

Microalgae in the Netherlands

Environmental Permitting

The General Provisions Environmental Permitting Act (Wet Algemene Bepalingen Omgevingsrecht or Wabo), was introduced to streamline permitting for businesses by integrating multiple permits under a single authorisation (omgevingsvergunning or APPA) – including a building/planning permit. Regional governments (Provincie) are responsible for implementing national environmental permitting law (under the Wabo) in conjunction with municipalities. Since the introduction of Wabo, a single environmental permit covering site-specific licences and authorisations can be issued by the Provincie. Consultation initially takes place between the licensing authority and the company during which a draft permit is produced. The public are allowed to respond to permit application approvals in their draft form which are publicised by the Provincie.

Main implementing legislation	Primary implementing agency	Permit types
Environmental Management Act 1993 (Wm) on integrated permitting The Pollution of Surface Waters Act on water permitting (Wvo) General Provisions Environmental Permitting (Wabo)	Provincial governments	Environmental permit/ Integrated building permit Water permit

Key Points to consider:

1. What is the size of the facility?
2. What services exist already on the site?
3. Is the site located close to dwellings / environmentally sensitive areas / sites of special scientific interest?
4. Are any discharges produced by the site? Will significant amounts of waste be stored on site?
5. Are there any health and safety concerns?

First step:

- Contact regional government / Provincie

Key Points to consider:

1. What size is the facility?
2. Is the site located close to dwellings / environmentally sensitive areas / sites of special scientific interest?
3. Are any discharges produced by the site?
4. What services exist already on the site?
5. Is the site likely to cause nuisance - e.g. noise above levels of agricultural machinery / odour / light above dense street lighting?

First step:

- Contact Local Planning Authority

Planning

The central government produces the strategic 'planologische kernbeslissing' that provides the general objectives for land use functions and the use of space for the whole country. At the regional/provincial level, authorities describe these objectives in more detail through the Streekplan. Finally, at local authority level structure plans or 'structuurvisies' and 'bestemmingsplannen', or local land use plans, provide more detailed descriptions of land use functions and spatial planning. In terms of the application procedure for planning permission, as discussed above, a building permit can be combined with environmental permitting (omgevingsvergunning).

Main implementing legislation	Primary planning authority	Planning mechanism
Spatial Planning Act (WRO) 2008	Local planning authorities (municipalities)	Integrated physical environment planning (omgevingsvergunning)

Key Points to consider:

1. What inputs have gone into the production process: are any classified as waste?
2. What is the target end use of the algal biomass?
3. What further processing steps are required?

Regulatory Issues

Regulatory issues are very much dependent on end use of biomass. Please consult the relevant factsheet for further information.

Factsheet #15. Algae as Feedstock for Energy Generation - European fuel quality and other bioenergy legislation are explained

Factsheet #16. Algae as Feedstock for Chemicals - this covers REACH and other pertinent legislation

Factsheet #17. Algae as Feedstock for Food or Feed - FEMAS and other regulations for entering the food chain are described in more detail.