

Newsletter IEA Bioenergy Task 37: 8/2016

Biogas and GHG reductions

EU study on Carbon impacts of biomass consumed in the EU

The principal objective of this project was to deliver a qualitative and quantitative assessment of the direct and indirect greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with different types of solid and gaseous biomass used in electricity and heating/cooling in the EU under six different scenarios focusing on the period to 2030. Changes have been evaluated in global GHG emissions consisting of direct GHG emissions from fossil fuel, carbon sequestration, biogenic carbon emissions, indirect GHG emissions by applying the methods of consequential life cycle assessment (LCA). All scenarios achieve significant reductions in total annual GHG emissions, including those scenarios involving increased bioenergy consumption in the EU. The study was completed in August 2015 and made available to the public in March 2017 only. Reason is that the findings are counter the direction the Commission has taken.

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Biofuel-powered cars ahead of electric ones to tackle carbon emissions

Roland Berger consulting was commissioned by a consortium including Volkswagen, Toyota, BMW, Daimler, Honda, Shell, St1, Neste, and OMV to conduct a study to define and produce a Roadmap for EU Road Transport Decarbonization to 2030 and beyond. The study identified possible reductions in GHG emissions by considering the key elements of technical achievability, infrastructure needs, customer acceptance and policies to meet the challenging decarbonization goals set out to 2030 and beyond. One of the conclusions was that for further abatement of GHG emissions in road transport more biofuels and hybrid powertrains for passenger cars as well as more biofuels and new truck concepts for commercial vehicles are a cost effective way. Volkswagen called for the “promotion of biofuel-powered cars over electric ones to help tackle carbon emissions. Modern diesel and natural gas engines will absolutely be required to deliver CO₂ targets until 2020 and they will also contribute to further reductions going on from there.”

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European Parliament Launch for New Green Gas Report

The report explores the contribution which gas from renewable sources can make to low carbon heat and transport, and supporting the electricity networks in meeting the challenges of decarbonisation. It makes a number of recommendations, including setting EU wide targets for sustainable gas. With the right support green gas could help meeting the energy objectives and create high quality jobs. Kyriakos Maniatis, Principal Administrator in DG Energy and ExCo member of IEA Bioenergy welcomed the new report. He outlined EU policy developments in the biogas sector and the key challenges faced by policy makers.

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European Parliament unveils draft waste report

The Environmental Committee has released a draft report suggesting amendments to the Waste Framework Directive proposals set out in the Circular Economy Package (CEP) last year. The EP rapporteur Simona Bonafè wants mandatory separate collection of paper, metal, plastic and glass. The report also sets out a desired target of ‘at least’ 65% of biowaste to be recycled by 2025. Such a target is necessary ‘to attract infrastructure investments towards recycling facilities for bio-waste and to boost markets for compost and digestate. [More](#)

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