

## Organic waste bin: Protect the climate, reduce costs and improve citizen service - 2 current municipal examples

Protecting the climate, reducing carbon dioxide and nitrogen oxides in city centres and offering even more services for citizens. There must be a catch! Especially if this means that citizens have to do without weekly disposal of their organic waste in summer in order to achieve these goals.

### Koblenz abolishes weekly organic waste collection with biofilter lid in 2020

Where every municipal waste management company would have to fear a storm of indignation from its citizens, the municipal waste disposal company in Koblenz is doing just that: "In summer 2020, all additional emptying of the organic waste bin will be cancelled," according to the website of the Koblenz municipal service company. This is because the 14-day collection in summer will coincide with the introduction of the biofilter lid in the city on the Rhine and Moselle. Around

15,000 organic waste bins in the city will be fitted with the biofilter lid, which seals organic waste bins odour-tight and uses microorganisms in the filter chamber to break down fermentation gases into water and carbon dioxide. The lid also prevents flies from entering the bin to lay their eggs. Neu-Ulm has been using the biofilter lid since 2006 and has abolished the weekly collection in summer. The organic waste quality is

remained as high as with weekly collection. Acceptance of the organic waste bin among citizens has even increased, summarised

10 Jen Gerhard from the municipal waste management department of the city of Neu-Ulm three years after the changeover:

"Weekly collection did not bring the desired hygiene and acceptance that is now achieved with fortnightly collection with filter lids." In summer 2020, the time has now come for the people of Koblenz - the additional weekly collection in summer is coming to an end and the filter lid is coming: "Kommunale Servicebetrieb Koblenz wants to make an active contribution to climate protection by saving on disposal trips," says Wolfgang Probst, Deputy Plant Manager at Kommunalen Servicebetrieb. The investment costs for the biofilter lids are amortised within a short period of time thanks to the savings made by eliminating disposal trips in summer. The waste expert is already familiar with the positive effect of the biofilter lid from the district of Cochem-Zell. The biofilter lid has been used in the neighbouring district since 2015 and the organic waste is collected every 14 days. The



company (left) is pleased to be able to offer citizens a plus in service with the biofilter lid. photo: Martin Hahn

*"The investment costs for the biofilter lids are amortised within a short period of time thanks to the savings made by eliminating disposal trips in summer."*  
**Wolfgang Probst, Deputy Plant Manager at Kommunalen Servicebetrieb Koblenz**

acceptance of the organic waste bin among citizens is high.

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imposition. However, weekly collection in the rural Neckar-Odenwald district would have driven up costs. For Peter Fiebelkorn, authorised signatory of the Neckar-Odenwald district's waste management company (AWN), the biofilter lid was the solution to reconcile citizens with the organic waste bin, to offer a plus in service and to avoid the expensive costs that were demanded.

### Neckar-Odenwald district: Biofilter lid instead of expensive weekly collection of the organic waste bin

The organic waste bin will be introduced in the Neckar-Odenwald district of Baden-Württemberg in 2020. In October 2018, District Administrator Dr Achim Brötzel summarised that "the number of maggots has significantly exceeded the number of residents" (Rhein-Neckar Zeitung, October 2018). At the time, the organic waste bin in a few test municipalities caused displeasure among the pilot households. Citizens and the media called for weekly collection. Measures to minimise odours, such as wrapping food waste in newspaper or wiping the edges of the organic waste bin with vinegar water, were perceived by citizens in newspaper commentaries as a

weekly collection from the table. In summer 2019, many local politicians tested the biofilter lid on their organic waste bins. In October 2019, the district council decided to introduce the organic waste bin with a filter lid across the board due to the positive experiences.

"Solving many problems with biofilter lids" was the headline in the Fränkische Nachrichten newspaper. The citizens were satisfied and already have their new BET bioenergy bin on their doorstep these days. As in the districts of Havelland, Ostprignitz-Ruppin, Lörrach, Ravensburg and Waldshut as well as the city of Fürth, the BET in the Neckar-Odenwald district will now continue to be emptied fortnightly without any problems.

Further information at  
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*Jürgen Gerhard, municipal waste management of the city of Neu-Ulm*