

Newsletter IEA Bioenergy Task 37: 08/2019

IEA and IEA Bioenergy reports

IEA gas market report 2019

Natural gas demand grew at a remarkable clip last year, increasing by 4.6%, its highest growth rate since the beginning of the decade. Future growth will be more measured, supported by economic expansion in emerging markets – especially in Asia – and sustained policy support in China to battle air pollution. The supplies to meet that new growth will come from both new domestic production in these fast-growing economies but also increasingly from major exporting countries, led by the development of the abundant shale gas resources in the United States. International trade, supported by the strong growth in liquefied natural gas export capacity, will play a growing role in the development of natural gas markets as they move further towards globalization. The recent convergence in market prices in major regions provides an indication of this increasing integration. However, establishing market-driven pricing mechanisms in fast-growing countries remains a challenge – albeit one that is being addressed by pricing reforms in several leading emerging economies around the world.

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Renewables 2018: Market analysis and forecast from 2018 to 2023

Renewables 2018 is the IEA market analysis and forecast from 2018 to 2023 on renewable energy and technologies. It provides global trends and developments for renewable energy in the electricity, heat and transport sectors. The actual analysis contains an in-depth look at bioenergy, the world's largest source of renewable energy, highlighting the untapped potential of modern bioenergy and other renewable sources for greening the industry and transport sectors. Under an *accelerated case*, the report also highlights policy and market improvements that can unlock further growth of renewable energy in electricity and transport biofuels. Modern bioenergy is the overlooked giant within renewable energy. Modern bioenergy (excluding the traditional use of biomass) was responsible for half of all renewable energy consumed in 2017 – it provided four times the contribution of solar photovoltaic (PV) and wind combined. Most modern bioenergy is used in final energy consumption to deliver heat in buildings and for industry.

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The future of hydrogen

Hydrogen has the opportunity to become a critical part of a more sustainable and secure energy future, according to a landmark report produced by IEA at the request of the government of Japan under its G20 presidency, that analyses the current state of play for hydrogen and offers guidance on its future development. Hydrogen can help to tackle various critical energy challenges, including helping to store the variable output from renewables like solar PV and wind to better match demand. It offers ways to decarbonise a range of sectors – including long-haul transport, chemicals, and iron and steel – where it is proving difficult to meaningfully reduce emissions. It can also help to improve air quality and strengthen energy security. Learn more in the press release, read the key findings, download the executive summary, or explore our new, expanded hydrogen topic page.

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Gas 2019: Analysis and forecasts to 2024

According to IEA's new gas report, the global demand for natural gas is set to keep growing over the next five years, driven by strong consumption in fast-growing Asian economies and supported by the continued development of the international gas trade. *Gas 2019* explores changes underway for gas supply and demand, and other trends that are set to determine the evolution of the market over the next five years. Natural gas can contribute to a cleaner global energy system, but it faces its own challenges, including remaining price competitive in emerging markets and reducing methane emissions along the natural gas supply chain.

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Measuring, governing and gaining support for sustainable bioenergy supply chains

IEA Bioenergy released its summary reports on Measuring, Governing, and Gaining Support for Sustainable Bioenergy Supply Chains. These reports summarize the efforts of an inter-task project designed to address the challenges associated with measuring and governing, as well as communicating, how bioenergy systems contribute to sustainable development. These challenges often result in very different perceptions of sustainability of bioenergy in society. IEA Bioenergy Tasks 37, 38, 39, 40, 42 and 43 participated in the project, which focused on three main objectives: 1) How to measure and quantify progress towards more sustainable practices? 2) How to improve the input, output, and throughput legitimacy of existing and proposed governance systems? 3: How to engage more successfully with the broad range of stakeholders so that policies and sustainability governance are perceived as legitimate and helpful for build-up of social capital, trust, and support among all stakeholders? The series of four summary reports can be downloaded for free.

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Biomass Pre-Treatment for Bioenergy

The report of IEA Bioenergy summarizes the conclusions of an IEA Bioenergy Inter-Task project on *Fuel pretreatment of biomass residues in the supply chain for thermal conversion*. The report shows how currently available pretreatment technologies and technologies under development can potentially help in improving and enabling the supply chains for available solid biomass resources for thermochemical conversion. Five carefully selected case studies describe key options for pretreatment of solid biomass resources for energy generation, including their costs, effectiveness and commercial status. Case studies included biomass torrefaction, pretreatment practices of forest residues, treatment of municipal solid waste (MSW) to Solid Recovered Fuel for gasification, steam explosion of biomass, and leaching of herbaceous biomass.

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Biowert grass biorefinery for biobased plastics

Based on a biorefinery concept developed and tested on a demonstration plant in Schaffhausen, Switzerland, the new founded Biowert Industrie GmbH, a Swiss-German company, started operation of a grass refinery in 2007 located in Brensbach, Germany, on an 18,000 m² site. The main products based on grass from permanent pastureland and arable land for crop production are grass fibre insulation (AgriCellBW), natural fibre reinforced plastic (AgriPlastBW) and fertiliser made from digestate (AgriFerBW). The facility has an annual throughput of about 2,000 t dry matter (equivalent to 8,000 t grass per year at 25% to 30% dry matter content). The integrated biogas plant produces ca. 1,340,000 m³ of biogas annually which is used in combined heat and power facilities, which in 2012 produced 5.2 GWh of electricity.

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