

# Biogas Regions

A project under the Intelligent Energy for Europe Programme



Intelligent Energy  Europe

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## 2 Experienced Partners

- German partner based in a town between Stuttgart and Nuremberg
- Regional Energy Agency for Styria, SE Austria

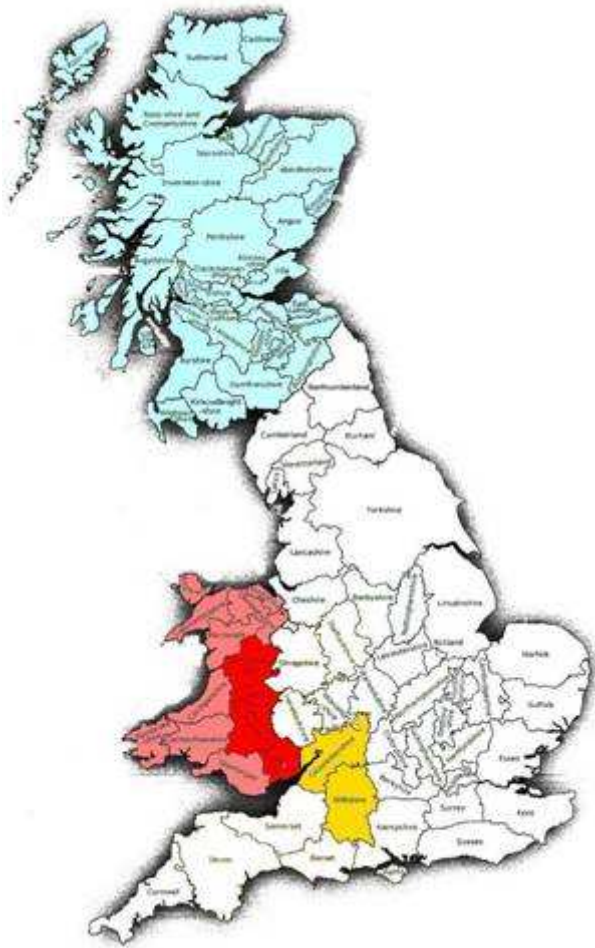


## 7 Promoting Partners

- Rhone Alp, France  
(Project co-ordinators)
- Walloon Region of Belgium
- Malpolska Region of Poland (S)
- Castille Leon Region of Spain (NW)
- Abruzzo Region of Italy (Central-E)
- Whole of Slovenia
- SWEA Region of UK



# SWEA Region



## SWEA

- Working for sustainable energy and affordable warmth in the South West and Wales.
- 10+ years old
- 40+ staff in Mitcheldean and Swindon
- 4 in Builth Wells (RWAS)
- One of a network of SAVE agencies across the EU

# Biogas Regions Activity in UK

- Strong Links with Centre of Excellence in Wales



- Working with Royal Agricultural College in England
- Advisory Group drawn with wide expertise

# Planning Identified as a Key Barrier

- Encouraging developers to adopt good practice
- Providing impartial information to planners and members
- Assisting with individual schemes



# Promoting Biogas

- Taking opportunities like this and that provided by South West Rural Update
- Tagging onto multi-technology events and training
- Offering be-spoke training to local authorities



## Community Energy Transition Seminar 16th-18th August 2008

The Centre for Alternative Technology and Energy 21 invite you to join us for a practically focused two-day seminar offering information and inspiration on community-scale energy projects.

Venue: Centre for Alternative Technology, Machynlleth, Powys, Wales, SY20 9AZ.  
Dates: 16 - 18 August 2008. Arrive 1pm Saturday; depart 2pm Monday.  
Price: Seminar with two nights' food and accommodation at CAT - £100 per person.

Topics and discussions include:

### Why Community Renewables?

- Drivers for change: update on the science of climate security, energy security and international security.
- Zero Carbon Britain: policies and practice linking international, national and local action.
- Overview of the technologies: what are the choices for community-scale technology? How do you decide what works best for your community?

### Making it happen.

- Planning applications: gaining first-time approval.
- Finding the funding.
- Collaborations: between Energy 21, Transition Towns, CAT and INFORSE.

Plus, case studies, site visits and assessing the potential in your region.  
For full details and to book your place, visit [www.cat.org.uk/energy21](http://www.cat.org.uk/energy21), phone 01854 705981 or complete and return the form below. We look forward to seeing you there!



 **ENERGY21** Community Energy Transition Seminar

 **INFORSE-EUROPE**  
INTERNATIONAL NETWORK TO CATALYSE ENERGY

Please reserve \_\_\_ places for me on the Community Energy Transition Seminar.  
 I enclose payment of £100 per person for the seminar plus full-board accommodation.  
 Please send me some more information before I book my place.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to:  
Energy 21, Centre for Alternative Technology, Machynlleth, Powys, Wales, SY20 9AZ.  
Cheques should be made payable to 'CAT Charity Ltd'.



**BIOGAS REGIONS  
ENGLAND AND WALES  
NEWSLETTER No 3  
AUTUMN 2008**



# E-Newsletters

## The Regional Strategy and Action Plan

The last newsletter concentrated upon the Strategy document and invited comments on the draft version by the end of September. The Advisory Group met on the 8th October and considered the one set of comments that had been received and agreed to act upon them. The adopted version of the Regional Strategy is now available on the SWEA web site but, at the suggestion of the Advisory Group, there is a note that invites comments at any time on any aspect of the Strategy. It is recognised that the scene is changing so quickly that there must be flexibility built into the way we approach the promotion of biogas technology and practice.

## Our First "Success Story"

The Biogas Regions project has been lending support to the Jones family in their efforts to secure planning permission for an Anaerobic Digestion plant at their farm close to Talgarth on the edge of (but within) the Brecon Beacons National Park. The application was first submitted in November 2007, coinciding almost exactly with the kicking-off of the Biogas Re-



*The site of the proposed digester at Great Porthamel Farm*

gions project but it wasn't until March that we learnt about each other.

Biogas Regions was able to offer impartial advice to both the

applicants and the planning officers and facilitated a meeting between the two parties at a critical point in the negotiations.

The primary feedstock for the proposed plant is gut contents from a large abattoir near Merthyr Tydfil and this material has been coming to the farm for several years already. Current practice has been to undertake some rudimentary aerobic composting and then land-spreading. There can be no denying that there have been significant "odour-issues" at the times of the spreading. The AD plant will largely remove this issue but persuading the local community of this was understandably difficult. SWEA was able to use the experience and knowledge gained from the training and site visits in Austria and Germany in order to provide planning officers with information about this and other issues.

**Conditional planning permission for the development was granted on the 30th September.**

## Supporting Other Proposals

The word is certainly getting around that assistance is available from SWEA/Biogas Regions in supporting potential AD proposals. Referrals have come from a variety of sources—two have come through Advisory Group members, one from a presentation at a conference and two from the SWEA web site. Keep them coming!

It would clearly not be appropriate that details appear in the newsletter until projects enter the public realm (once a planning application has been submitted) but there are 5 proposals that have received assistance—3 in Wales and 2 in England. It is hoped that by providing input right from the very start of the process, some of the issues that caused delay for the Great Porthamel scheme can be avoided.

For proposals in Wales, SWEA has the huge advantage of being able to call upon the expertise of the Wales Centre of Excellence for AD at the University of Glamorgan.

## Biogas Regions Newsletter

The Biogas Regions newsletter is available as a download from the project web site: [www.biogasregions.org](http://www.biogasregions.org)

The first issue includes a short description of the current situation in each of the promoting and experienced partners regions and so makes interesting reading. As a reminder, our partners are from Belgium, France, Germany, Austria, Poland, Slovenia, Italy and Spain.

If you are not on my distribution list already then just let me know.

# Study Tour

March/April 2009  
Probably to Vienna  
region of Austria



**We are here to help!**  
especially if you are in Powys, Monmouthshire,  
Gloucestershire or Wiltshire

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(or various regions of Belgium, France, Italy, Spain, Slovenia and Poland)