



From organic waste to compost and back to soil



Key infos about the circular economy applied to organic waste recycling and to composting in Italy



May 3rd, 2020, International Compost Awareness Week by Marco Ricci – www.altereko.it



At the beginning of the ICAW-2020 we'd like to share key-numbers focusing on the success of quality compost produced from organic waste. Figures by altereko.it on official data and sources.

Italy is a best-practice case since almost two decades in recycling consistent amounts of organic waste into compost; the current results have been achieved thanks to almost 30 years of object-oriented strategies promoted by the Italian Composting and Biogas Association and a number of engaged experts. Today **almost 60% of all MSW** is collected separately and send to **recycling** facilities.

Biowaste has a pivotal role of in a modern MSW management system that aims to maximize recycling and to reduce the amounts of residual waste; biowaste diverted towards recycling reduces the putrescibility of recyclable fractions and limits the need of disposal capacities for residual waste.

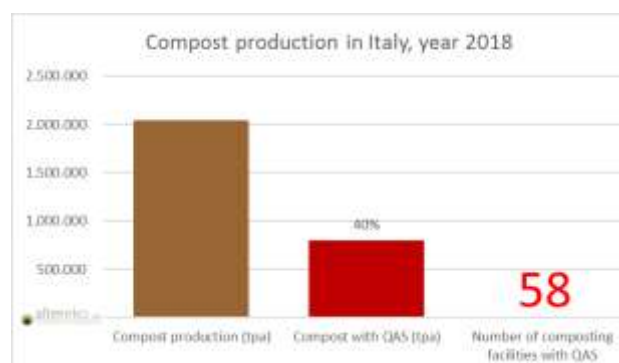
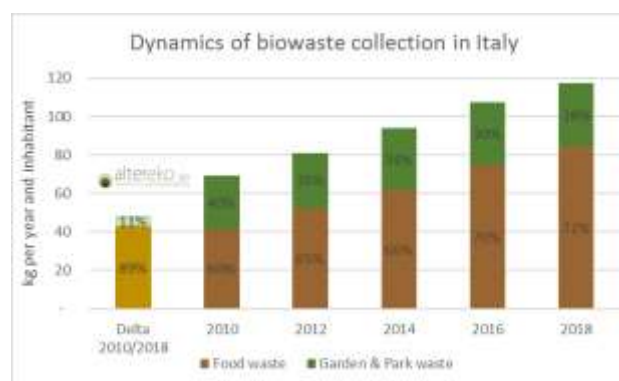
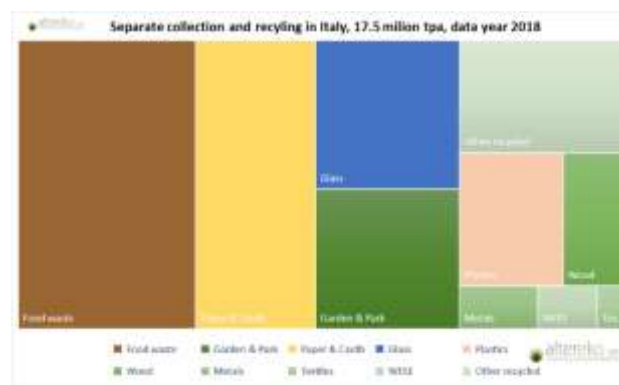
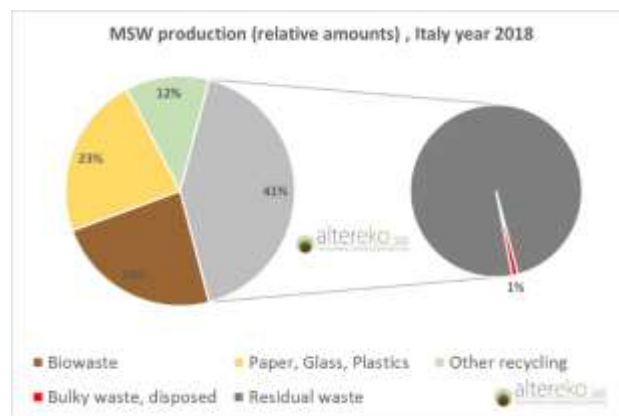
This can be shown by numbers, looking at the relative amount of foodwaste and greenwaste compared to other MSW recycled in Italy in 2018.

Updated official data¹ show that more than **7 million tons of biowaste** are collected for recycling in Italian municipalities; **food waste represents more than 70%** of these amounts.

The **increase of separate collection** of different types of organic waste in Italian cities **in the last 10 years** is shown; between 2010/2018 foodwaste increased by a factor 2x while green waste increased by a factor 0.2x only.

About **2 million tons of compost** are produced yearly in Italy² at composting plants (64%) and biogas&composting facilities (36%); almost 49% of the compost is certified under the voluntary label "Compost Qualità CIC".

Between 2016/2018 the market for compost in Italy is increasing. Compost is sold mainly in bulk and 6 of 10 customers are from a local market.



¹ Source: Italian EPA of the MoE

² Source: CIC- Italian Composting and Biogas Association, 2020