Newsletter IEA Bioenergy Task 37: 11/2017

Reports, Outlooks and Strategies

Alberta Biogas Industry 2016 - A White Paper on Policy and Economy

This white paper is a culmination of strategic analysis from the Alberta biogas industry, experts and government representatives. Analyses and recommendations are based on the current status of the biogas industry in Alberta, and incorporate experiences in building viable biogas economies in the North American and European context. The paper identifies important lessons for successful biogas industry development and the barriers/challenges to overcome. Three techno-economic analysis were developed for a Pulp & Paper mill; an agricultural industry-based digester, utilizing some food processing waste, and charging tipping fees to some feedstock providers and another one without tipping fees. The results show that the large industrial plant is the most economically feasible operation with a break-even price at 0% IRR of $58/MWh. The agriculture-based digesters perform less well, showing break even prices of $84/MWh and $101/MWh.
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Renewable energy deployment in the European Union

The report compiled by JRC presents an overview of renewable energy development and progress expected by 2020, as forecasted in the EU Member States' reporting under the Renewable Energy Directive. It compares the progress achieved between 2005 and 2015 with the expected results as set out in their national renewable energy action plans. The report describes in detail each Member State's overall contribution to the development of renewable energy since 2005 in the heating/cooling, electricity and transport sectors. Findings are summarised in standardised tables and graphs, enabling quick comparison between different countries and for the EU as a whole.
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Building up the future of biofuels

The subgroup on advanced biofuels of EC's Sustainable Transport Forum, representing the biofuel industry has published the final report after close to 2 years work. The topic of "biofuels" in general, and "advanced biofuels" in particular, is very complex and has become controversial often based on positions not always supported by facts, figures and scientific analysis. Subsequently, the report addressed to the Sustainable Transport Forum and the European Commission, consists of brief descriptions of the different biofuels, strategic positions, recommendations & key messages as well as analyses of the key barriers that have, and still do, hindered the development and deployment of Advanced Biofuels.
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New case study from Brazil

ITAIPU Binacional (member of Task 37) and the International Center on Renewable Energies have established a partnership to develop a biogas plant to digest grass silage (1.2 t/d from 400ha), food waste (600kg/d) and sewage effluent (10m^3/d). On the website there are also two new country reports from Austria and Denmark.
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Fourth annual 'AD Deployment in the UK' report

The past year has been full of uncertainty for the AD sector. The UK's vote to leave the European Union cast huge doubts on the UK's continued obligation to Europe's Renewable Energy Directive, thus putting the future of renewable energy support in the UK such as the RHI and FIT in jeopardy. The government reshuffle and the formation of the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) together with the added frustration that the RHI regulations were recently laid and subsequently withdrawn from parliament was not really stimulating the AD industry. Despite all this uncertainty, the sector has still seen reasonable growth in the past 12 months, with 85 new AD plants becoming operational, taking the national total over 400, excluding traditional water-treatment facilities. Just over 50 new plants began development, which is a decrease on last year, but one that NNFCC, the initiator of the report previously forecasted.
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DNV GL Energy Transition Outlook

According to DNV GL's inaugural Energy Transition Outlook renewable energy will grow its share of the energy mix. Oil and gas will account for 44% of world energy supply in 2050, compared to 53% today. The energy demand is plateauing after 2030, thanks to step-changes in energy efficiency and gas becoming the world's largest single source of energy by 2035. Gas will continue to play a key role alongside renewables in helping to meet future, lower-carbon, energy requirements.
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