

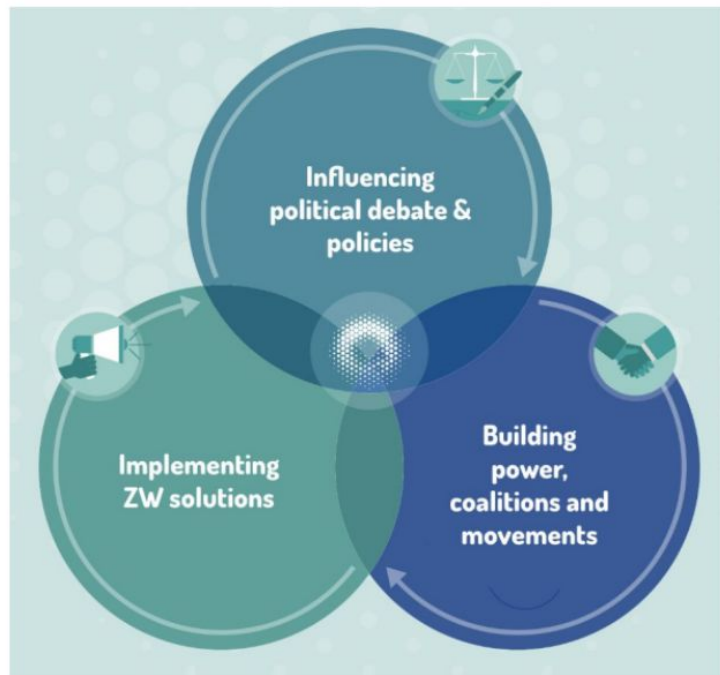


Extended Producer Responsibility for food products

How to finance food waste prevention and management?

Theresa Morsen, Waste and Resources Policy Manager

We are the **European network of communities, local leaders, experts, and change makers** working towards a better use of resources and **elimination of waste** in our society.



39 members & alliances
in 30 countries



2025: €3.2 M



21 staff

European chapter of

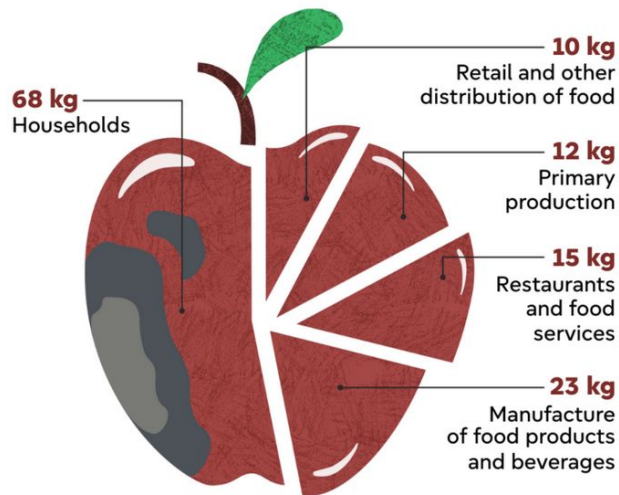


Co-founder and member of Rpa & BFFP



Why Extended Producer Responsibility for food products?

129 kg food waste per inhabitant in the EU



Due to roundings, the sum of the values for the categories does not match the total.

Source: Eurostat [env_wasfw] - most recent data available (2022)



EU legal framework

- Obligation to source separate biowaste since 2024
- 65% recycling target for 2035
- 30% food waste reduction target by 2030

Current situation

- Only 26% of food waste is captured (EU average)
- Lack of instruments and economic incentives to achieve obligations and targets

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

Under Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) producers of products bear financial responsibility or financial and organisational responsibility for the management of the waste stage of a product's life cycle.

As defined in the EU Waste Framework Directive 2008/98/EC

→ Definition is limited; ideally, it should cover the entire life cycle.

Separate collection of different waste streams in the EU

Tyres	95%
End of life vehicles	~85%
Packaging	67%
Batteries	45-48%
Waste of Electronic and Electric Equipment (WEEE)	37,5%  EPR in place
Biowaste	26%
Textiles	~15%
Sanitary items	<1%

LIFE BIOBEST

GUIDING THE MAINSTREAMING OF BEST BIO-WASTE RECYCLING PRACTICES IN EUROPE

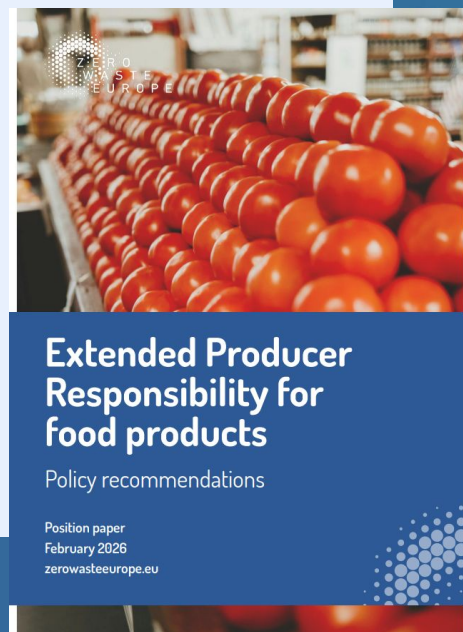
D5.2: Policy brief including the regulatory barriers

WPs: Policy and Regulatory Recommendations for bio-waste

T5.1: Identifying and analysing policy and regulatory barriers for the production of high-quality compost and digestate from bio-waste

BUILDING ON FORMER RESEARCH:

- **The LIFE BIOBEST project** suggests exploring EPR for food products as a way to address the challenges of food waste collection.



How would EPR for food products work?

The study looks into:

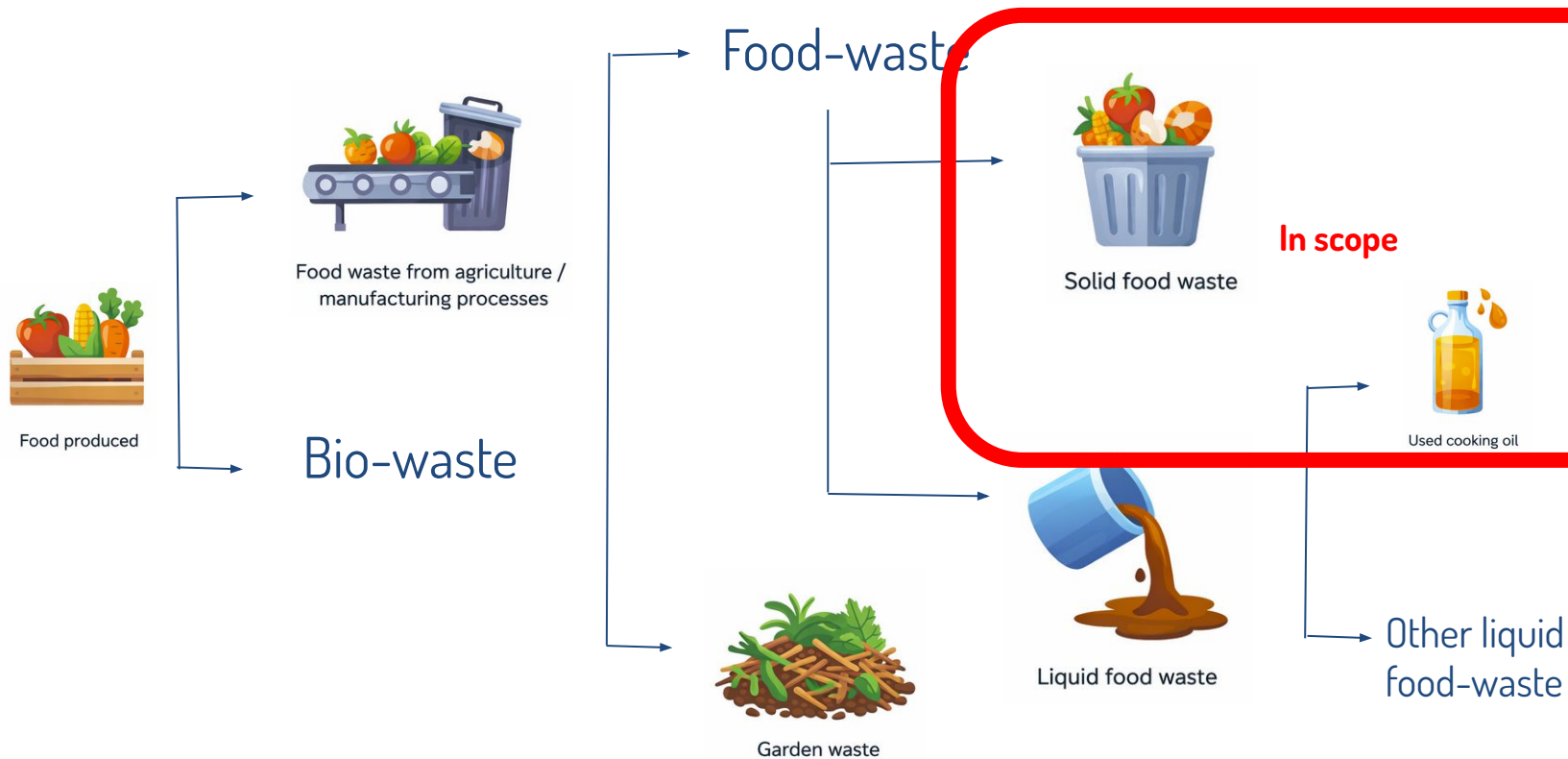
- Which products to include in the scope?
- Who should pay the EPR fees?
- How much of the prevention and collection costs would be covered?
- What is covered by EPRFP revenues?

The case for Extended Producer Responsibility for food products

Study - January 2026



Products scope - what products pay the EPR fee



Responsibility scope - where would the EPR fee be placed? (who pays)



Cost allocation today (without EPRFP)



Bio-waste



Garden waste



Food waste
by households



Food waste by
hotels, restaurants
and cafes



Paid by citizens via
municipal taxes



Paid by HORECA
to municipal or
private waste operators

Cost allocation with EPRFP



Bio-waste



Garden waste



Food waste
by households



Food waste by
hotels, restaurants
and cafes



Paid by citizens via
municipal taxes



Cofinanced by EPR fees and
municipalities



Cofinanced by EPR fees
and HORECA to pay
private and public waste
operators

**~50% of costs
covered by EPRFP**

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for food products: payment responsibility flowcharts

These flowcharts illustrate who pays EPR fees at different stages of the food supply chain, ensuring no double charging while maintaining the polluter pays principle.

Scenario 1: Small producer → Direct to consumer

Small-scale producer selling directly to consumers (e.g. farmer's market, farm shop)



Small producer
Excluded from EPR

Consumer
Excluded from EPR

Scenario 2: Big producer → Wholesaler → Retail → Consumer

Large producer sells to wholesaler who distributes to supermarket chains



Big producer
Excluded from EPR

Wholesaler
Pays EPR fee

Retail
No fee (not own brand)

Consumer
Excluded from EPR

Scenario 3: Retail own brand → Consumer

Supermarket selling their own private label products



Retail (own brand)
Pays EPR fee (acts as wholesale)

Consumer
Excluded from EPR

Scenario 4: Importer → Retail/online platform → Consumer

Imported foods sold through large retailers or online platforms



Importer
Pays EPR fee

Retail/Online platform
No fee (not own brand)

Consumer
Excluded from EPR

Scenario 5: Retail (own brand) → Small retail → Consumer

Corner shop selling mix of wholesaler products and small farmer products



Retail (own brand)
Pays EPR fee (acts as wholesale)

Small retail/corner shop
Protected from EPR

Consumer
Excluded from EPR

Scenario 6: Wholesaler → HORECA → Consumer

Hotels, cafes, restaurants (HORECA) purchasing from wholesalers



Wholesaler
Pays EPR fee

HORECA
Pays collection fees

Consumer
Excluded from EPR

Cost coverage of EPR fees

Option 1: “traditional” EPR core services coverage	Option 2: Comprehensive EPR coverage
● Collection of separately sorted food waste ● Treatment (composting, pre-processing feedstock for biomaterials and anaerobic digestion) ● Basic monitoring and reporting	● Collection and treatment (as option 1) ● Food Waste Prevention Programs ○ Social meal initiatives ○ Food bank support and surplus redistribution ○ Consumer education campaigns ● Litter Cleanup (food waste in street bins and public spaces) ● Monitoring and Enforcement ● Research and Innovation in waste reduction technologies

How to introduce EPR for food products?

- Mandated nationally or regionally
- Targets for bio-waste in residual waste (as suggested by EU LIFE BIOBEST project) are the best indicator for successful separate collection because they account for achievements in prevention and separate collection.

Final considerations

- Would EPR on food waste make food more expensive?
- Is EPRFP duplicating the role of Pay-As-You-Throw?
- Would EPR delay action on separate collection?

More research needed!

Q&A (5')

Please scan the [Mentimeter](#) code to post your question

Access code: 6430 6685





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Thank you

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