



Terms of Reference for the CCS & BCS Technical Advisory Committee

This version of the document does not introduce any significant changes from the previous version, only presentational updates, and 'panel' has been replaced with 'committee' in all terms.

1. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) is the body authorised by Renewable Energy Assurance Limited (REAL) to oversee the operation of the Compost Certification Scheme (CCS) and Biofertiliser Certification Scheme (BCS).
2. The Committee will be chaired by an individual independent from the composting and anaerobic digestion industries, Professor Stephen Nortcliff, and will comprise representatives from relevant stakeholder groups, including:
 - REAL
 - Certification Bodies
 - Environmental Regulators
 - National Farmers' Union
 - Farm/crop quality assurance schemes
 - Independent experts in organics recycling
 - Producers'/Operators' Forum
 - Approved Laboratories
3. The following will also be invited to nominate representatives as either full members or observers, as they consider appropriate:
 - Defra
 - UKAS
 - BSI
 - LARAC
4. The Committee will provide the governance for the CCS and BCS. Its remit will include:
 - reviewing progress of the Scheme development;
 - commenting on scheme rules;
 - reviewing strategies to promote the Scheme;
 - reviewing the scientific and policy/regulatory contexts for the Scheme;
 - contributing to any review of the quality standards or Quality Protocols;
 - providing input to the development of the Research Hub, where relevant;
 - proposing relevant research project ideas to the Research Hub;
 - advising REAL's Market Development Working Group;

- considering and advising on any complaints and/or enquiries that are escalated to it by the Certification Bodies.
5. From time to time, and if the need arises, the TAC may set up an ad hoc Technical Working Group to consider specific issues in more detail and report back to the Committee. Such a Working Group will have an independent Chair.
 6. The TAC will meet at least twice a year.
 7. Papers will be circulated at least one week in advance.
 8. The TAC representatives have an obligation to ensure confidentiality of information arising from the TAC meetings.