



EBA

Conference of the European Biogas Association

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Study tour

DRANCO-installation Brecht

The DRANCO (DRy ANAerobic COmposting) process is an advanced biotechnological process for the treatment of organics derived from organic waste. This process, developed by OWS, is unique due to the vertical digester tank and the absence of mixers. The input streams are fed at the top of the fermentation tank and extracted through conical outlet at the bottom. The digestate is intensively recycled during the single-phase digestion. The DRANCO digestion technology is capable of handling waste streams with a dry matter content up to 40%. The process is therefore widely applied for the digestion of household waste or yard/food waste.

In 1992 IGEAN started the exploitation of a demo-installation with the DRANCO technology for the digestion of yard and kitchen waste. The installation had a capacity of 15.000 ton. In 2000, a second DRANCO installation was built by OWS to expand the digestion capacity to a total of 65.000 ton. Today, this installation processes all the garden and kitchen waste of the city of Antwerp and surrounding municipalities. The biogas is valorised in a CHP-unit powering the plant and 3.200 families. The digestate is dewatered and transferred to an on-site composting facility where it is treated for two weeks. The result is high quality compost, sold to companies and individuals.



Installation of IGEAN, on the left the two digesters. Image: IGEAN

Organic Waste Systems (OWS) is a world leading company in the construction and operation of anaerobic digestion plants, in the biodegradability and compostability testing of different types of materials, and in waste management consultancy. OWS is a private company under Belgian law, constituted in 1988. The headquarters of the company are in Gent (Belgium) with subsidiaries in the USA and Germany.

IGEAN is an intercommunal organisation in the Antwerp district and responsible for a sustainable waste disposal and occupational safety policy in the affiliated municipalities. The household waste of 30 municipalities is collected and treated by IGEAN. The organic fraction, food and garden waste, is digested or composted. The remaining fraction is recycled or valorised in an incinerator with energy recovery.

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