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# The Market for Mechanical Biological Waste Treatment in Europe

Locations, plants, backgrounds and market estimations

**Extract**

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## **The Market for Mechanical Biological Waste Treatment in Europe**

The business with mechanical biological waste treatment plants (MBT plants) continues to be a strong market. In the past 5 years, an average of about 25 new MBT plants were constructed annually in Europe. In this way, an average of about 2.2 million annual tons were commissioned each year.

In early 2017, Europe has a total of about 570 active MBT plants with a treatment capacity of 55 million tons.

ecoprolog expects another 120 facilities with an estimated capacity of almost 10 million annual tons to be commissioned between 2017 and 2025. Thus the market situation will continue to be strong in the coming years, although the speed of construction will decrease somewhat.

In many countries, the modernisation of existing plants will replace the new construction business. One reason for this is the production of RDF, which is increasingly pushed to reduce the landfilling fraction of the MBT plants. The altered composition of residual waste as a result of a stronger separate collection also requires investments in existing plants.

Against this backdrop, ecoprolog has analysed the existing European MBT plants and forecast the future market development by using a transparent methodology.

The study **"The Market for Mechanical Biological Waste Treatment in Europe"** includes:

- The description and analysis of 520 MBT plants and 200 projects in Europe by site, including technical data and contact addresses.
- A valid estimation of the future market development by country, based on a transparent methodology.
- A competition analysis of the most important MBT plant operators on the European market.
- An overview of the most important plant technology as well as costs and revenues on the MBT market.
- A comprehensive explanation and analysis of the European legal framework.

The study is available in **German and English from 3,400,- € plus VAT.**

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<b>Preface</b>					<b>11</b>
<b>Management summary</b>					<b>12</b>
<b>1 Differentiation</b>					<b>16</b>
1.1	Term				16
1.2	Waste input, differentiation from other sorting plants				16
1.3	Geographical differentiation				18
<b>2 Plant technology</b>					<b>19</b>
2.1	Purpose				19
2.2	Influencing factors				20
2.3	Basic structure				24
2.4	Waste delivery, initial storage				25
2.5	Shredding				26
2.6	Sorting				28
2.7	Biological treatment				30
2.8	Flue gas cleaning				33
2.9	Other support processes				33
<b>3 Costs and revenues</b>					<b>36</b>
3.1	Investment costs				39
3.2	Operational costs				41
3.3	Revenues				44
<b>4 Legal framework and market factors</b>					<b>46</b>
4.1	EU waste policies				46
4.2	RDF demand				57
4.3	MBT vs. waste incineration				59
4.4	Biogas subsidisation				64
4.5	Other market factors				66
<b>5 Plants and market</b>					<b>67</b>
5.1	Plants				67
5.2	Market				71
<b>6 Competition</b>					<b>75</b>
6.1	Operators				75
6.2	Technology providers				76
<b>7 National markets and sites</b>					<b>88</b>
7.1	Belgium	88	7.17	Netherlands	208
7.2	Bulgaria	92	7.18	Norway	214
7.3	Denmark	97	7.19	Austria	220
7.4	Germany	100	7.20	Poland	227
7.5	Estonia	114	7.21	Portugal	265
7.6	Finland	119	7.22	Romania	273
7.7	France	124	7.23	Sweden	281
7.8	Greece	142	7.24	Switzerland	284
7.9	Ireland	149	7.25	Slovakia	287
7.10	Iceland	155	7.26	Slovenia	290
7.11	Italy	158	7.27	Spain	296
7.12	Croatia	180	7.28	Czech Republic	307
7.13	Latvia	187	7.29	Hungary	311
7.14	Lithuania	194	7.30	UK	320
7.15	Luxembourg	201	7.31	Cyprus	335
7.16	Malta	204			
<b>Glossary</b>					<b>341</b>
<b>Methodology / data</b>					<b>342</b>

**Annex A: List of projects**

**343**

**Annex B: Data for market forecast**

**353**

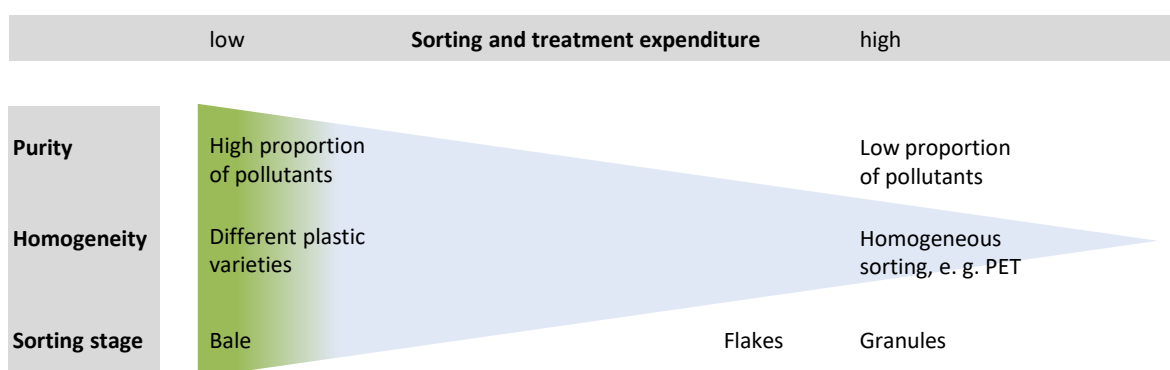
Figure 1: Analysed topic in the ecoprolog waste matrix	17
Figure 2: Geographical differentiation of the analysed markets	18
Figure 3: Higher-level material flow in an MBT plant	19
Figure 4: Input and treatment effort	20
Figure 5: Output and treatment effort	21
Figure 6: Processing efforts for plastics (secondary raw material)	22
Figure 7: Processing efforts for refuse-derived fuel	23
Figure 8: Output and treatment effort	25
Figure 9: Decomposing composite material through shredding	26
Figure 10: Selected technologies for reducing the size of waste pieces	27
Figure 11: Technologies for separating waste	28
Figure 12: Exemplary MBT plant	35
Figure 13: Examples for investment sums for new construction projects*	36
Figure 14: Overview investment sum	40
Figure 15: Components of operational costs	41
Figure 16: Operational costs of mechanical processing (without disposal and transportation costs)	42
Figure 17: Market factors for MBT plants	46
Figure 18: Adoption and implementation of EU Landfill Directive	47
Figure 19: Shares of type of MSW treatment in the EU, by country	48
Figure 20: Deadlines of the Landfill Directive and reductions for reaching the third deadline	49
Figure 21: Reduction of landfilled biodegradable waste by third deadline	50
Figure 22: Measures for limiting landfilling in the EEA	51
Figure 23: Adoption and implementation of EU Landfill Directive	52
Figure 24: Waste hierarchy (EU Waste Framework Directive)	53
Figure 25: Adoption and implementation of IPPC Directive	54
Figure 26: Targets by 2030 of planned Circular Economy Package	56
Figure 27: Calorific value of selected fuels	57
Figure 28: Coal and oil prices in Europe 1995-2015	58
Figure 29: MBT vs. waste incineration	60
Figure 30: Transportation routes to a treatment plant in a rural location	62
Figure 31: Space needed by 1 Mg of MWS	63
Figure 32: Plants in Europe, n=570	67
Figure 33: MBT capacities in Europe, n=54.9 million Mg/a	68
Figure 34: Average plant size by region	68
Figure 35: Type of biological treatment, n=373	69
Figure 36: MBT capacities per capita	70
Figure 37: Development of MBT capacities and plants in Europe by 2025	72
Figure 38: Annual new construction and additionally installed treatment capacities	72
Figure 39: Expected construction of new MBT capacities between 2017 and 2025 in 1,000 Mg/a	74
Figure 40: MBT plant operators in Europe	75
Figure 41: MSW treatment in Belgium 2004-2014	88
Figure 42: Plants and projects in Belgium	91
Figure 43: MSW treatment in Bulgaria 2004-2014	92
Figure 44: Market forecast Bulgaria	95
Figure 45: Plants and projects in Bulgaria	96
Figure 46: MSW treatment in Denmark 2004-2014	97
Figure 47: MSW treatment in Germany 2004-2014	100
Figure 48: Market forecast Germany	104
Figure 49: Plants and projects in Germany	105
[...]	
Figure 141: Feed-in tariff in the UK 2016-2019	322
Figure 142: Market forecast UK	323
Figure 143: Project outlook UK	324
Figure 144: Plants and projects in the UK	325
Figure 145: MSW treatment in Cyprus 2004-2014	335
Figure 146: Market forecast Cyprus	338
Figure 147: Project outlook Cyprus	338
Figure 148: Plants and projects in Cyprus	339

[...]

Different plant outputs also need different technology. Which kind of technology is applied, depends on the type of the customer and also on its own technology:

- The quality of the sorted recyclables, e.g. plastic or paper, differs by customer. Many of such customers are specialised sorting plants that “refine” the plastic, e.g. to mono-fraction granulate, by processing it through further sorting stages. Depending on the equipment of the sorting plants, their input material (i.e. an MBT plant’s output) requirements vary as well. Demands are usually higher for paper that is delivered to a paper mill directly, as many paper mills only have small capacities for installing further sorting and cleaning processes.
- The RDF the MBT plants produce is incinerated in different types of power plants, e.g. in waste incinerators, RDF power plants (power plants especially designed for these refuse-derived fuels), cement mills and coal-fired power plants. The requirements of these plants vary significantly. Co-incinerators usually make high demands on the RDF as this may not significantly affect their primary business purpose, for instance the production of cement. Waste incineration plants can often handle material that has only undergone minor pretreatment, after all, they generally incinerated unsorted waste. Waste incinerators therefore make considerably lower demands, however, this also holds true for the prices. The grain size of the RDF does not play a major role for an RDF power plant equipped with grate combustion technology; however, when fluidised bed incineration is applied, the individual RDF particles are blown in and may therefore not exceed a specific maximum size.
- The specifications of the individual countries even differ for landfilling, e.g. in terms of technology or referring to individual limit values, such as the carbon share (TOC).

**Figure 6: Processing efforts for plastics (secondary raw material)**



Source: ecoprolog

[...]

[...]

The probably largest economic advantage of MBT plants is their small size and therefore their logistical advantages, especially in rural areas.

Due to expensive incineration technology and flue gas cleaning, a waste incineration plant needs minimum amounts of waste in order to run cost-efficiently. In rural areas especially, this may result in a very large catchment area and high transportation costs.

Depending on the location and the settlement structure, this effort may be reduced by installing several smaller MBT plants. They do not only reduce the waste's weight (due to the loss of moisture), but also make it easier to transport, thanks to smaller grain sizes and a decreased reactivity. When there are recycling centres or landfill sites located more favourably towards an MBT plant, this may save additional transportation costs.

The RDF that is produced in such an MBT plant, may subsequently be incinerated in a central RDF power plant, then entailing lower transportation costs.

**Figure 30: Transportation routes to a treatment plant in a rural location**

Catchment area of a waste incineration plant

vs.

catchment area of 3 MBT plants

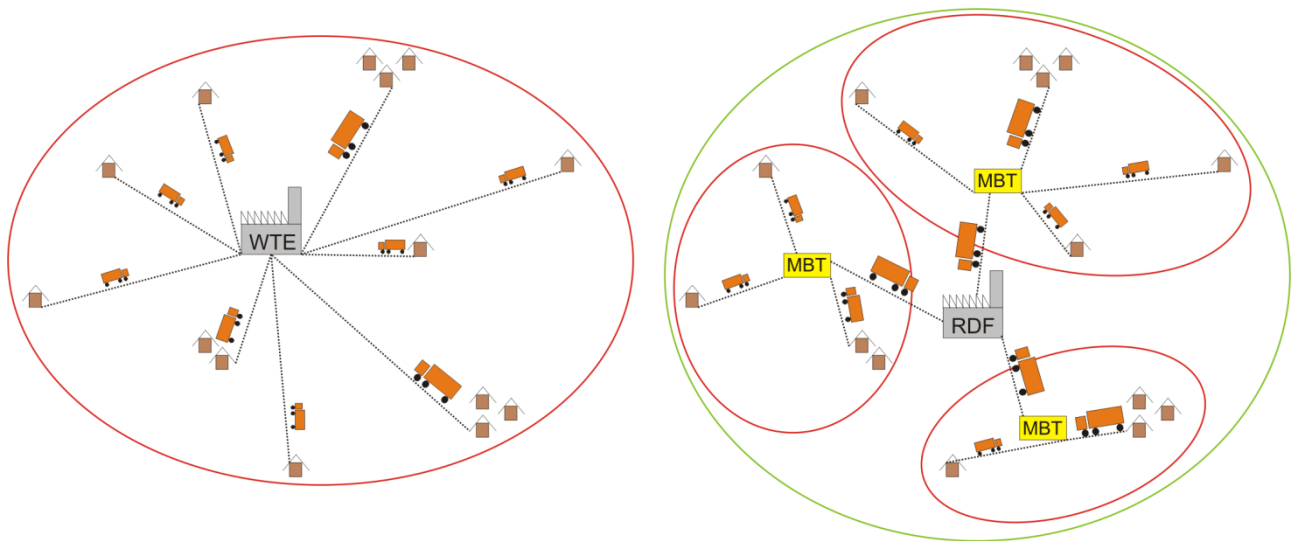


Illustration: ecoprogram

The specific volume limits of waste incinerators and MBT plants depend on the waste, a plant's location – and are very controversial.

[...]

### 7.5 Estonia

Inhabitants (million)	1.3	Number of MBT plants	3
Municipal solid waste 2014 (1,000 Mg)	470	Treatment capacities (1,000 Mg/a)	265
MBT capacity share of overall waste (%)	56	Average plant age	6

#### Management summary

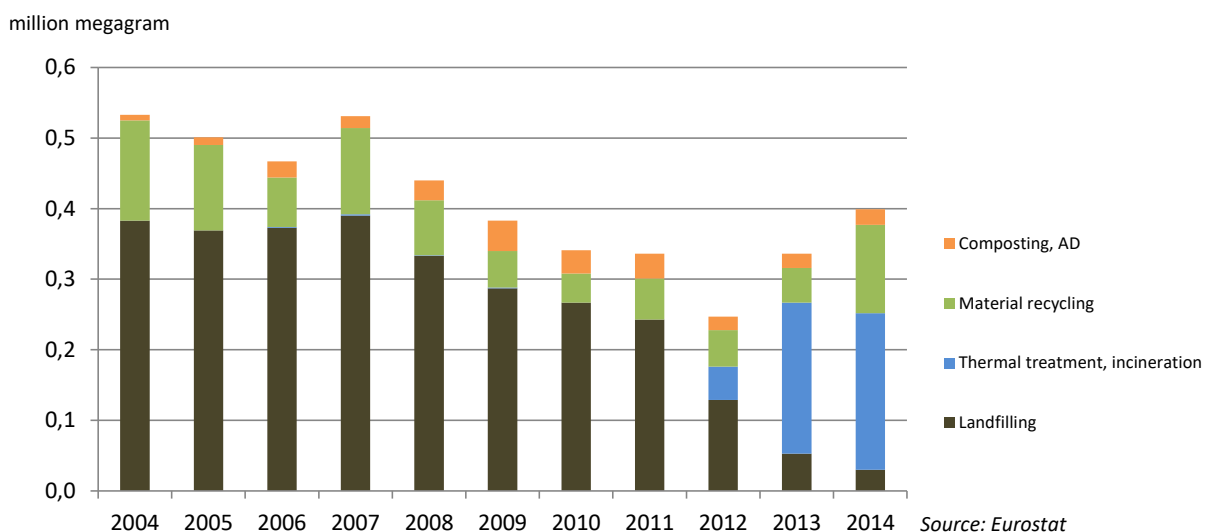
Ever since the waste incineration plant in Tallinn was commissioned in 2013, Estonia has residual waste treatment overcapacities. We do therefore not expect any new MBT plants to be constructed by 2025.

#### Background/legal framework

Until the mid of the decade, most of the provided funds for the Estonian waste disposal sector was spent for landfilling. Hundreds of landfills, most of them small and of lower standard, have been closed since the mid-1990s. Instead, 5 central landfill sites were built, complying with EU regulations.

Like most other Eastern European states, Estonia was also granted transitional periods for implementing the EU Landfill Directive. Until 2010, the amount of landfilled biodegradable waste should have been reduced by 35% in comparison to the 1995 amount and it has to decline by 75% by 2020.

**Figure 1: MSW treatment in Estonia 2004-2014**



The MSW amount in Estonia decreased by about 40% between 2007 and 2012, down to 334,000 tons and mainly because of the European financial and economic crisis as well as the adjustment of the national towards EU law. [...]



### Landfill tax/landfill ban

When introducing the EU Landfill Directive in 2005, the country also established a landfill ban for 64 different waste streams.

Since 2000, the Netherlands differentiates between a “high” tax for landfilling waste that would be suitable to go to thermal recovery and a “low” tax for landfilling waste with a density of over 1.100 kg/m<sup>3</sup>, as this waste is then classified as not being suitable for thermal recovery. The low tax currently amounts to 17 EUR and the high tax is over 100 EUR.

### Incineration tax

In January 2015, a tax amounting to 13 EUR per ton was introduced for the thermal recovery of MSW. However, this tax only has to be paid for national waste and not for waste imports.

### RE legislation

Renewable energies are currently subsidised through the SDE+ programme (*Stimulerende Duurzame Energie*, English: “Stimulating Sustainable Energy”). In 2016, the volume of the programme amounts to 8 billion EUR. Since the same year, subsidies may be applied for in two phases. A biogas plant that secured subsidies will receive them for 15 years.

**Figure 97: Feed-in tariff in the Netherlands (phase 1/2016)**

Plant	Basic price (EURct/kWh)	Correction price (EURct/kWh)	Actual subsidy (EURct/kWh)	Projects handed in from
<b>Heat</b>				
New plants	6.0	3.1	2.9	1 March 2016
Existing plants	5.6	1.7	3.9	1 March 2016
<b>Electricity (CHP)</b>				
New plants	8.7	3.2	5.5	1 March 2016
Existing plants	8.6	3.3	5.3	1 March 2016
<b>Processing into biomethane</b>				
New plants	6.0	2.2	3.8	1 March 2016
Existing plants	5.9	2.2	3.7	1 March 2016

Source: Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs, 2016

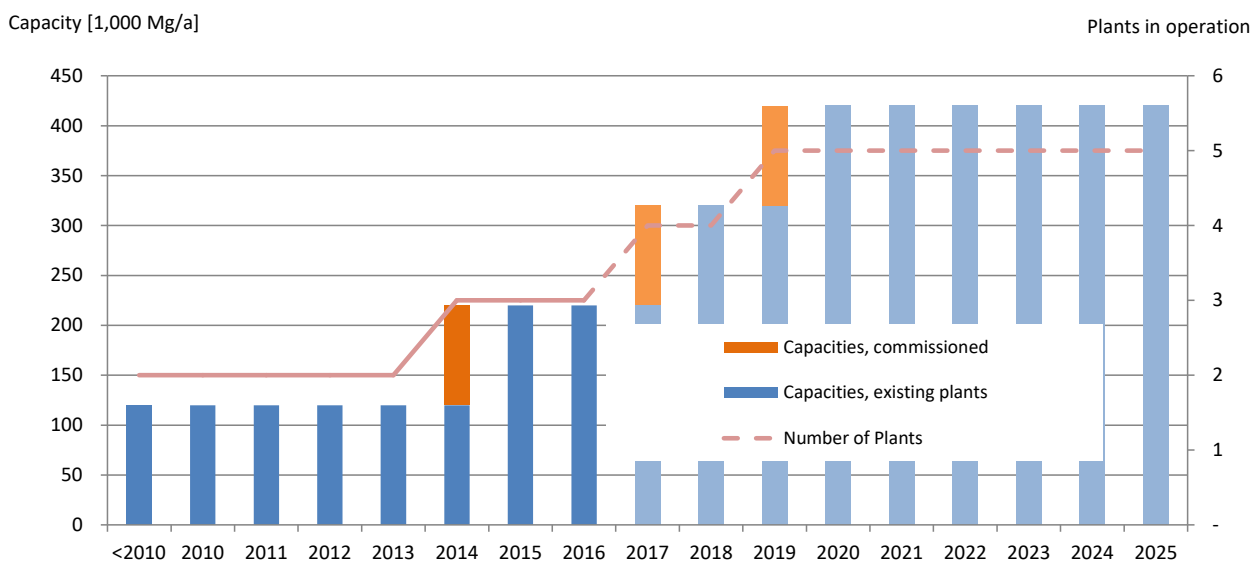
Contrary to the subsidisation schemes in other countries, SDE+ defines a basic price that does not depend on the technology used and a correction price. The government redetermines both prices each year. The correction price is approximately the electricity market price. The actual feed-in tariff is the difference between basic price and correction price.

[...]

Market development

Even though Norway has sufficient thermal treatment capacities, further plants will be realised for the mechanical treatment of residual waste. After the plant in Skedsmo was commissioned in 2014, another facility will soon be completed in Stavanger. Start of operations had initially been planned for 2016. The plant will sort out the plastic fraction from residual waste and process it into plastic flakes.

**Figure 102: Market forecast Norway**



Data estimated up to 2016, from 2017on: forecast, source: ecoprolog

In our forecast, we assume that some similar projects might be implemented in larger cities. However, the low utilisation of the active plant shows that these capacities will not be needed. Norway is a rich country with advanced waste treatment infrastructure. We therefore expect that the aforementioned projects will rather be pilot plants for alternative types of residual waste treatment, which the cities will finance through gate fees. In this case, high utilisation will not be necessarily needed for cost-efficient operations.

**Figure 103: Project outlook Norway**

Plant	Country	Biological Treatment	Capacity [tpy]	Start of operation	Status
Stavanger	Norway	no biological	100,000	2017	under construction

[...]

## Plants and projects in Portugal

[...]

Status: active

### **Barcelos**

Status: active

Operator:RESULIMA  
0 Vila Nova de Anha  
Tel.: +351 258 350 330  
www.resulima.pt

Operator:ERSUC  
0 Coimbra  
Tel.: +351 239 851 910  
www.ersuc.pt

Start of operation: 2011  
Capacity [tpy]: 180.000  
Material recycling output [tpy]: 9.000  
RDF output [tpy]: 52.500

Capacity [tpy]: 12.000  
Technical details: no biological treatment  
Material recycling output [tpy]: 10.917

Remarks: The conversion of the facility from a mechanical treatment plant to a MBT is discussed. The capacity could then rise to 110,000 Mg/a.

### **Évora**

Status: active

Operator:Gesamb  
0 Évora  
Tel.: +351 266 748 123  
www.gesamb.pt

### **Beja**

Status: active

Operator:RESIALENTEJO  
0 Beja  
Tel.: +351 284 311220  
www.resialentejo.pt

Start of operation: 2014  
Capacity [tpy]: 113.000  
Technical details: no biological treatment  
Material recycling output [tpy]: 5.329

Start of operation: 2015  
Capacity [tpy]: 30.000  
RDF output [tpy]: n.a.

### **Fundão**

Status: active

Operator:RESIESTRELA, Valorização e Tratamento de Resíduos Sólidos, S.A.  
0 Fundão  
Tel.: +351 275 779 330  
www.resiestrela.pt

### **Chamusca**

Status: active

Operator:RESIESTRELA, Valorização e Tratamento de Resíduos Sólidos, S.A.  
0 Carregueira  
Tel.: +351 249 749 010  
www.resitejo.pt

Start of operation: 2001  
Capacity [tpy]: 57.463  
Technical details: anaerobic digestion  
Material recycling output [tpy]: 5.161

Start of operation: 2013  
Capacity [tpy]: 31.545  
Technical details: no biological treatment  
Material recycling output [tpy]: 8.207  
RDF output [tpy]: n.a.

### **Leiria**

Status: active

Operator:Valorlis  
0 Leiria  
Tel.: +351 244 575540  
www.valorlis.pt

### **Eirol**

[...]

## Plants and projects in Spain

[...]

Status: active

### **Algimia de Alfara**

Status: active

Operator:TETMA - LUBASA GROUP  
46023 Valencia  
Tel.: +34 963 379 999

Start of operation: 2010  
Capacity [tpy]: 120.000

Operator:SUFI - SACYR VALLHERMOSO GROUP  
28046 Madrid  
Tel.: +34 91 545 50 00  
www.gruposyv.com

Start of operation: 2011  
Capacity [tpy]: 76.000

### **Alhendín**

Status: active

Operator:RESUR Granada  
18014 Granada  
Tel.: +34 958 804 315  
www.resurgranada.es

Start of operation: 1999  
Capacity [tpy]: 90.000

### **Ávila**

Status: active

Operator:Urbaser  
28703 Madrid  
Tel.: +34 91 121 80 00  
www.urbaser.es

Start of operation: 2003  
Capacity [tpy]: 80.000  
Technical details: anaerobic digestion

### **Alicante**

Status: active

Operator:FCC  
28061 Madrid  
Tel.: +34 913 595 400  
www.fcc.es

Start of operation: 2009  
Capacity [tpy]: 195.000  
Technical details: anaerobic digestion

### **Barcelona 1**

Status: active

Operator:UTE ECOPARC Barcelona, S.A  
8040 Barcelona

Start of operation: 2008  
Capacity [tpy]: 300.000  
Technical details: anaerobic digestion

### **Alosno**

Status: active

Operator:CESPA - FERROVIAL GROUP  
28002 Madrid  
Tel.: +34 (0)915 86 25 00  
www.ferrovial.com

Start of operation: 2006  
Capacity [tpy]: 10.000

### **Barcelona 2**

Status: active

Operator:EBESA  
0 Barcelona

Start of operation: 2004  
Capacity [tpy]: 240.000  
Technical details: anaerobic digestion

### **Arico**

### **Barcelona 3**

Status: active

[...]

## Price and product information

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+49 (0) 221 788 03 88 13

### You can order the market report here:

<https://www.ecoprolog.com/publikationen/abfallwirtschaft/mba/order-mba.htm>

### Price models:

- Single user copy: 3,400,- EUR plus VAT
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Single user copy: personal copy (personalised and password-protected PDF file, sent via e-mail)

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Price depends on number of companies and employees

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