



PRESS RELEASE
Paris, 18 October 2023

HOW TO SPEED UP THE DEPLOYMENT OF BIOWASTE SORTING SOLUTIONS AT THE SOURCE LOOKING AHEAD TO 1 JANUARY 2024

SPHERE Group, through its subsidiary PTL, welcomed the interest shown by the local authorities on the subject of biowaste during its participation in two major events at the POLLUTEC Trade Fair in LYON, France.

SPHERE Group participated, in front of nearly one hundred people, in the Round Table "Sorting and collecting biowaste - Are we up to the challenge?", organised by Biogaz Vallée. **Arnaud Leroy**, SPHERE Group's Director of Sustainable Development spoke alongside **Grégory Lannou**, Director of Biogaz Vallée, and **Aziz Benaddou**, Environment Business Manager for Elcimaï Environnement, providing concrete information with respect to the enforcement of the AGECE Law, which makes biowaste sorting mandatory at the source from 1 January 2024, for all producers: households, professionals and local authorities.

Each year, French households produce 18 million tonnes of biowaste, i.e. between 10 and 35 kg/inhabitant/year, which, for the time being, go to incineration or landfill. Yet this same biowaste could be recovered via domestic or industrial composting and by anaerobic digestion and thus contribute to enriching the soil and producing energy.

Local authorities are thus faced with a major challenge: not only must they organise collection and get involved in biowaste treatment and recovery, they are also required to contribute to facilitating a new sorting process.

According to Arnaud Leroy: *"We need to set up a nationwide chain in France with all the players around the table, in which we will be one of the links, offering solutions such as the pre-collection bag for biowaste and ongoing work with the local authorities that translates into educational information for local residents"*.

All the speakers made references to other topics inherent in biowaste:

- The implementation of studies on the optimisation of waste collection and the renewal of contracts, in particular bio-waste.
- The collection methods that need to be implemented at the local level.
- Reports from the ground, in France and among our European neighbours, particularly in Italy, as well as the impacts for the biowaste treatment and recovery sectors.

The stand run by PTL, a subsidiary of the SPHERE Group, also attracted a large audience, with more than 200 visitors looking for solutions to setting up the collection of biowaste.

- The local authorities requested information on the different types of bags offered by PTL, and asked about the benefits of a biosourced compostable bag compared to a paper bag.
- Other local authorities having already set up collection operations were interested in offering our ranges of bags and covers for professionals.
- Private companies were in search of ways to optimise the collection of biowaste in company cafeterias.
- Collectors and sorting centres requested details on compostable protective covers for containers and pallet crates.
- Design offices commissioned by the local authorities were looking for solutions in the context of calls for tender.
- Wholesale operators from Martinique and Réunion, meanwhile, sought general information.

SPHERE Group, a partner to local authorities for more than 40 years

As a partner to numerous local authorities in France and Europe, SPHERE bases its development on close cooperation with elected officials and heads of technical services. From simple forward-looking management of endowments by type of housing, seasonal variables and the implementation of distribution, to the collection bags collected at the sorting centre to be integrated into the Group's recycling channel, SPHERE offers local authorities "à la carte" services in accordance with specifications drawn up jointly. SPHERE takes an active part in implementing new collection concepts, in particular with the principle of the paid bag, which offers a strong incentive to sort and reduce the volume of waste. With 1st January 2024 just around the corner, SPHERE has positioned itself as a facilitator for the implementation of biowaste sorting and collection. Lastly, the bag is an excellent vehicle for communication. In addition to sorting instructions, it can bear the local authority's logo, information about collection or any other message. All of which means significant added value for local authorities.

About SPHERE

Founded in 1976, SPHERE is a French family-owned group, the European leader in household packaging, a specialist in food and non-food packaging for professionals and one of the world's leading producers of plant-based, compostable materials for films and bags. With 15 production sites in Europe, 7 of which are in France, in 2022 SPHERE recorded turnover of 832 million euros and has 1,618 employees.

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APPENDIX - KEY FIGURES

Biowaste in France, in a few key figures

20 M

In France, out of all waste collected, **biowaste accounts for more than 20 million tonnes³ each year**. i.e. **35 to 10 kg/inhabitant⁴ of food waste alone**.

30%

Food waste accounts for 30%⁵ of our waste bins. These riches are just waiting to be mined by local authorities, using solutions for sorting and collecting biowaste at the source.

10%

Today, **less than 10%² of the French population is covered by selective collection of this food waste**, of which only 40% is recovered, for composting or anaerobic digestion to produce fertilisers and/or energy.

69%

The French have high expectations! **A vast majority (69%⁶) want their municipality to institute this form of collection**, even more so in major metropolitan areas (75%).

Biogas in France, in a few key figures

The potential of renewable gases must be fully mobilised within the framework of the energy-climate strategy for the benefit of energy sovereignty

1,300 methanation plants and nearly **800** projects under development

(Source: *Novethic 2022*)

30,000 non-relocatable jobs by 2027

(Source: *Chambers of Agriculture 2022*)

20% In 2021, France doubled its biomethane production capacity and the gas sector expects to reach **20% green gas by 2030**

(Source: Panorama of renewable gases n 2021, SER, GRDFGRDF, Gas SPEgNN *Terega*)



100 kg of biowaste per inhabitant/year, i.e. 13 million tonnes at the national level = **14 TWH**

Sources:

3- *La Tribune*, [Les biodéchets futur chantier des déchets](#) [Biowaste, the future workstream for waste] - 2018.

4- Guide de Compost Plus, [La collecte séparée des biodéchets, une solution d'avenir](#) [Separated collection of bio-waste, a solution with a future] - 2018. [La collecte séparée des biodéchets, une solution d'avenir](#) [Separated collection of bio-waste, a solution with a future]

5- SPHERE survey/[Opinion Way, Compostage où en sont les Français?](#) [Composting: where do the French stand?], p. 10. Online study of a sample of 3003 people representative of the French population in terms of gender, age, socio-professional category and region - 2020

6- SPHERE survey/[Opinion Way, Compostage où en sont les Français?](#) [Composting: where do the French stand?], p15 - 2020