

Country update of The Netherlands

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Developments

Projects – gas production

- Further increase in **manure digestion** initiatives:
 - Co-digestion with maïs
 - One farm scale manure digestion installation per month being realised
 - Total farm scale digesters now between 20 and 25.
- **Esbeek** Construction of 36.000 ton/y manure + ???. Digester in operation. Osmo (German, Osnabrück) is supplier, plant is owned by large number of farmers.
- **Wanroij**. 36.000 ton/y digester is started up. Supplier is Schmack: two Eco3 horizontal plug flow reactors
- **Haarlem** - Biogas upgrading plant at landfill in Haarlem
Upgraded gas will be used as a vehicle fuel.
- **Beverwijk** – New biogas upgrading plant (Cirmac, 160 m³ raw gas / h)
(Currently Netherlands has 4 upgrading plants, total 11,6 Mm³ upgraded gas per year)
- **Amsterdam** - Sewage digestion plant + cryogenic gas cleaning at communal wastewater plant is successfully started up. Full design biogas flow in April.
- **Other projects** - No updated information

Developments

Projects – natural gas as a vehicle fuel

- Natural gas as a vehicle fuel receives attention:
 - Bus company Connexxion in Haarlem region operates 88 buses + 45 taxis on natural gas (4,5 Mm³/year)
 - Biogas upgrading plant is being build to replace natural gas with biogas from landfill
 - Tilburg has several (10-20) cars, Hengelo has one car as a pilot
 - Other municipalities and regions are considering
- The “ Minister of Environment” sold his Toyota Prius to buy a car on natural gas
- Reduced or zero parking fees for more efficient and/or cleaner cars in Amsterdam, Nijmegen and Leeuwarden, more cities are considering
- Local subsidies to rebuild cars into natural gas, PPO, biodiesel or ethanol cars (Leeuwarden)
- Number of natural gas filling stations is slowly increasing: new filling stations in Tilburg and Leeuwarden, DutCH₄ has subsidy to build 9 more over next 1,5 years

Political situation

- **Biofuel obligation is almost a fact!**
 - to be introduced per 1-1-2007
 - oil companies that distribute fuels to market have to
 - sell 2% of their diesel and 2% of their petrol as biofuel in 2007
 - 5,75% in 2010
 - 2008 and 2009 not yet decided
 - Percentages are averages, variations in time and place are allowed
 - Trading is allowed
- This is large shift in policy!:
 - up to end 2005 no biofuel policy
 - in 2006: tax exemption for 2% blends, only Shell and Argos (small company) have 2% ETBE and 5% ethanol blends, respectively

- **Biogas is part of the obligation**

Probably also biogas transported by the gas grid, when there is proper administration. Public text:

"The obligation could also be met by introducing fuels with a high biofuel content, such as pure vegetable oils and E-85 (85% ethanol). Setting an overall obligation gives the market more flexibility and allows it to comply more efficiently. I intend to include in the regulation wording to the effect that if a supplier can show it is blending biogas into fuels, this would also count towards the obligation.

Developments

EU projects

- BioGasMax project has started – Haarlem is involved
- Biofuels cities (Biceps, CAP-CEP) project about to start (May 1, June 1?)

Aims:

- build networks around existing biofuel projects
- disseminate biofuel information to local and regional governments
- build electronic information and discussion platform
(continue current VIEWLS virtual office)

Personal developments:

- Now working as co-ordinator of GAVE programme
GAVE = Gaseous and Liquid biofuels
- Currently working 2 days a week for Ministry of Environment which finalises first part of biofuel obligation
- No longer any direct involvement with biogas production

The Netherlands in Task 37:

- Ministry of Economic Affairs: “biogas activities are more or less completed”
- Discussion is started on continuation of Dutch participation in Task 37 per 2007