



PRESS RELEASE

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Sectors: Industry / Household Packaging / Green Technologies

**OPINIONWAY survey for the SPHERE group
“COMPOSTING: WHERE DO THE FRENCH STAND?”**

**FRENCH PEOPLE ARE READY TO START SORTING THEIR BIOWASTE
AND REQUEST RESOURCES AND INFORMATION FROM THEIR MUNICIPALITY**

The SPHERE group calls on newly elected mayors to make the collection of biowaste and its recovery by composting a part of their mandate.

The SPHERE group, the leading European company for household packaging, unveils the results of its exclusive survey on “French Attitudes to Composting” conducted in partnership with OpinionWay*.

Only 22% of French people state that their municipality collects biowaste separately, while **69% of respondents** without biowaste collection **would like to see it implemented**. This figure rises to 81% for those under 35, 78% for people living in apartments, and 75% for those living in cities with more than 100,000 inhabitants.

85% of French people would like to receive more information, even though 44% state that they already practice some form of composting.

The Anti-Waste and Circular Economy Law currently provides that all citizens must have a practical solution for sorting their biowaste at source by 31 December 2023.

2023 is just around the corner! The SPHERE group hence already offers local authorities bio-compostable bags that are perfectly suited to perforated bio-bucket bins.

47% of French people do not compost due to lack of space, especially those living in apartments (56%). **35%, meanwhile, do not do so because there is no infrastructure nearby**. This is particularly the case for those living in apartments (43%).

49% of those living in rural areas expect to receive composters from their municipality, while **41% of urban dwellers want compostable bags**, especially those in cities with more than 100,000 inhabitants. These resources have already proved their worth, with **70% of those using bio-compostable bags finding them useful**.

For John Persenda, “*bio-compostable bags facilitate the collection of biowaste. This is the case in many cities such as Montpellier and Grasse. These bags have the advantage of limiting polluting factors such as odours, insects, and liquid secretions - benefits recalled by ADEME in its 2019 report*”.

Moreover, French people do not feel sufficiently informed on this topic. While 52% receive information from their municipality about biowaste collection and home composting, **33% receive no information at all**.

“*Separate collection of biowaste improves sorting and the collection of recyclable materials by encouraging consumers to sort their waste better. In its 2016 technical-economic study of separate biowaste collection, ADEME noted that biowaste collection has a positive effect on the collection of recyclables, with more tonnes collected and better sorting quality,*” explains John Persenda.

The SPHERE group calls on new mayors to include in their mandate the collection of biowaste and its recovery by domestic, industrial or semi-industrial composting, or methanation, by making the following resources available to all citizens:

- 1. Bio-bucket bins to facilitate collection and optimise sorting,**
- 2. Bio-compostable bags and a system for recovering biowaste,**
- 3. A biowaste collection system tailored to the structure of the housing.**

About SPHERE

SPHERE is a French family group founded in 1976. It is the leading European company for household packaging and one of the world's leading producers of bio-compostable materials for film wraps and bags.

SPHERE manufactures and distributes ranges of low-environmental impact, innovative products for the general public, professional users and local authorities.

- **BAGS:** garbage bags, collection bags, fruit and vegetable bags, freezer bags, cooking bags, reusable bags and shopping bags, etc.
- **FILMS WRAPS** and **PAPER** for use in food contact,
- **ALLUMINIUM TRAYS** and **FOIL**,
- **DISPOSABLE** and **TAKEAWAY TABLEWARE**

SPHERE's development strategy is to innovate for future generations. Its main goals include:

- Using the appropriate material for each product based on its end of life
- Increasing the proportion of recycled materials in its products
- Prioritising the production of bio-sourced raw materials
- The eco-design new biomaterials taking into account their end of life

SPHERE has 15 production sites in Europe, eight of which are in France, and 1,428 employees. With an annual production of 150,000 tonnes of film wraps and bags, the company recorded turnover of 582 million euros in 2019.

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** Study conducted online with a sample of 3,003 people representative of the French population in terms of gender, age, socio-professional category and region. The interviews were conducted from 27 January to 3 February 2020.*

- APPENDIX -
OPINIONWAY survey for the SPHERE group
“FRENCH ATTITUDES TO COMPOSTING”

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