



Fork to Farm – Zero Waste France factsheet



Organisation: **Zero Waste France**
Written by Noémie Brouillard

Zero Waste France does not engage directly with local authorities on the topic of bio-waste. However, we support our local groups, many of which maintain regular contact with municipalities or waste management syndicates responsible for collection and treatment in their areas. Through these relationships, our local groups are able to advocate for the implementation or improvement of source separation solutions for bio-waste, as well as carry out local awareness-raising campaigns for residents. A few examples of this during the project would include our local group 'Boucle Nord de Seine' in January to prepare a meeting with their elected officials, as well as [Zero Waste Toulouse](#) in the south of France.

Occasionally, when local groups request our support in the context of meetings with elected officials or public institutions, we join them to provide expertise and amplify their message. For instance, on May 7, we accompanied [Zero Waste Paris](#) to a meeting with Yann Wehring, Vice President of the Île-de-France Region in charge of Ecological Transition, Climate, and Biodiversity.



Participants at Grand-Est regional meeting.

The discussion focused on the evaluation of the Regional Waste Prevention and Management Plan (PRPGD) and biowaste collection was a big part of the discussion. During this meeting, we raised several key demands:

- The need to implement robust monitoring of consolidated indicators related to food waste;
- The importance of structured oversight in measuring and sharing these indicators;
- The urgency of accelerating the deployment of bio-waste source separation solutions, **especially given that the Île-de-France region currently has the lowest coverage rate in France (less than 20%).**

The challenge of raising awareness among local residents in a predominantly urban area with a high proportion of collective housing is also our key priority.

Other partners Zero Waste France collaborated with: [Ministry of Ecological Transition](#), associations working in the field of sorting bio-waste at source (citizen compost network, cities network etc.), [ADEME](#) (French agency for ecological transition).





Zero Waste Europe Factsheet

OVERVIEW

Over the past two years, our work has focused on advancing bio-waste management and reducing landfill dependency across France. We conducted a **national assessment** (December 2024) identifying **all local authorities still landfilling over 50% of Household and Similar Waste (DMA)**, while evaluating the availability of alternative solutions, especially bio-waste separate collection. This analysis generated key insights to support **future awareness initiatives and media outreach**. We **strengthened our network's field expertise** through site visits for our local groups, including VALOPS (mechanical-biological treatment of bio-waste), Besançon's municipal composting system, and ENEBIO's anaerobic digestion facility. These visits fostered peer learning, inspired local initiatives, and led to publications and media content such as a podcast on food waste.

Our policy and advocacy efforts also achieved tangible results: following our engagement/requests, the Ministry for Ecological Transition launched a nationwide communication campaign on bio-waste sorting, with our organisation participating partially in the meeting to define the direction of the messages (the final choice being made by the Ministry of Ecological Transition).

Within the ministry's bio-waste working group, we identified needs reported by numerous local authorities, [which enabled the Ministry to issue six thematic guidance factsheets for local authorities to improve bio-waste management under diverse territorial conditions](#). Additionally, we organised workshops and regional trainings to support local groups' advocacy, ensuring bio-waste separation remains a key political issue ahead of 2026 municipal elections.



Visit to the ENEBIO methanisation and tri-mechanical biology site with the local group Zéro Déchet Troyes.

CHALLENGES AND BARRIERS

The main challenges faced over the past two years stem from the lack of financial and human resources within municipalities, which remains the biggest barrier to implementing effective and inclusive bio-waste source separation systems. Local groups across France consistently report that many municipalities operate under severe budget constraints, often leading them to adopt less efficient solutions, such as voluntary drop-off points or the limited distribution of home composters, **rather than investing in door-to-door collection systems that yield higher participation and better results**.





Zero Waste Europe Factsheet

This trend is worsening, as several municipalities are discontinuing door-to-door collection services, even for residual waste, and shifting entirely to voluntary drop-off systems. Such measures undermine accessibility and participation, especially in dense urban areas and remote rural territories. While **€50 million was allocated in 2024 through the Green Fund to support local bio-waste projects**, this funding is now **nearly exhausted**, with fewer projects being financed in 2025 and uncertain prospects for the following year. ADEME's support granted to municipalities is also declining, as bio-waste separation is now a legal requirement.

As a result, many municipalities today lack both the means and political will to ensure universal and equitable access to bio-waste sorting solutions—an issue we continue to highlight in our national advocacy efforts.

SUCCESS AND VICTORIES

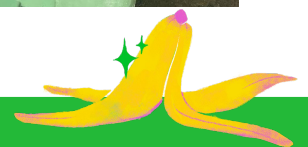
One of our most significant achievements has been **the mobilisation of our network of local groups around bio-waste advocacy**. During the release of our assessment [“Bio-waste Source Separation: One Year After the Obligation, Still Insufficient”](#), we achieved strong engagement from local groups nationwide. Over a third of our local groups (30) contributed valuable field data and testimonies, allowing us to identify the main barriers to effective bio-waste systems:

- Inadequate financial support
- Insufficient equipment
- Weak public outreach

This collective effort not only strengthened our advocacy with evidence from the ground but also empowered local groups to become key actors in pushing for fair, well-funded, and inclusive bio-waste management across France.

We've also been **helping local Zero Waste groups to influence their municipalities on the implementation of source separation of bio-waste**. Rather than directly supporting local authorities, our role has been to equip and empower our network with tools, knowledge, and arguments to advocate for effective bio-waste management at the local level.

This work bore fruit with the technical morning session on sorting bio-waste at source (how to overcome obstacles to the deployment of solutions), which took place on November 13, during which we provided answers to around a hundred participants, mainly technicians from local authorities. This high level of interest demonstrates **the relevance of the topic and the strength of the connection between local Zero Waste groups and their local institutions**.





Zero Waste Europe Factsheet

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES WITHIN THE MUNICIPALITY OR COMMUNITY

Although we did not work directly with municipalities on bio-waste source separation, our efforts over the past months have focused on supporting and gathering insights from our network of local groups, who closely monitor local implementation in their territories. Through their field observations and our national-level research, we have been able to build a comprehensive overview of the current state of bio-waste management in France.

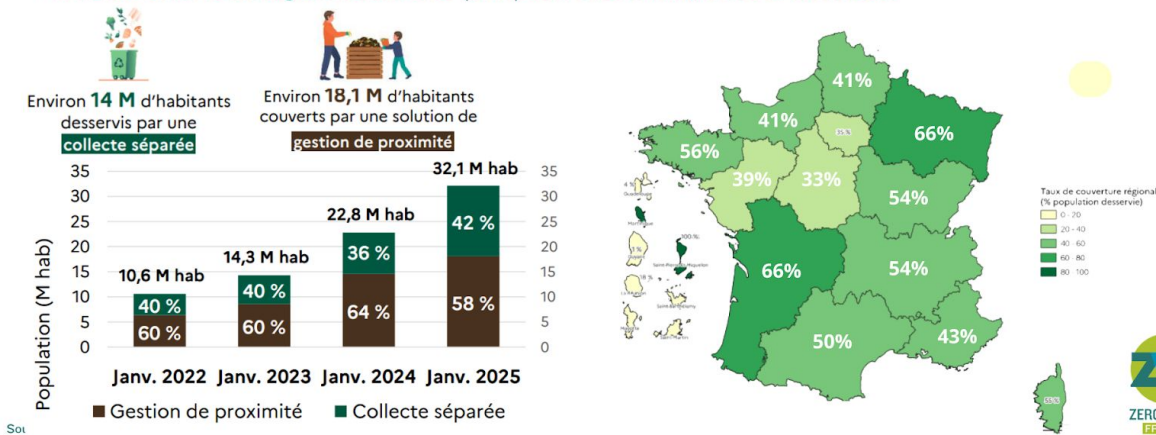
- At the **national level**, according to ADEME's latest data (January 1, 2025), **only 47.2% of the French population, around 32.1 million people, currently have access to a bio-waste sorting solution**, corresponding to approximately 960,000 tonnes of household bio-waste being separated at source.
- At the **local level**, our own dataset, covering around 125 municipalities still landfilling more than 50% of their Household and Similar Waste (DMA), revealed **persistent delays in implementation and an overreliance on individual composting** (offered by 89% of municipalities). Worryingly, 30% provide no complementary solution, leaving residents without gardens excluded from bio-waste sorting options.

Only 21% of municipalities have voluntary drop-off points, and fewer than 15% offer door-to-door collection, often only in pilot form. These findings highlight the urgent need for **more inclusive, collective, and compliant solutions** to ensure universal access to bio-waste source separation across all territories.

▶▶ CHIFFRES CLÉS

DÉPLOIEMENT DU TRI A LA SOURCE DES BIODECHETS AU 1ER JANVIER 2025

- **47,2% de la population a accès à une solution de tri à la source des biodéchets (soit 32,1 million d'habitants)**
- **960 Kilotonnes de biodéchets triés par les ménages**
- **1/3 de nos Ordures Ménagères Résiduelles (OMR) sont encore composées de biodéchets**





Zero Waste Europe Factsheet

Zero Waste Europe, December 2025

Author: Written by Noémie Brouillard, Zero Waste France

Editors: Jack McQuibban, Head of Local Zero Waste Implementation and Giulia Lodi, Communication & Network Office



Zero Waste Europe is the European network of communities, local leaders, experts, and change agents working towards the prevention and elimination of waste in our society. We advocate for sustainable systems; for the redesign of our relationship with resources; and for a global shift towards environmental justice, accelerating a just transition towards zero waste for the benefit of people and the planet.



Zero Waste France is an environmental association that has been campaigning since 1997 for the preservation of natural resources and waste prevention, prioritising reduction at the source.



The campaign forms one part of our broader work within the European Methane Matters Coalition (MMC). The coalition aims to ramp up ambition at the European Union level and within key European countries to reduce methane emissions across the energy, agriculture, and waste sectors by 2030.



In 2024, #ForkToFarm campaign made impressive advances, especially at the local level. The campaign empowered 541,366 people across six European countries with better bio-waste solutions, from separate collection to community composting.

