30 pm Intervention of Mrs. Delphine BATHO,
Minister of Ecology, Sustainable
Development and Energy

4.00 pm Closure of the Assises



The 12^e Assises, they are everywhere

* The media support the 12^e Assises des Déchets

Techniques - Sciences - Méthodes (ASTEE)
Environnement Magazine and Recyclage Récupération (Victoires Editions)
Environnement et Technique and Actu-environnement.com (Cogiterra)
Techni.Cités (Territorial)
Ecollectivités magazine
Les Cahiers de l'Environnement
Décisions Durables
Le Journal de l'Environnement
Terra eco
Dechetcom
Déchets Infos
Enviro2B
Myjobdurable
AFITE - le réseau d'experts pour l'environnement
Inforisque.info



* Award 2013:

The Assises des Déchets have received
the Sustainable Development Trophy
during the «Rencontres France Congrès» in 2012.

France Congrès is the Association of Mayors of Congress Cities
that works for the business tourism development.



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2 et 3 octobre 2013 Cité des Congrès de Nantes

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