

Inspirational Meeting In Copenhagen

The second project meeting took place in Copenhagen, Denmark on the 23rd and 24th November 2011. The representatives of the 15 project partners met to catch up on progress and ensure that we are all delivering outputs that are valuable and in line with the approved programme. This was important business but the really valuable and inspirational time followed in the form of our "training the trainers event". On the afternoon of the 24th and the morning of the 25th we were provided with high quality presentations from a range of speakers from Denmark and Sweden.



Tim Patterson from the University of Glamorgan taking lots of notes during the presentation from Topsoe

We were given lots to ponder on and learn about biomethane, biogas and anaerobic digestion, but we were also provided with an holistic picture of the part that "our" technology can play within a nation that plans and strategises properly. In brief:-

- The Danes plan to produce far more (renewable) electricity at times than they consume.
- This "surplus" electricity will be used to convert water and CO₂ (eg from biogas) into methane.
- The methane will be injected into existing natural gas grid and storage systems, to be taken out when needed (essentially when the wind drops).

We were assured that the necessary technology already exists, and that market deployment readiness is near.



Gas grid operator, Dong (73% owned by Danish Gov.) is also building off-shore windfarms in Denmark and the UK.

Training the Trainers Presentations

All of the presentation slides from the training events held in Pontypridd and Copenhagen are available on the local biomethane regions project web site as well as the international site—www.bio-methaneregions.eu A summary has been produced but we really do recommend taking a look at the whole range of the excellent material. The Pontypridd training concentrated very much on AD and biomethane from a technical and practical perspective whereas Copenhagen put the technology into a wider context of delivering a low carbon future.

If you would like a presentation on AD, biogas or even specifically biomethane at a special event or a general meeting of your organisation/committee, then please get in touch. We would be delighted to assist if we possibly can.

Quality Management Case Studies

Work is progressing between the University of Glamorgan and the two Austrian partners (Energy Agency for Styria and the Technical University of Vienna) in putting together what we anticipate to be, some really useful case studies of quality management. The first set of reports will concentrate on cases where good plant monitoring regimes can be shown to have had positive outcomes. The group is about to engage with a cross-section of existing plants with the intention of improving gas yields by monitoring and applying appropriate interventions.

Presentation to REA Biogas Group

Andy Bull travelled to London in October to give a short presentation on the Biomethane Regions project to the Renewable Energy Association's Biogas Group. These events are always useful for the networking opportunities with the key people in the AD industry in the UK but the trip may well have proved particularly valuable for one of the groups to whom the project is providing support. Early signs are that a very valuable piece of match-making has been facilitated, which may prove key in seeing an AD scheme in south Wales developed in the reasonably near future.

Andy also learned of a piece of work being planned by the International Energy Agency's Task 37 (Biogas) group that very closely links to the quality management work referred to above. Those tasked with leading this work for the IEA are well-known to our project partners in Glamorgan and Austria and thus discussions have taken place since.

Another IEE funded project, with Norfolk County Council as its UK partner, was also described in London. Links between the two project web sites have now been provided.

Study Tour Opportunities

The project has a commitment and budget to go with it, to organise study tours of existing AD plants in order to assist decision-makers, politicians and regulators. If this fits with your needs—or you know someone that could really do with visiting a plant that treats feedstock just like the material that is of concern to them, utilises the gas in the way that they'd like to see it used or has some other specific question to be answered—then please get in touch. Amongst our partners it is likely that we have just what you are looking for.



Re-vamped Brochure Ready Soon

The brochure prepared under the Biogas Regions project has been updated and revised to fit the fast-changing AD scene in the UK. It will also be translated into Welsh available as a download in either or both languages from the web site—www.swea.co.uk/proj_biomethane

There will also be a version of the brochure specifically designed for potential developers. It will include a “decision tree” that is designed to assist interested parties to determine whether AD is appropriate to their location, feedstocks and circumstances. It will also assist with the decision on the most appropriate use for the biogas. A first draft of the rather complex looking flow diagram has been completed and circulated to the Advisory Group for comment. It might take several iterations before something of value emerges.

A new version of the “country-specific framework conditions” report for England and Wales has been written, and this too is available on the web site. This report is designed to highlight the main barriers to implementation in England and Wales but does provide a guide to anyone considering embarking on the regulatory authorisations process—or even a regulator interested in the whole process (as opposed to just their part of it).

Assisting with Policy Matters

The AD industry and those of us trying to facilitate the best solutions to implementation are only too well aware of the fact that biogas and aerobic digestion is often missing from local policy documents. Those documents might relate to the land-use planning system, waste management, sustainable development or even sustainable/renewable energy. Biomethane Regions can help you make relevant and appropriate provision for AD in your documents and would be very happy to provide a presentation to policy-makers and decision takers. Please make contact if you would like input.

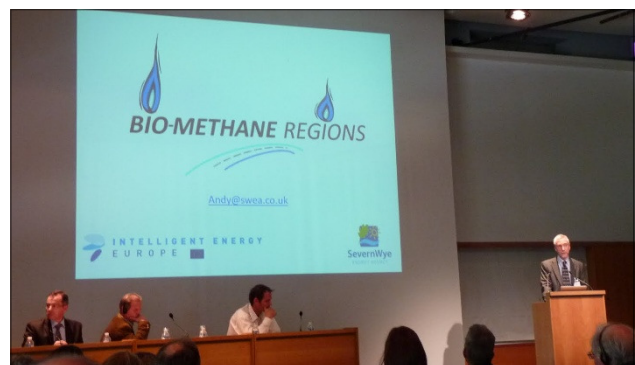
The Advisory Group has been commenting on a Regional Strategy and Action Plan and this too would yield valuable material for other policy documents.

Advisory Group Activity

The UK Advisory Group to the Biomethane Regions project has met twice since the project started and their input to the delivery in this country has been vital. The combined depth of knowledge of the group members is unlikely to be rivalled this side of the English Channel. The Group has been expanded since the Biogas Regions days with some of the new membership reflecting the way the industry has moved-on in the last few years. The very active engagement of Dwr Cymru/Welsh Water and the gas grid and utility companies is indicative of the shifting market.

Biogaz Europe

Andy Bull spoke on behalf of the project at the Biogaz Europe conference held in Nantes in October.



UK Project Contacts

Andy Bull—Builth Wells office
+44 (0)1982 551006 andy@swea.co.uk
Alastair Stevens—Gloucester office
+44 (0)1452 835067 alastair@swea.co.uk



Biomethane Regions UK Newsletter 2

The sole responsibility for the content of this publication lies with the authors. It does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the European Union. Neither the EACI nor the European Commission are responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained herein.



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government