

Newsletter IEA Bioenergy Task 37: 11/2018

Reports, Studies and more

The future role of gas from a regulatory perspective

Natural gas industry has been undergoing a period of uncertainty regarding its future role in the energy mix. DNV GL has been commissioned by CEER to prepare a study aiming to evaluate the potential future role of gas, its infrastructure and the consequent regulatory implications and measures that may be required. The work has been divided into three parts: 1) three gas demand scenarios were defined. 2) A look at the gas commodity markets, like the traditional use of natural gas (for example CHP), use of other gas forms (LNG /CNG) in the transportation sector and renewable gases that can substitute natural gas such as biomethane and hydrogen. 3) Regulatory implications in the infrastructure area. In the focus are traditional natural gas infrastructure (low gas demand scenario); infrastructure for new uses of natural gas (transportation) and regulatory measures needed for infrastructure for renewable gases and incentives for innovation and decarbonization.

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CO₂-based synthetic fuels

CO₂-based synthetic fuels are of increasing interest as a potential strategy to reduce petroleum consumption as well as GHG emissions from the transportation sector. The most well-known example of CO₂-based synthetic fuels are power to gas (methane) and power-to-liquids. CO₂-based synthetic fuels can potentially be incentivized by RED II. This study aims to improve the understanding of the potential contribution that CO₂-based synthetic fuels could make towards the European Union's (EU) climate mitigation goals. The total GHG impact and level of petroleum displacement that could potentially be achieved by CO₂-based synthetic fuels is presented for the EU in 2030 and 2040.

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ILUC GHG emissions of biofuels production

The study provides systematic analysis of the latest available scientific research and the latest available scientific evidence on indirect land use change (ILUC) greenhouse gas emissions associated with production of biofuels. It describes the selection and review of ILUC related literature. The methods are described, and the relevant ILUC related studies are outlined. ILUC factors found are presented. The report also provides an analysis of key assumptions in ILUC research and related uncertainties; it also analyses the mitigation options, including low ILUC-risk biofuels. The study underlines that ILUC factors identified in the literature vary significantly across biofuel pathways, studies, or even within studies depending on the hypothesis used.

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A renewable gas mix in 2050 in France

ADEME, GRDF and GRTgaz published a study on the technical and economic feasibility of 100% renewable gas by 2050. The injectable renewable gas resource estimated at 460 TWh could fully cover the gas demand in France in 2050 according to all the scenarios. Three large production sectors of renewable gas are studied: anaerobic digestion (30% of the resource), pyrogasification

(40%), and power-to-gas (30%). The technical potentials are based on available resources which do not compete with food uses and raw materials. To ensure that these potentials are accessible in 2050, the obstacles to agricultural biogas production need to be removed, the growing of intermediate crops (temporary crops which protect the soil between two primary crops) has to be promoted and more agricultural and forestry resources should be harnessed. Technologies with a strong potential need to be further developed (pyrolysis, gasification of algae, etc.). The estimated cost of the renewable gas is between €116/MWh and €153/MWh, which includes the cost of production, storage, use and adaptation of the gas networks.

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Eurobarometer 2017 on renewable energies

The first part of EurObserv'ER's work is a summary of the barometers published in 2017 for the wind energy, solar photovoltaic, solar thermal, biofuel, biogas and solid biomass sectors. The energy indicators drawn from these barometers have been updated with SHARES data from 26th January and supplemented by data on the sectors for which no individual barometers were published – small hydropower, heat pumps, geothermal energy, concentrated solar power, household refuse incineration and renewable marine energy sources.

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Bioenergy Europe (formerly AEBIOM) published new statistical report

Bioenergy Europe's new Statistical Report provides an in-depth overview of the bioenergy sector across EU-28. Enriched with new statistics and findings, it gathers unique data on the dynamics of the European bioenergy market from a growing number of international contributors. Readers will get accurate, up-to-date information on the overall EU energy system, the current state of play of bio-heat and bio-electricity, the availability and dynamics of supply, and much more - including a whole chapter dedicated to statistics on pellet. The report can be downloaded for free upon registration.

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