



Fédération Européenne des Activités de la Dépollution et de l'Environnement  
European Federation of Waste Management and Environmental Services  
Europäische Föderation der Entsorgungswirtschaft

27<sup>th</sup> June 2011

## **FEAD ENDORSEMENT OF THE EpE-PROTOCOL DEVELOPING A HARMONISED APPROACH TO CARBON REPORTING<sup>1</sup>**

The waste management industry operates within a dynamic and highly regulated market where technologies to optimise the recovery of value from waste will continue to evolve. Throughout the last decades, waste management has proven that it plays a major role in climate change mitigation, and our sector is strongly committed to further reducing the greenhouse gas emissions associated with managing the economy's waste.

In managing wastes generated across the global economy, the world's waste management sector is estimated to account for 3% of greenhouse gas emissions. However, over the last decades the waste management sector has been one of the most successful sectors in reducing its greenhouse gas impacts and has lowered its emissions in Europe by 38% compared with 1990 levels.<sup>2</sup>

Our industry is convinced that an annual reporting of greenhouse gas emissions would help to improve the debate regarding the carbon emissions of waste management and to help policy makers assess how best to optimise the European economy's greenhouse gas emission profile. It would also serve to enhance the alignment of economic incentives with the best environmental outcomes.

As well as reducing its own direct emissions, principally by improving the performance of each of its activities, the waste management sector also contributes towards indirect carbon savings made elsewhere in the economy. The use of recycled material in new products, both domestically and abroad, offsets the requirement for energy intensive production from virgin materials, whilst the generation of renewable energy helps to reduce society's reliance on fossil fuels. To gain a complete understanding of the greenhouse gas impact of waste management, it is necessary to have regard to the carbon savings in other sectors that are facilitated and made possible by our industry. In short, waste management operators' activities help to avoid emissions that would have otherwise arisen in their absence.

FEAD considers that any methodology for the accounting of greenhouse gas emissions arising from waste processes and the aforementioned carbon savings should be robust, simple and transparent. **In this regard, FEAD has decided to endorse the EpE Waste Sector Protocol<sup>3</sup> as a common industry standard for reporting emissions.**

Annual reporting is broken down into the following internationally recognised categories:

- Direct emissions resulting from an operator's activities;
- Indirect energy use emissions arising from an operator's purchase of electricity; and
- Avoided emissions resulting from a company's activities, including savings made by other sectors.

The principal greenhouse gases included in this reporting are CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub> (methane) and N<sub>2</sub>O (nitrous oxide).

<sup>1</sup> FEAD is the European Federation representing the European waste management industry. FEAD's members are national waste management associations covering 20 Member States and Norway. They have an approximate 60% share in the household waste market and handle more than 75% of industrial and commercial waste in Europe. Their combined annual turnover is approximately € 75 billion. FEAD represents about 3000 companies with activities in all forms of waste management. These companies employ over 320000 people who operate around 2400 recycling and sorting centres, 1100 composting sites, 260 waste-to-energy plants and 900 controlled landfills. They play an important role in the determination of the best environmental option for waste management problems.

<sup>2</sup> ETC/RWM working paper 2008/1: "Municipal waste management and greenhouse gases"

<sup>3</sup> EpE- Entreprises pour l'environnement;

In France, the Entreprises pour l'Environnement (EpE) Association drew up a GHG emissions quantification, reporting and verification protocol for industries which is in accordance with internationally recognized standards for greenhouse gas reporting. Three companies, Veolia Environmental Services, Séché Environnement and Suez Environnement, members of EpE, established a Working Group led by EpE. Those three companies as well as other companies active in the field of waste management are applying the protocol today. Also in the UK, Spain and the Netherlands, the leading waste management companies joined the EpE protocol.

APOH, Slovakia  
ARS, Romania  
ASEGRE, Spain  
BDE, Germany  
CAOH, Czech Republic

DWMA, Netherlands  
ESA, UK  
EWMA, Estonia  
FEBEM-FEGE, Belgium  
FISE, Italy

FLEA, Luxembourg  
FNADE, France  
IWMA, Ireland  
KSZGYSZ, Hungary  
LASUA, Latvia

NORSK INDUSTRI, Norway  
PASEPPE, Greece  
PIGO, Poland  
SRI, Sweden  
VÖEB, Austria  
YYL, Finland