

Newsletter IEA Bioenergy Task 37: 03/2019 Biomethane – the new driver for biogas production

Canadian companies win funding to boost on-farm RNG

Three Canadian companies have been selected to advance technologies that improve the business case for the on-farm production of renewable natural gas (RNG resp. biomethane) in British Columbia. The companies have been selected by Foresight Cleantech Accelerator Centre and BE Bioenergy Network (BCBN) as finalists in the ARCTIC Innovation challenge. They will receive funding and support to advance their technology solutions aimed at converting the by-products associated with anaerobic digestion into commercially viable products. For the next ten months, the finalists will work jointly with Seabreeze Farm in Delta BC to develop their technology solutions across the RNG and nutrient recovery supply chain. Seabreeze is producing and injecting RNG since several years.

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Toronto to develop RNG facility

The city of Toronto has announced plans to produce renewable natural gas (RNG) at its Dufferin Solid Waste Management Facility. The project will be developed in partnership with Enbridge Gas Distribution Inc. According to information released by the city of Toronto, new equipment will be installed at the Dufferin site later this year that will convert raw biogas produced from processing the city's organic waste into RNG. The resulting RNG will then be injected into the natural gas grid, allowing the city to use RNG to fuel its waste collection trucks.

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Karachi is introducing cleaner-running buses that will be powered by biomethane

The international Green climate Fund is helping Karachi launch its zero-emission Green Bus Rapid Transit (BRT). The network will consist of 200 biomethane fuelled buses. The biomethane is to be made from cow manure and will stop around 3,200 tons of it from going to waste. The new bus system is going to help reduce air pollution and street noise. However, concerns were raised over whether there will be enough buses to resurrect the city's ailing transport system. The "cheap" and clean bus network plans to accommodate 320,000 passengers daily. The new buses aim to reduce planet-warming emissions by 2.6 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalent over 30 years.

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British Columbia city converts organic waste into biomethane

In British Columbia, Surrey's biofuel facility officially opened in spring after several years of planning. The \$68 million facility is the first fully integrated closed-loop organic waste management system in North America. The facility will convert curbside organic waste into biomethane to fuel the city's fleet of gas-powered waste collection and service vehicles. Under this closed loop system, waste collection trucks will literally be collecting their fuel source at curbside. Excess fuel will go to the new district energy system that heats and cools Surrey's city center. The biofuel facility will treat 115,000 metric tons of organic waste, produce approximately 120,000 GJ of biomethane and produce approximately 45,000 metric tons of nutrient-rich compost annually. The biofuel facility was designed to meet future demand. Currently, the city of Surrey collects 65,000 metric tons of organic waste per year.

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SoCalGas to offer RNG at its fueling stations

Southern California Gas Co. (SoCalGas) announced it will soon begin using renewable natural gas at the 25 utility-owned natural gas vehicle fueling stations across its service territory, as well as at six fueling stations in the San Diego area. The utility received approval from the California Public Utilities Commission for a pilot program to purchase the renewable fuel and capture the additional environmental credits generated. SoCalGas worked with waste management company CR&R Environmental to begin injecting renewable natural gas produced at CR&R's anaerobic digestion facility in Perris, Calif., into SoCalGas pipelines. In mid-2018 SoCalGas joined two French utilities (GRDF & GRTgaz and a Canadian natural gas utility (Energir) in a new collaboration to advance the research and development of renewable natural gas and technologies such as power-to-gas. In addition, SoCalGas has created a downloadable toolkit to assist renewable gas producers and developers who are interested in interconnecting their projects with the SoCalGas pipeline network.

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UK biomethane market set to skyrocket

48 new biomethane plants are set to be built in the UK, equaling an investment of 'up to' €455m – according to a press release by Cadent, 'UK's biggest' gas network. This will take the UK's total number of biomethane plants from 98 to 146 and that all plants should be operational by 2020. Four gas distribution networks (GDNs) – Cadent, SGN, Northern Gas Networks and Wales & West Utilities – will collaborate on managing the pipelines ahead of the 'anticipated growth'.

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