



The European Packaging & Packaging Waste Directive (PPWD) 94/62/EC really launched the recycling strategy in Europe almost 30 years ago. It obliged the member states to organize the selective collection of waste and imposed on those who put packaging on the market to finance its collection and treatment (green dot).

This strategy, spread over several decades, will soon oblige the Member States that do not yet do so to organize the collection and treatment of bio-waste (by the end of 2023).

The basis of this strategy is the 4Rs principle for industry and the Member States. :

- REDUCE (quantities, thickness, weight)
- REUSE (design such packages)
- RECYCLE (material & organic)
- RECOVER (incineration with energy recovery)

To which we could add

- REFUSE (consumer power) and
- REPAIR (reparability obligation and attitude of consumers to do it).

The 4Rs of the directive are based on 5 standards published a few years later.

The EN 13432 standard - published in September 2000 - is considered to be the mother of all composting standards, and is of course the basis of our OK compost INDUSTRIAL certification schemes (even before it was published)

This harmonised standard defines the specifications to meet the essential requirements of Directive 94/62/EC. See sketch 01.

In the hierarchy of treatments, organic recycling is naturally in third place, after packaging reduction and reuse requirements, at the same level as material recycling.

Subject to endless debate by those who want to oppose solutions instead of combining them, this hierarchy nevertheless makes it clear that there is not just one solution to our complex waste problem, but several.

Each has its advantages and disadvantages.

With the ultimate goal of considering our waste as a resource.