

Newsletter IEA Bioenergy Task 37: 3/2015

Reports and publications

IEA Bioenergy Task 37 Country Reports Summary 2014

Members of Task 37 recently published an annual summary of their Country Reports for 2014. The individual country reports include information on the number of biogas plants in operation, biogas production data, biogas utilisation, number of upgrading plants, number of vehicles using biomethane as fuel, details of financial support mechanisms and some information on key national research and development projects.

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Biogas in smart energy grids

Task 37 recently published a technical brochure on “A perspective on the potential role of biogas in smart energy grids”. Increased generation of electricity from wind and solar installations is leading to challenges in terms of balancing electricity demand with supply and managing the increasing occurrences of surplus electricity. Biogas systems can facilitate increased proportions of variable renewable electricity on the electricity grid mainly through use of two different technologies: demand driven biogas systems which increase production of electricity from biogas facilities at times of high demand for electricity, or temporary storage of biogas at times of low electricity demand; and power to gas (P2G) systems when demand for electricity is less than supply of electricity to the electricity grid, allowing conversion of surplus electricity to methane.

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IEA Bioenergy Task 37 Case Study

Task 37 recently published a brief Case Study on “Non-grid biomethane transportation in Sweden and the development of the liquefied biogas market”. The case study describes the project at the Lidköping biogas plant which is designed to increase the distribution of biomethane in the absence of a natural gas grid by using liquefied biomethane which itself is very amenable for use as fuel for heavy-duty road transport vehicles.

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Waste prevention in Europe - decoupling waste generation from economic growth

The EEA report ‘Waste prevention in Europe’ shows that by the end of 2013, 18 of 31 countries had adopted waste prevention programs as required by the [EU Waste Framework Directive](#). Most waste prevention programs mention the aim of ‘decoupling’ waste generation from economic growth, but quantitative targets and monitoring schemes are often lacking. The current findings suggest that the variety of national initiatives leaves substantial room for improvement.

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