



Organic wastes – the pathway of your lunch leftovers

There are different reasons why organic wastes should not be burned in incinerators: because of the high content of water, the waste is heavy and therefore costlier to be transported; furthermore it is more energy intensive to burn this organic waste as one, literally, burns the water. It is more effective to use organic waste for the production of biogas, and with this produce sustainable energy. Finally, organic waste can be reused as compost, which is highly useful in local agriculture.

Imagine you were not that hungry last time during lunch and had some leftovers.

Where do they go?



In Geneva, all sorts of **organic waste**, including kitchen wastes or leftovers should be collected by households. It is not compulsory, but the Canton of Geneva puts a lot of effort into fostering the collection of organic waste. Within awareness raising campaigns, the canton has tried to motivate households to collect their organic waste. To reach this goal they even distributed **organic waste bins for free** to households. Organic waste is only collected in biodegradable bags, available in local stores. The bags should be brought outside, either for curb side collection or to local collection sites, where they are collected by official vehicles from the city administration.

For example, the restaurant within CIGG collects **your leftovers**. They are picked up by vehicles and transported to the site of “**Châtillon**” in Bernex in the Canton of Geneva. On the site there is a biogas plant.

A **biogas plant** is used to produce biogas by fermenting biomass. In non-agricultural plants – as it is in our case – material from the organic waste bin or waste products from food production are used. Finally, after the fermenting process, a **fertilizer** known as fermentation residue is produced as a by-product. The fertilizer, also called “**solid digestate**”, from the methanisation process is then composted with garden waste. The **compost** produced is used as an organic **additive for agriculture** across the canton.

