



EU Taxonomy – Waste-to-Energy can be sustainable.

Brussels, 10th March 2020 - ESWET and CEWEP welcome the report on the “EU Taxonomy” published by the Technical Expert Group (TEG) on sustainable finance, with the positive remarks of the experts emphasising that “*WtE has a role to play even in an increasingly circular economy, as not all waste can be reused or recycled*”. Other experts expressed concerns whether WtE could hamper recycling.

In light of the political agreement text, the TEG has recommended bringing Waste-to-Energy for further consideration to the Platform on Sustainable Finance.

According to EUROSTAT data, almost half of the EU Member States still landfill more than 40% of their waste (above 80% in some countries). That’s not good news for EU waste management. Methane emitted by landfills is a greenhouse gas 86 times more potent than CO₂ over a 20-year period. It is thus in the interest of a greener Europe not to overlook the treatment of residual waste.

We firmly believe that energy recovery from residual waste that cannot be reused or recycled (e.g. for hygienic reasons) is a key enabler to the success of any truly sustainable waste management strategy.

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