
# Newsletter IEA Bioenergy Task 37: 03/2018

Strategies and Outlooks

## Bioenergy and biofuels highlighted in UK's Clean Growth Strategy

The Clean Growth Strategy: Leading the way to a low carbon future' has been published in October 2017 by Greg Clark, the UK's Business and Energy Secretary. It highlights progress already made in the UK towards a low carbon economy, while also setting out how the 'whole country' can benefit from low carbon economic sources in the future. Bioenergy and biofuels are both highlighted in the report as playing a key role in the transition away from fossil fuels, and in having potential for the future. Hydrogen and bioenergy are pointed to as 'Clean Growth Innovation Challenges'. In regards to transport, the strategy sets an ambitious target for 2050. "We want to see a near doubling of sustainable bioenergy used in the transport sector," the report states.
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## Biogas could heat 15 million homes in the UK by 2050

Gas made from domestic waste, energy crops, agricultural waste, food waste and sewage could heat up to 15 million homes in the UK every year by 2050, according to a new study just published by Britain's largest gas distribution network. The report's insights come just a week after the UK government's Clean Growth Strategy indicated that it would be exploring biomethane and green gas technology as a possible route towards decarbonisation. A key finding of the study is that biogas from 'black bag waste', food waste, energy crops and agricultural residues could produce up to 183 TWh of biomethane a year. That's equivalent to meeting the annual gas demand for homes across the whole of south east England, London and East Anglia. Around two thirds of renewable gas would come from energy crops and agricultural residues, with the remainder coming from waste. Of the third coming from waste, the researchers calculate that 83% will be produced by BioSNG, and the remaining 17% from biomethane generated through anaerobic digestion.
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## Renewable energies outperform coal in Europe

In 2017, wind, sun and biomass, in the European Union have for the first time delivered more electricity than hard coal and lignite combined. Electricity generation from these "new renewables" grew by 12 percent last year. Since 2010, the share of renewable electricity has more than doubled. However, because hydropower production fell sharply in 2017, renewable electricity only achieved a slightly higher share than in the previous year, rising from 29.8 to 30.0 percent of electricity production as shown in an analysis of two think tanks: Sandbag from UK and Agora Energiewende from Germany. The share of renewables in the various EU countries is growing very unevenly. In the past three years the United Kingdom and Germany have contributed to more than half of the increase in renewables. The strongest percentage growth was recorded in Denmark in 2017: 74 percent of the electricity produced came from wind, solar and biomass, a rise of seven percent. This contrasts six eastern countries with less than 10 percent of renewable electricity in 2017: Slovenia (4%), Bulgaria (7%), France (8%), Slovakia (8%), Czech Republic (8%) and Hungary (10%).
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## BP energy outlook 2018

The Energy Outlook to 2040 considers the energy transition from three different viewpoints (sectors, regions and fuels) and by exploring a number of different scenarios. All of the growth in energy consumption is in fast-growing developing economies: China and India account for half of the growth in global energy demand. The pace at which renewable energy penetrates the global power system depends partly on the size and persistence of government support. In the “evolving transition” scenario, support for renewables is largely phased out by mid 2020s. An alternative scenario in which levels of government support per unit of capacity installed persists around current levels until 2040, renewables account for more than 90% of the growth in power demand over the Outlook, with the share of renewables within power reaching over 40% by 2040, compared with 25% in the ET scenario. The energy mix by 2040 is the most diversified the world has ever seen. Demand for oil and other liquid fuels grows over much of the Outlook, but gradually slows and plateaus in the later years of the Outlook. Global coal consumption flatlines, with Chinese coal demand declining. Natural gas grows strongly, supported by broad-based demand and the continuing expansion of liquefied natural gas (LNG) increasing the availability of gas globally.

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