

Press Release

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Biomethane with bright opportunities towards the 2030 target

Biomethane can replace 3% of the European natural gas consumption by 2030 – this is one of the results presented by three biomethane projects: BIOMASTER, GreenGasGrids and Urban Biogas during their final workshop in March in Brussels. For this to happen, more projects and a more market-oriented approach are needed under full appreciation of sustainability criteria.

Biomethane has great potential to help reaching the 40% reduction target in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and to consolidate energy security in Europe. This conclusion was drawn at the final workshop on „biomethane markets, value chains and applications” jointly organized by three EU projects – BIOMASTER, GreenGasGrids and Urban Biogas, co-funded by the Intelligent Energy Europe Programme. Their aim was to promote biogas upgrading for injection into the gas grid and use in vehicles.

„The upgrading technology is already in place and is fully reliable” was explained to 150 participants present at the March workshop. The 230 biomethane upgrading plants in Europe are a clear starting signal for a wide and strong development for this decentralised ecological fuel. Within the EU projects, several European cities and regions have developed their concepts for biogas plants treating organic municipal waste and trained a number of municipalities, waste companies and consumers to move forward this implementation. Today, the greatest achievements of biomethane for road transport are found in Sweden however, a booming development has already started in the UK and France. Italy is ready to join in.

The Biomethane Roadmap developed in the GreenGasGrids project has estimated a biomethane production in Europe by 2030 of 18-20 billion m³, corresponding to about 3% of the European natural gas consumption or 10% of total gaseous vehicle fuel consumption. The recently reached agreement on cooperation of six European Biomethane Registries¹ and the finalisation of CEN standard for biomethane injection and use in vehicles will substantially improve international biomethane trade.

For this to happen, “we still need more projects, a more market-oriented approach and we need to attribute sustainability bigger importance”, concluded Arthur Wellinger, workshop moderator and representative of the European Biogas Association.

Workshop website and presentations: <http://european-biogas.eu/events/biomethane-workshop/>

Further information:

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About GreenGasGrids (GGG)

GreenGasGrids is a 3-year European project co-funded by the Intelligent Energy for Europe (IEE) programme with the aim to boost the European biomethane market. The project's consortium consists of 13 European partners. For further information visit: www.greengasgrids.eu

About BIOMASTER

BIOMASTER is a 3-year project, comprised of 17 partners, co-funded by the Intelligent Energy for Europe (IEE) programme. The goal of the project is to bridge the knowledge and operational gaps fragmenting the biomethane chain and to establish local alliances of stakeholders to foster open dialogue and create a mutual understanding. For further information visit: www.biomaster-project.eu

¹ Press release “Six national biomethane registries are developing the foundation for cross-border biomethane trade in Europe” <http://european-biogas.eu/2013/11/25/six-national-biomethane-registries-developing-foundation-cross-border-biomethane-trade-europe/>



About Urban Biogas

Urban Biogas is a 3-year European project funded by the Intelligent Energy for Europe (IEE) programme with the aim to promote the use of organic urban waste for biogas production in 5 European cities in order to inject biomethane into the natural gas grid and to use it in transport. For further information visit: www.urbanbiogas.eu

About European Biogas Association (EBA)

European Biogas Association asbl (EBA) was founded 3 February 2009 as a Belgium non-profit organization aiming at promoting sustainable biogas production and use in Europe. EBA's membership comprises currently national biogas associations, institutes and companies from 24 countries all across Europe. EBA unites a large number of the most experienced biogas experts in Europe and has highly experienced and skilled staff providing policy advice, know-how and information to promote beneficial legislation and framework conditions in the field of biogas. For further information visit: www.european-biogas.eu