

# Recycling Biomass to Land: The Regulatory Framework

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# Who is SEPA?

- Scotland's "environmental watchdog"
- Protect and improve the environment through regulation and monitoring
- Flood warning system for Scotland
- 22 offices across Scotland
- 1300 employees



# Is it waste?

- Exclusion from the Waste Framework Directive:
  - natural, non-hazardous agricultural or forestry material
  - used in farming, forestry or for the production of energy from such biomass
  - through processes or methods which do not harm the environment or endanger human health

# If it is waste...

- Register an exemption
  - Paragraph 7 for the spreading of plant tissue waste
  - Agricultural land or forests, woodlands, parks, gardens, sports grounds, etc.
  - Benefit to agriculture/ ecological improvement
- Comply with the relevant objectives
  - Not endangering human health or harming the environment
  - Not causing risk to water, air, soil, plants or animals
  - Not causing odour or noise nuisance

# Biochar Position

- Manufacture of Biochar from Waste
  - Restrictions on the equipment
  - Limits on tonnage
  - Restrictions on waste types
- Use of Waste Derived Biochar
  - Under a paragraph 7 exemption
    - Used on specified land
    - For benefit to agriculture or ecological improvement

# Other issues to be aware of

- Invasive non-native species
- Controlled Activities Regulations (CAR) implications



# Where to find help and advice

- [www.sepa.org.uk](http://www.sepa.org.uk)
  - Science and research
    - Invasive and non-native species
  - Water regulation
    - Controlled Activities Practical Guide
  - Waste
    - Definition
    - Information on exemptions
- Local SEPA office

