

Newsletter IEA Bioenergy Task 37: 5/2017

News from Canada

Ontario slates \$100 million toward renewable natural gas

Ontario's government plans to spend up to \$100 million over the next four years to foster growth of renewable natural gas in the province. Coinciding with the funding announcement and aimed at helping achieve carbon reduction goals, the Canadian Gas Association (CGA) outlined new targets for country's natural gas sector, which are 5 percent biomethane-blended natural gas in the pipeline distribution system by 2025, and 10 percent by 2030. Biomethane can be produced, cleaned and injected into the natural gas distribution system at competitive costs compared to other renewable energy options, according to the CGA, which estimates biomethane to cost between \$10 and \$25 per gigajoule (GJ), or 4 to 9 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh), while recent renewable electricity contracts for utility-scale solar and wind projects have been signed for \$19 and \$44 per GJ, or 7 to 16 cents per kWh. In British Columbia, Ontario and Quebec, natural gas distribution utilities are already blending RNG into their gas pipeline systems, according to the CGA, and by the end of 2017, 11 RNG projects in Canada will be online.

[More](#)

New method to produce Syngas

Over several months, Gaz M tro from Quebec has been conducting a demonstration project aimed at converting forestry biomass into second-generation renewable natural gas. The trials, carried out in collaboration with the British Columbia firm G4. They used a thermochemical process called PyroCatalytic Hydrogenation (PCH) to transform wood chips into renewable natural gas. In Hydrolysis the biomass is vaporized in a pressurized (< 20 bar) hydrogen atmosphere by using a recirculating heating media to create a fast pyrolysis process. The char formed is used in the reformer. The pyrolysis vapors are catalytically converted into methane and steam in the presence of hydrogen. This is performed at catalyst temperatures below 650C and minimizes the formation of poly-aromatic hydrocarbons. The methane gas is separated and purified from the liquids and remaining hydrogen. The process is now ready to be tested in a larger pilot project that will produce greater volumes.

[More](#)

Alberta government unveils \$60m grant fund for bioenergy industry

The Canada-based Alberta government has announced that it has launched a CAN\$60m ( 42m) grant pot to help bioenergy producers in the province. Alberta's bioenergy industry powers the equivalent of 200,000 homes using wood pellets, biogas and liquid biofuels. The industry contributes about \$800 million to Alberta's economy. "Bioenergy producers are job creators and technology innovators. The Alberta government is committed to supporting them, their employees and local economies as we diversify our energy sector, boost our economy and reduce emissions in Alberta," said Shannon Phillips, Minister of Environment and Parks. As with all other programs and initiatives that focus on emissions reductions in Alberta, money for this grant will come from carbon revenues.

[More](#)

If you do not wish to receive the Newsletter further on please unsubscribe [here](#)