

Oversize Options

Windrow Composting of green waste is a common means of treating materials such as lawn clippings, hedge trimmings etc. Many composting operations are licensed to produce compost to PAS100 standard, a UK quality benchmark which specifies controls such as size gradings. Thus, compost that is able to pass through a particular mesh size will meet the criteria - anything else is classed as 'oversize'. In a typical operation, around 10% of the final process mass fails the size or quality grading and is handled as oversize.

The standard industry approach for dealing with this material is to return it to the start of the composting process (having perhaps passed it through a shredder) in the hope that it breaks down sufficiently on a subsequent pass. However, such treatment involves time and effort. In addition, windrow capacity is being taken up with oversize material that may still not degrade sufficiently on a second cycle.

One composting company received support from the GREAT Project to explore options and opportunities for their composting oversize. Following a review into the market, a report was produced for the composter which detailed a number of companies who were able to accept third-party oversize for biomass energy or other uses. The report also included a number of alternative approaches and technologies which could be considered and would transform the waste into a resource.

Case Study



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