



PRESS RELEASE

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Finding a True Balance for Waste Management in the Taxonomy, a Common Statement

Several associations representing both public and private operators of the entire waste management value chain ask for the inclusion of Waste-to-Energy in the taxonomy. They propose criteria under which this inclusion is possible, in line with the Taxonomy Regulation.

Today, the Platform on Sustainable Finance published its final report on the inclusion of new activities in the EU Taxonomy Framework. This report leaves a gap regarding the Waste Hierarchy for non-hazardous residual waste. The EU Taxonomy Framework should push for the implementation of the top steps of the Waste Hierarchy. However, it should also empower the environmentally sound treatment of the non-recyclable material: residual waste.

Despite the best efforts to prevent waste and to sort for recycling, there will always be a remaining fraction of non-recyclable residual waste which should be treated in the most sustainable way.

In the [attached statement](#), several associations call for the inclusion of Waste-to-Energy (non-hazardous waste incineration with energy recovery) in the EU Taxonomy Framework. They propose the following conditions to ensure that the activity does no significant harm:

- The Waste-to-Energy facility treats only non-recyclable waste;
- The National Waste Management Plan is designed in such a way as to ensure the separate collection of all mandatory fractions as well as the achievement of waste prevention aims, reuse and recycling targets and is in the process of being implemented or implementation has been completed;
- The facility meets the R1 energy recovery criterion.

With such conditions in place, Waste-to-Energy enables the treatment of non-hazardous, non-recyclable waste higher up in the Waste Hierarchy. It is the very much needed solution in Member States where landfilling non-hazardous, recoverable, residual waste is still the dominant practice. And this way Waste-to-Energy contributes to the circular economy objective under the EU Taxonomy Framework.

Additionally it contributes to the pollution prevention objective: Waste-to-Energy ensures the most sustainable treatment for non-hazardous residual waste by destroying pollutants embedded in the waste. At the same time it recovers precious energy and clean materials from the bottom ash such as metals and aggregates.

The full common statement [can be found here](#).

Signatories of the common statement

CEWEP (Confederation of European Waste-to-Energy Plants) is the umbrella association of the operators of Waste-to-Energy plants across Europe. CEWEP's members are committed to ensuring high environmental standards, achieving low emissions and maintaining state of the art energy production from remaining waste that cannot be recycled in a sustainable way.

www.cewep.eu

ESWET is a European association representing the European suppliers of Waste-to-Energy technologies, committed to foster the development and dissemination of Waste-to-Energy at the European level. ESWET also seeks to raise the awareness of the positive implications of the technology in terms of better waste management, energy and for the environment.

www.eswet.eu

FEAD is the European Waste Management Association, representing the private waste and resource management industry across Europe, including 19 national waste management federations representing 3,000 waste management companies.

www.fead.be

Municipal Waste Europe is the European umbrella association representing public responsibility for waste.

www.municipalwasteurope.eu

