



Circular Economy Solutions Dialogues (CESD) on Organic Waste

Organic Matter: Waste or Resource?

April 2024 – September 2024, always between 12:00 – 13:30 CET

Concept Note

On behalf of the *German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV)* the global project ***Environmental Protection Worldwide*** of the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH* continues the Circular Economy Solutions Dialogues (CESD) series with new thematic focus areas.

A first dialogue series focusing on Extended and Ultimate Producer Responsibility was organised from October 2023 to January 2024. The second dialogue series, beginning in April 2024, will focus on **Organic Matter and Waste**. Organic waste comprises any residual organic matter that can be decomposed into carbon dioxide, water, methane, or simple organic molecules through processes like composting, aerobic digestion, anaerobic digestion, or similar methods ([UNEP](#)).

As cities grow worldwide, managing organic waste becomes harder. This waste, like food scraps and yard trimmings, is a large part of what we throw away, especially in low- and middle-income economies. Sadly, much of organic residuals end up in landfills or illegal dumps, releasing harmful gases like methane that contribute significantly to climate change. Organic residuals are both a challenge and an opportunity – they can be turned into energy or used to improve soil.

The upcoming dialogue series aims to explore how organic waste prevention can be achieved, discuss viable policy and technology pathways capable of alleviating the adverse environmental and climate impacts associated with organic residuals, and promote solutions and practices that value organic resources. We'll also address changing behaviours and consider both urban and rural perspectives, exploring new ways to prevent organic waste and use organic matter wisely.

Who is it for?

Participants include policy makers, businesses, civil society, academia, think tanks and international organisations. They are expected to take part in all meetings to ensure continuity and maintain a genuine team spirit. The dialogues in 2024 will take place on **April 24, May 22, June 19, and September 25** always between 12:00 – 13:30 CET.

How does it work?

The CESD are designed as a four-month multi-stakeholder / multi-country dialogues, comprising of:

- four virtual meetings that employ a mix of dialogue methodologies and leadership impulses,
- e-collaboration to identify, draw out, and co-create ideas in between via the [Green Tech Knowledge Hub](#), and
- a report on findings, solutions, and success stories.

What is unique about it?

The virtual meetings will be interdisciplinary, discussing promises and challenges regarding the prevention and treatment of organic waste in the context of policies, technologies, and economics. Aspects of behavioural change will be horizontally discussed during all sessions and across varying levels.

- No, or limited, use of PowerPoint slides
- Interactive, cross-sectoral, and multi-country nature
- Promoting diversity of opinions and welcoming fail- as well as success stories
- A safe conversational space to share viewpoints
- Limited preparation required by speakers

Prior to the CESD

24 April 2024
1st plenary session

Further content will be shared on the [Green Tech Knowledge Hub](#).

How can we acknowledge organic waste as a resource?

An introduction to the current global situation in the organic waste value chain.

Participants can look forward to:

- 1) sharing expectation and challenges, and
- 2) exciting stories about organic waste prevention and management.

22 May 2024
2nd plenary session

How can we support the circular flows of organic matter between urban and rural spaces?

An exploration of the urban-rural dynamics of organic waste.

Participants can look forward to answering:

- 1) how do we manage stakeholders so that circularity is ensured?
- 2) how can the urban-rural flows be mutually beneficial for both settings?
- 3) how can behavioural change be achieved within all involved parties?

19 June 2024
3rd plenary session

What methods and technologies can help us to prevent the creation of organic waste and encourage its usage across sectors?

New approaches for turning organic waste into resources.

Participants can look forward to answering:

- 1) how to establish and choose between different types of solutions for organic waste transformation?
- 2) what are the key considerations in designing and implementing resource recovery facilities?
- 3) what are the primary threats hindering the adoption of waste-to-resource technologies?
- 4) how to escape system level lock-ins and promote waste prevention?

25 September 2024
4th plenary session

How can policies harness organic resources?

Policies, stakeholders, finances, and incentives

Participants can look forward to addressing:

- 1) the pros and cons of waste prevention strategies,
- 2) organic-waste-into-resources conversion strategies,
- 3) which financial models or incentives would be desirable & viable for businesses and communities?
- 4) how can waste-to-resource strategies be integrated into broader circular economy models?

Public Presentation
TBD

Insights from CESD 2.0

Bite-sized, curated messages on the dialogue series entitled, Organic Matter: Waste or Resource?