

Newsletter IEA Bioenergy Task 37: 01/2018

New York and elsewhere: Biogas is moving on

New York announces plan to reduce methane emissions

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo released a methane reduction plan that, in part, supports energy production from biogas at farms, waste facilities and landfills across the state. The plan includes a suite of 25 actions aimed at reducing methane emissions from the state's landfill, oil and gas, and agricultural sectors. According to the New York Department of Environmental Conservation, methane accounts for approximately 9 percent of the state's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The suite of 25 actions are expected to reduce methane emissions in alignment with New York State's commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 40% by 2030 and 80% by 2050, from 1990 levels.

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NYSERDA issued record renewable energy RFP

The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority has issued requests for proposals (RFP) for up to 2.5 million megawatt-hours of renewable power, collectively totaling the largest renewable RFP issued by any state. The call aligns with Gov. Andrew Cuomo's Clean Energy Standard goal of 50 percent renewable electricity by 2030. Renewables currently account for more than 26 percent of New York's electricity mix.

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NYC proposes to expand food waste separation requirements

The New York City Department of Sanitation (DSNY) recent published a proposed rule that aims to expand organic waste source separation requirements for large commercial food retailers and food service establishments. According to the proposal, food scraps and other organic waste make up more than one-third of all commercial waste in NYC. "Diverting this material from landfills to use for soil enhancing compost, or as an energy source in anaerobic digesters, is a key component of the city's goal of sending zero waste to landfills by the year 2030," said the DSNY in the proposal.

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Bill aims to provide tax incentive for biogas investments

Reps. Rom Reed, R-N.Y., and Ron Kind, D-Wisc., recently introduced the House version of the Agricultural Environmental Stewardship Act, which provides incentives for farmers and rural electric cooperatives to invest in biogas and nutrient recovery technology. The bill aims to allow biogas technology to qualify for an energy tax credit that is on-par with the 30 percent tax credit for solar energy. According to information released by Reed, the legislation is geared toward properties that use anaerobic digesters or other biological, chemical, thermal or mechanical processes to make biogas that is at least 52 percent methane as well as nutrient recovery systems which make digesters run more efficiently.

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Maryland offers funding for animal waste-to-energy projects

The Maryland Energy Administration recently announced the opening of its fiscal year (FY) 2018

Animal Waste-to-Energy Grant Program, which is making \$3.5 million available to support selected projects. The program is divided into two areas of interest. One is focused on on-farm and pilot-scale projects with capacities less than 2 MW, while the second is focused on community- and regional-scale projects with capacities greater than 2 MW. According to the MEA, \$2.5 million of the available funding will be made available to support on-farm and pilot-scale projects, with a 40 percent cost-share required by the applicant.

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Brazil establishes national biofuels policy

Brazilian President Michel Temer has approved legislation creating RenovaBio, a new national biofuels policy. RenovaBio aims to increase the use of all biofuels, including ethanol, biodiesel and biomethane with the aim of increasing energy security and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. RenovaBio law provides for the establishment of national emissions reduction targets for the nation's fuel supply. Targets will to be met annually by fuel distributors. RenovaBio creates a system that allow for the certification of biofuels to measure the exact contribution of each biofuel producer to greenhouse gas emissions reductions, in relation to their fossil substitute. The law also creates a decarbonization credit that combines the emissions reduction targets and the live cycle assessment of each biofuel producer. The credits are described as a financial asset that can be traded on a stock exchange.

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