

GGROS Conference

IEA Special Session

IEA.1 Overview of IEA Bioenergy Task 37: David Baxter

Abstract

IEA Bioenergy Task 37 is an international expert working group which covers the anaerobic digestion (AD) of biomass feedstocks including agricultural residues (e.g. manure and crop residues), energy crops, organic-rich waste waters, the organic fraction of municipal of solid waste (OFMSW) and organic industrial wastes. Large scale and municipal anaerobic digestion is carried out in facilities specially adapted for each particular feedstock, or mixture of feedstocks in the case of co-digestion. The main interests of Task 37 are the production of biogas for use directly for renewable heat and power, upgrading biogas to biomethane, utilisation of biogas/biomethane for electricity grid balancing and high quality digestate that can be used as biofertiliser. Task 37 addresses the whole biogas production chain from feedstock collection and pretreatment to biogas upgrading and utilisation, biofertiliser application and process chain economic and environmental sustainability.

IEA Bioenergy Task 37 published reports on various topics relating to the biogas production and utilisation chain. Recent topics for publication include biomethane trade, crops for biogas production, digestate use as a biofertiliser, digestate quality management, feedstock pretreatment, anaerobic digestion process monitoring, source separation of food waste for biogas production and a perspective on biogas use in smart power grids. The Task also publishes a range of Success Stories and short Case Studies that highlight significant innovative applications of technologies. In 2013 the Task produced a new handbook on biogas.

The Task has national mirror groups in a number of its member countries and is open to receive input from reliable sources. All publications, newsletters, key contact details and a place to propose collaboration can be sourced through the Task website: <http://www.iea-biogas.net/>.