

EBA remarks to the study on ‘Technology options for feeding 10 billion people – Options for cutting food waste’

Dear STOA team,

European Biogas Association warmly welcomes the report outlining options for cutting food waste. It is vital that the EU pursues enhanced food waste prevention and recycling: wasting food in Europe leads in the long term to increased food prices globally and consequently to higher amount of people suffering from malnutrition; scarce resources such as water, soil and nutrients are lost while CO₂ emissions grow.

However, we want to point out that incentives to produce energy from waste should also be promoted in accordance with the waste hierarchy. It should not be contested by any taxes for the treatment of food waste. The most important step is to implement mandatory collection of separated food waste across the EU which would facilitate the recycling of scarce and essential nutrients by means of anaerobic digestion and / or composting. Furthermore, landfilling of food waste should be completely banned and the EU should incentivise nutrient recovery before waste is incinerated.

Biogas production by means of anaerobic digestion (AD) enables the full nutrient cycle and should thus be explicitly recognised as a method of recycling. In addition to renewable energy production, AD provides another valuable product, digestate that is able to replace mineral fertilisers as an organic fertiliser. The nutrients included in the AD feedstock (which can be biodegradable waste, agricultural residues etc.) are not lost during the digestion process and are thus conserved in the remaining digestate. Therefore, spreading digestate on agricultural land brings the nutrients back to the soil and enhances the production of food crops and consequently food security.

Thus, we call on the European Parliament to take biogas production as an interface between recycling and energy production better into consideration.

We remain at your disposal for any questions.

Yours sincerely,



Jan Stambasky

Executive Board member
European Biogas Association