

## Newsletter IEA Bioenergy Task 37: 7/2017

### Future of bioenergy - Reports

#### EIA releases 2018 bioenergy forecasts

The U.S. Energy Information Administration has released a new edition of its Short Term Energy Outlook, predicting total renewables used in the electric power sector will fall by 0.3 percent in 2017 and increase by 7.3 percent in 2018. Consumption of renewable energy from sources other than hydropower in the electric power sector is expected to grow by 1.3 percent this year and 9.8 percent next year. The EIA current estimates 2.48 million U.S. households will use wood as a primary heating fuel during the 2016-'17 winter, up 1.3 percent when compared to last winter. This includes 536,000 households in the Northeast, down 0.9 percent; 612,000 households in the Midwest, up 1.7 percent; 601,000 households in the South, up 3.4 percent; and 731,000 households in the West, up 1 percent.

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#### REN21 launches “Renewables Global Futures Report

The report analyses the views of 114 renowned energy experts from every region of the world, interviewed over the course of 2016. The results are clustered under topics defined as “12 Great Debates.” More than 90% of the experts interviewed agree that renewable energy technologies serve to lower the barrier for communities to gain access to energy services. An estimated 100 million people now receive electricity via distributed renewable energy systems, and markets for such systems are growing rapidly. More than 70% of the experts interviewed consider a global transition to 100% renewable energy to be both feasible and realistic, with European and Australian experts most strongly supporting this view. The same percentage expects the cost of renewables to continue to fall, beating all fossil fuels within 10 years' time.

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#### The European Commission sees a bright future for the digestion of wastes

The Communication was published as part of the Commission's Circular Economy flagship strategy. This non-legislative text addresses the role that the most promising waste-to-energy technologies can have in the future, where anaerobic digestion is highlighted several times. The Communication explains that digesting biowaste is a recycling technique where energy and digestate are brought back to use, while in comparison incineration is lower in the waste hierarchy as energy recovery. The Communication is based on the results of the 2016 Waste-to-Energy Report of the Joint Research Centre, which focused on two priorities: (1) mapping the availability of wastes and residues across the EU; (2) comparing the efficiency and feasibility of several energy recovery technologies. The study concludes that biomethane upgrading from digestate waste (particularly for grid injection) is a highly efficient and sustainable way to process wastes. In addition, the JRC sees great potential in agricultural wastes and residues such as manure for digestion.

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