

RESPONSE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM TO A RAISED QUESTION DURING THE SBI MA SESSION
Part II – 6 November 2021

Answer by the United Kingdom to the question raised by India to explain why emissions were expected to increase in 2030 under the WEM scenario (UKs Fourth Biennial Report, page 58, table 19 - N2O emissions from the waste sector).

The UK thanks India for the question on waste emissions in the With Existing Measures (WEM) scenario of BR4. Waste emissions from N2O in BR4 are made up of several subcategories, the largest of which are Composting Municipal Solid Waste, Sewage Sludge Waste and Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) composting. Composting Municipal Solid Waste N2O emissions and Sewage Sludge Waste N2O emissions are assumed to steadily increase out to 2035 in line with the projected increase in UK household numbers. After 2030, there is a distinct drop in emissions from MBT composting, as the UK assumes that the existing MBT composting level is maintained in the short term, and that current MBT capacity and facilities begin to decline around this time.

With waste N2O emissions from some sources growing in line with household numbers and many smaller sources of N2O from waste assumed to stay close to constant, the largest N2O emissions from waste are seen in 2030 (around 1.5MtCO2e, rounded to 2MtCO2e in BR4's WEM scenario) after which such emissions fall due to the reduction in MBT composting, despite increases in household-dependent sources of N2O emissions from waste.