

Newsletter IEA Bioenergy Task 37: 02/2018

Recent IEA and Task 37 publications

Methane emissions from biogas plants

Excessive fugitive methane emissions from a biogas system are not conducive with the ambition of reducing GHG emissions. The new Task 37 Technical Report addresses methods used for evaluation; presents selected results of measurements; proposes mitigation measures; and puts methane emissions in a context of a standard GHG assessment. The major emitters can be distinguished by structural (the technologies deployed) and operational (plant management) means. The most relevant sources include: open storage or composting of the digestate; the combined heat and power (CHP) engine; leaks; and the pressure release valve. Large quantities of methane emissions have been reported caused by single large leaks or long-lasting pressure relief events. The application of specific monitoring and maintenance and/or the application of specific technologies can reduce emissions. A crucial part of any operation should be a monitoring plan and in particular frequent monitoring of any potential emission sources on site.

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Biogas and Biomethane report of the South Americas

Biogas is a renewable energy source that has been arousing the interest of the energy sector worldwide due to its environmental, economic and social benefits. However, several actors in this sector consider the lack of information as a barrier to biogas and biomethane market development particularly in South America. The MERCOSUR ad hoc group therefore published an overview, presenting data regarding the biogas and biomethane of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay.

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How to guide report for bioenergy

IEA's "How2Guide" for Bioenergy is designed to provide stakeholders from government, industry and other bioenergy-related institutions with the methodology and tools required to successfully plan and implement a roadmap for bioenergy at the national or regional level. The aim is to provide a comprehensive list of steps and issues to be considered at each phase of bioenergy road mapping and deployment. Selected case studies provide the reader with an overview of the wide array of technology applications that exist. Key drivers for and barriers to the deployment of bioenergy are discussed in detail throughout the report and realistic options for action are suggested, along with tools and useful information sources for decision makers.

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Energy Technology Perspectives 2017

The global energy system is moving closer to a historic transformation. This year's edition of the International Energy Agency (IEA)'s comprehensive publication on energy technology focuses on the opportunities and challenges of scaling and accelerating the deployment of clean energy technologies. This includes looking at more ambitious scenarios than the IEA has produced before. For the first time, *ETP 2017* looks at how far clean energy technologies could move the energy sector towards higher climate change ambitions if technological innovations were pushed to their maximum

practical limits. The analysis shows that, while policy support would be needed beyond anything seen to date, such a push could result in greenhouse gas emission levels that are consistent with the mid-point of the target temperature range of the global Paris Agreement on climate change

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IEA Technology Roadmap: Delivering Sustainable Bioenergy

The IEA roadmap strongly argues that to achieve the required increase in bioenergy supply and use, an appropriate approach to sustainability governance is needed. Modern bioenergy plays an essential role in IEA's 2°C Scenario (2DS), providing nearly 17% of final energy demand in 2060 compared to 4.5% in 2015. Bioenergy provides almost 20% of the cumulative carbon savings to 2060. It would be difficult to replace this important contribution. To play this important role, bioenergy must be produced and used in a sustainable way. A continued support is necessary. A range of mature technologies like biomethane allows an immediate scale up, particularly when using existing gas infrastructure. Bioenergy is particularly important in sectors for which other decarbonization options are not available. For example, it is important in heavy duty road transport, aviation and shipping. Its contribution to the sector grows ten-fold between 2015 and 2060.

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Solar leads the charge in another record year for renewables

IEA has published the analysis of renewable energy 2017. Boosted by a strong solar PV market, renewables accounted for almost two-thirds of net new power capacity around the world in 2016, with almost 165 gigawatts (GW) coming online. This was another record year, largely as a result of booming solar PV deployment in China and around the world, driven by sharp cost reductions and policy support. The share of renewables in road transport is expected to increase only marginally, from over 4% in 2016 to 4.5% in 2022. Despite strongly rising sales, the share of EVs remains limited, and biofuels are still expected to represent over 90% of total renewable energy consumption in road transport by 2022. Biofuels production is expected to grow by over 16% during over the forecast period. With a more favorable market and policy landscape, biofuel production could be 13% higher.

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