REPRESENTING AN INTEGRATED
AND BALANCED APPROACH
TO WASTE MANAGEMENT THROUGHOUT EUROPE
Who are we?

FEAD is the European Federation which represents the European waste management industry. Our members are national waste management associations, which have an approximate 60% share in the household waste market and handle more than 90% of industrial and commercial waste in Europe, with a collective annual turnover of € 50 billion.

We have 15 members from 14 EU Member States and Norway. FEAD represents companies with activities in all forms of waste management. These companies employ over 300 000 people who operate around 3 000 controlled landfills, 1 350 recycling and sorting centers, 1 000 composting sites and 350 incinerators and play an important role in the determination of the best environmental option for waste management problems.

FEAD’s role in Brussels is to gather expertise and up-to-date information from our members on the many subject areas covered, to compare experiences and to advise decision-makers of the overall situation in Europe. Lessons learnt in practice should lead us to better, more effective legislation, and therefore superior environmental and economic performance.

In order to achieve its far-reaching goals, FEAD works with a broad network of other similar sectoral organisations in Brussels ensuring that opinions are not formed in isolation, but obtain wide-spread approval for a given policy position or direction.

Legislating, Implementation and the importance of effective, practical legislation and its enforcement lead FEAD’s mission is to ensure that:

FEAD European legislation has shown a distinct move towards waste management options which are believed to be the better environmental option. Although often true care must be taken to ensure any evaluation of a waste management option is rigorous.

Other aspects, including geography and ultimate end-use can often minimise transport and optimise recovery. These are therefore crucial elements to be considered during the process of implementation of waste legislation or strategies.
members are dedicated to playing a central role in the improvement of the European environment, both at the legislative level and in practice. The services provided diminish possible harm to the environment and human health.

The principal options for the management of waste today are recycling, composting, digestion, heat and power generation via incineration or other forms of thermal treatment and final disposal by landfilling. Prior to any treatment all wastes are also collected and, where appropriate, pre-sorted.

FEAD members also contribute to the achievement of sustainability. Some wastes are used as substitutes for fossil fuels, completing the carbon cycle and thereby contributing to Europe’s undertakings under the Kyoto Protocol. Other materials are recycled, making optimal use of resources and reducing energy use in the extraction of virgin materials. Also composted biowastes provide a response to soil demineralisation which is particularly acute in Southern Europe, contributing to the fight against desertification.

Our society is a voracious consumer, and it is the duty of the waste management industry to ensure that resources which become wastes are recovered where appropriate, thereby improving the environment in which we live. FEAD members accept this responsibility and strive continuously to improve their performance.

Many of the companies represented within FEAD have been in existence a great many years, and have witnessed great change. Municipal solid waste for example, has moved from being a public service run by public authorities, with the simple aim of removing waste from households and industry for reasons of hygiene, to a service with a mix of public and private operators whose overall aim is to reduce the impact of the increasing quantities and types of waste on the environment. A great deal of expertise has been gathered over time and many innovative ideas have emerged to decrease polluting effects.

FEAD members are committed to finding the best waste management solutions throughout Europe, taking into account local needs. In this spirit, open dialogue with all stakeholders offers the opportunity to find balanced and acceptable environmental solutions.

In order to achieve such goals and to safeguard the competitiveness of European industry, it is necessary to create the European legislative framework within which local decisions can be taken, without being overly restrictive or prescriptive.