



## ***Biogas Regions - Summary (in English) of a meeting of the Advisory Committee***

### **First Meeting of The Biogas Regions Advisory Committee for SWEA (England and Wales) Region**

**Date of Meeting** 21<sup>st</sup> February 2008    **Venue** Forest of Dean DC Offices, Coleford

**Time** 10.00

#### **List of Those in Attendance (full name and name of organisation, the participant is representing)**

Andy Bull (SWEA), Kierson Wise (SWEA), Mark Brown (PowysCC), Sue Thompson (Glasu), Karin Black (Welsh Assembly Government), Adrian Jones (WAG), Tim Patterson (University of Glamorgan), Richard Dinsdale (UoG), Oliver Harwood (CLA), Lucy Lewis (Greenfinch) and David Williams (Potters).

#### **Apologies for Absence**

Richard Baines (Royal Agricultural College)

#### **Issues Discussed / Agenda**

Intelligent Energy for Europe Programme  
Biogas Regions Project  
Current state of play and recent developments in the UK  
Country Specific Framework Conditions Report  
Potential UK Case Studies  
Inter-relationships between other initiatives and Biogas Regions  
Membership of the Advisory Group

#### **Main Conclusions**

There was a wide-ranging discussion on the current state of development of biogas within the UK and the barriers to growth. Karin and Adrian made particular reference to the situation in Wales where the emphasis will be switched away from composting of organic waste towards AD. It was anticipated that the new Waste Strategy for Wales, due to be issued in 2008, would contain strong advice to local authorities to encourage AD



development. The situation in England was thought to be much less encouraging with the Regional Development Agencies apparently having some sort of delegated responsibility to promote AD but little obvious activity.

Andy explained that an early output from the project was for a document that describes the barriers to implementation of an AD plant and that this would inform the Regional Action Plan that would be developed shortly thereafter. **It was agreed that the group would send Andy comments on the draft chapters already written and pointers to assist him in the completion of the document.**

Following discussion it was agreed to offer up three potential case studies for the UK:-  
Greenfinch's Segregated Food Waste Digester at Ludlow.

Owen Yeatman's Plant on his dairy farm in Dorset

Biogen mixed pig waste and segregated food waste plant in Bedfordshire

This issue was discussed as part of the general discussion about current activity in the biogas arena. Andy stated that it was very much the hope of the SWEA team that this project would provide good value and would not duplicate other work being undertaken. It was felt that SWEA and Biogas Regions could work alongside the University of Glamorgan team – adding value to the Centre of Excellence by promoting the technology to the public and planning authorities. The role was less obvious in England.

It was suggested that the Advisory Group could be expanded to include possibly someone from the South West RDA, the EA in England, possibly someone from Wiltshire CC or possibly a Gloucestershire District Council (Stroud).

### **Date and Venue for Next Meeting**

It was agreed that Andy would find a suitable date for the next meeting which may be better located in Newport