

Newsletter IEA Bioenergy Task 37: 7/2015

Biomethane for fuel and grid injection

Biomethane is gaining importance in France

France has announced an action plan to cut back nuclear energy from 75% down to 50% by 2025 through efficiency and increasing the renewables from 14.2% to 32% until 2030. According to Segolène Royale 1500 new agricultural biogas plants should be built until 2020 and a number of large scale plants should inject biomethane into the grid. Today about 10 plants are injecting biomethane. The French gas grid operator GrDF has identified about 400 potential plants in total to be built in the coming years.

[More](#) (German only)

Biomethane-Questions, answers and arguments

The German association for water and gas (BDEW) has published a nice and easy to understand brochure with the major arguments to use biomethane. They state that biomethane is an important pillar in the German "Energiewende".

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50 percent more biomethane injected into the Swiss gas grid

While the consumption of natural gas declined by 13% in 2014 due to warm winter and less heating, the request for biomethane was increasing at the same time by 28%. In parallel, the consumption of biomethane for road transport increased by 50%. The number of gas vehicles increased by 6% to 11'900. Biogas for vehicle fuel is mixed with natural gas and reached a share of 22%.

[More](#) (German only)

More NGVs on European roads in 2014

The number of vehicles powered by natural gas and biomethane increased steadily in Europe in 2014, according to statistics in NGVA Europe's Annual Report. The statistics show some markets displaying considerable strength, others being more sluggish and a few waking up to the benefits of natural gas as a fuel exhibiting some remarkable growth figures, in particular Slovenia (+ 64 percent) and Belgium (+ 41 percent). Other fast growing countries were Hungary and Austria.

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European Biomethane Roadmap

The Roadmap of the European GreenGasGrids project indicates, that - if the necessary actions will be taken - the level of biomethane production could reach 18-20 million m³, about 3% of the European natural gas consumption by 2030 and biomethane could provide min. 10% of total gaseous vehicle fuel consumption. To realize the full potential a number of framework conditions have to be created like equal support for biogas as for green electricity, creation of biomethane registries or equal treatment of imported biomethane like the one nationally produced.

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