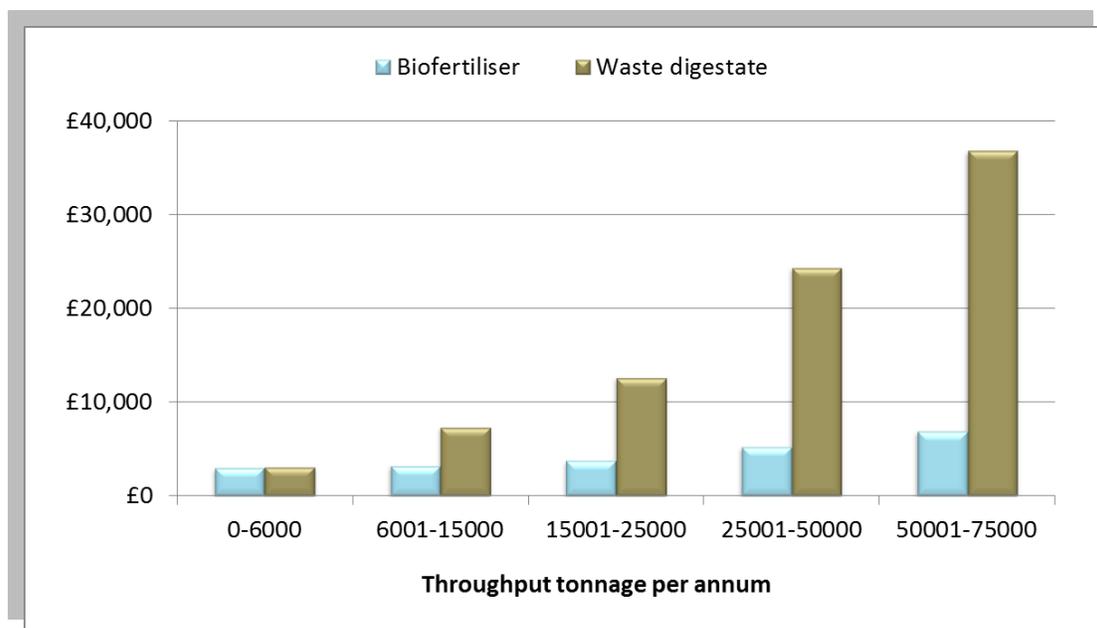


Cost-Benefit Analysis

Product vs. Waste

The graph below presents an indication of the costs associated with certification of digestates to renew product status and average costs of deployment of waste digestates under waste management regulations. These figures represent average values / costs across the UK.



The largest portion of certified producers falls in the category of operators processing between 25,001 and 50,000 tonnes of organic waste per annum (tpa). An operator processing 25,001-50,000 tpa would incur an annual cost of approximately £5,000 for independent certification against the end of waste criteria to renew their certification. The spreading of waste digestate under waste regulations would cost approximately £24,000. Therefore, these larger operators could avoid approximately 80% of the costs that would be incurred for deployments / exemptions (Scotland only) on an annual basis.

Please note that the costs associated with certification and deployment / registration of exemptions depends on lots of different factors and are site / operation specific. These calculations were based on a number of assumptions and therefore should only be used as an indication.

Supplementary information

In relation to spreading waste digestate, these calculations factored in a spreading rate of 50 tonnes of digestate per hectare and 2,500 tonnes per 50-hectare deployment / exemption. This is a best-case scenario so higher costs might be incurred if spreading less than 2,500t / 50 ha deployment / exemption. The calculations also factored in one soil sample taken representative of a 10 ha field and five soil samples per deployment / exemption when spreading waste digestate to land. The tonnage of digestate produced annually was based on a 15% loss after input. The calculations included an average cost for consultancy fees for deployment / exemption applications, a subsistence charge for a deployment of medium risk, and a one-off annual cost for waste analysis. The application fee for mobile plant permits for land spreading and the costs associated with setting up a management system were not included in the calculations for spreading waste digestate to land so these will be extra costs incurred.

In relation to certification costs, please note they are for renewal of certification and the average costs for first time validation of the process according to BSI PAS 110:2014 were not included. The soil sampling analysis costs were also not included in the calculations for spreading certified digestate. However, the revenue associated with sales of certified digestate has not been taken into account and should be considered a cost incentive for Biofertiliser Certification Scheme applicants. One other widely recognised benefit for certified producers is they can spread their certified digestate straight to land, avoiding costly and time consuming spreading deployments or registration of exemptions.

Document review

These calculations were based on average fees and costs obtained in 2017 through a variety of sources. The environmental regulator in England, the Environment Agency, has consulted on its Strategic Review of Charges (January 2018) so the costs associated with land spreading waste digestate may change. This document will be updated to reflect any changes and will be reissued accordingly.