

## Curriculum Vitae

### Dr. ROBERT (ROBIN) A.K. SZMIDT



A renowned specialist working in the field of waste: energy and resources. Robin<sup>1</sup> comes from a background of materials' use and the land-based sectors and is a highly qualified specialist. Projects span sustainable resource use and renewable energy, environmental protection, the interface with societal wastes, system design, operation and business development. With considerable experience of commercial and public-sector projects, technology and regulation, Robin is a trusted project developer and consultant for a number of high-profile companies and public-sector bodies. He developed various milestone projects including hydroponic and compost systems and since 2003, Anaerobic Digestion (AD) renewable energy systems. He works closely with those developing technical solutions for a range of production, waste and recycle streams.

Work is always at the highest level of integrity and independence, not simply technology: as demonstrated by vetted membership of the UK Register of Expert Witnesses.

Specific expertise in technical development and implementation through:

- Concept Appraisal and Project Design
- Waste Management including Anaerobic Digestion and Composting
- Engineering /Interface Management for Complementary Technologies
- Environmental Control
- Horticultural Science
- Sustainable Resource-use

**Qualifications:** BSc, PhD, MCIWM, CEnv, M.I.Hort.,

**Key Skills:** Project development, technical analysis, team leader, problem solving, presentation / coordination, materials' use

#### CURRENT STATUS:

Founder and Director of Target Renewables Ltd., (TRL). [www.targetrenewables.com](http://www.targetrenewables.com)

**LinkedIn** <https://www.linkedin.com/in/robinszmidt>



#### KEY RECENT PROJECTS :

- Investor due diligence for a large liquid-waste AD facility: USA (2017)
- Technical performance and waste acceptance criteria during commissioning of a large organic waste treatment facility in England. Strictly confidential, *sub judice* (ongoing)
- Long-term performance and build-quality at a large recycling facility in England : - Strictly confidential, *sub judice* (ongoing)

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<sup>1</sup> Normally known as Robin, Robert is the given name.

- Technical consultant specialising in animal by-product regulatory compliance for Thoeni Industriebetriebe GmbH (A) for integrated compost + AD systems and Wet-AD (2014 - present)
- Technical consultant and bid development for Martin MARTIN GmbH für Umwelt- und Energietechnik (DE) including massbalance estimates and waste-to-energy and TTV 'Dry' AD solutions (2016 – present)
- Investment due diligence for clusters of Wet-AD facilities in the Netherlands and the USA.
- Assessment of environment control systems for a major resource-recovery & AD facility in Southern England: subject to litigation (strictly confidential *sub judice*)
- Principal Technologist (sub-contract) for a Far East Anaerobic Digestion bid-project (>\$100m USD project value), on behalf of a major international waste company
- Associate consultant / adviser to KCP; one of the UK's leading companies providing routine and 'crisis management' support in the waste sector.
- CIWM Waste Smart trainer (2014-15)
- Technical consultant / adviser to Kuttner Energy & Environment GmbH (DE) for both UK and English-language transnational projects (Israel, Finland, USA, Far East). (2010 – 2015)
- Animal By-Products Regulations (ABPR) UK quality and compliance strategy for Kuttner Energy & Environment GmbH and HZI-Kompogas AG including one-to-one liaison with Defra (UK), Swedish regulators and confidential site developers
- Principal contribution, including contribution to EIAs to achieve planning permission for UK organics' facilities and preferred technology supplier status (various)
- Options-appraisal, technology selection and pre-engineering contract negotiation for one of the largest UK biocrop AD facilities
- Use of mineral wastes (rockdusts), composts and digestates in land restoration. Funded by the Soil Remineralization Forum.

#### **EXPERT WITNESS & ARBITRATION:**

Previous civil, criminal and arbitration cases have included alleged and/or facts of:

- System performance assessment, including waste-acceptance criteria
- Odour, emissions and pollution from organic-waste and crop production sites
- Import / export of inappropriate wastes and recycle
- Horticultural crop production including mushrooms
- Patent (infringement and content)
- Waste types and regulatory compliance
- Production of illegal substances using a range of growing media (composts and hydroponics)

Expert Witness tasks span data analysis / reporting through to court appearance, including high court.

#### **INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE :**

A number of international waste and renewables projects in both public and private sectors which include:

- USA & Canada
- Finland, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland
- Hong Kong & PR China
- Middle East including Oman, Israel and the Palestinian Territories (Gaza and West Bank)

Project waste streams and process-feedstocks include source segregated material, unsegregated wastes and Mechanical-Biological treatment (MBT) technologies. In most cases projects relate to renewable and recovered energy, not just disposal or materials' recovery. Energy projects currently include assessment of waste-to-energy, biomethane, CHP systems and AD outputs.

Both in the UK and for international projects, Robin has worked with funders to assess project opportunities (Germany, UK, Israel , NL, USA).

## PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT :

Kuttner (UK) Limited (2008 – 2013)

Kuttner (UK) supported the parent engineering company-group, Küttner Energy & Environment GmbH with UK-based consultancy, design and project development for large-scale environmental engineering solutions. Kuttner is one of an informal network of companies including waste-stream separation, compost technology, product use and environmental protection.

**Active Compost Limited (ACL)** Founder and Managing Director 2000 – 2008  
 ACL was rebranded as Kuttner (UK) Limited in 2008

**Scottish Agricultural College (SAC)** 1984 – 2003 including:

2000 – 2003 : Business Development Manager /  
 Head of Compost Technology Unit (in SAC Engineering Division).  
 Senior Horticultural Adviser for Scotland including  
 horticultural diagnostics laboratories and commercial advice  
 Head of Glasshouse Investigational Unit for Scotland

**UK Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food** 1982 - 84  
 Lea Valley Experimental Horticultural Station  
 Protected crops research including mushrooms

## MEMBERSHIPS OF RELEVANT ORGANISATIONS :

- Chartered Institution of Wastes Management (CIWM)
- Society for the Environment
- Anaerobic Digestion & Bioresources Association (as TRL)
- Renewable Energy Association (REA)
- International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS)
- Institute of Horticulture (IoH)
- UK Register of Expert Witnesses: Member
- Witness Directory: Member

## EDUCATION :

University of London, Wye College: BSc Hons  
 University of Stirling PhD (biology of mushroom composts and pathogens)

## ACADEMIC :

Robin has published over 50 scientific, technical and popular papers and articles throughout his career. Robin has supervised a number of public-sector development projects as well as individuals students, to PhD level, including published research parallel to his technical activities. A publication list is available on request. He remains in close contact through research with colleagues in Glasgow University as well as overseas. Current academic interests include work on the use of composts and AD-derived material (digestate) in restored land (quarries and landfill) and circular economics in the waste sector.


## COMMITTEES :

Robin has been appointed to a number of high-level national and international committees, including the BSi PAS100 (compost) advisory panel, PAS110 (digestate) consultative group and various technical and policy-advisory groups. He was vice-chair of the Scottish branch of The UK Composting Association and is a member of the Renewable Energy Association Organic Recycling Group : Scotland committee (REA-ORG).

He was an invitee participating in consultation for the Composting Code of Practice hosted at the office of the Deputy Prime Minister and acted as rapporteur at a sector EU Conference. He is sector chair within the UK Anaerobic Digestion and Biogas Association (ADBA) and provides industry liaison to DEFRA in respect of Animal By-Products Regulations.

Robin has liaised on an *ad hoc* basis with the American Biogas Council (ABC) during development of the Digestate Standard Testing & Certification Programme, 2015 – 2017.

## PERSONAL DETAILS :

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<b>Skype:</b>	targetrenewables.raks
<b>Date &amp; place of birth:</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> October 1956. Coventry. England, UK)
<b>Nationality:</b>	British
<b>Languages</b>	English (mother tongue), French, German (basic)
<b>Interests</b>	Photography, Open water swimming, Competitive swimming