



Biogas Regions England and Wales Newsletter Number 1 – Spring 2008



Introduction to Project

“Biogas Regions” is a project 50% funded by the European Union under its “Intelligent Energy For Europe” programme. As the name of the project implies, the intention is that biogas (anaerobic digestion) is promoted within the regions represented by the project partners with important input coming from experienced partners in Germany and Austria.

As the project develops we will be providing training and awareness-raising opportunities as well as written material that will give best-practice and technical information. We intend to lay on study tours of existing biogas plants and will, to some extent at least, tailor these to meet the interests of potential participants. We (via our German and Austrian colleagues) will also be able to provide match-making services for technology and consultancy.

If you think that you might be interested in attending seminars, receiving literature or attending a study tour please contact us.

EU Partners

Project Leaders

Rhone-Alp Region, France

Other Promoting Partners –

Castille-Leon, Spain

Malopolska Region, Poland

Wallonia, Belgium

Abruzzi Region, Italy

Whole of Slovenia

SWEA – Glos, Wilts, Mons & Powys

Experienced partners –

Styria, Austria

Area NE of Stuttgart, Germany



Training the Trainers

It is clearly of more than passing importance that those implementing the project are reasonably familiar with the technology and the reasons for its wide-scale deployment in the regions of the experienced partners – an area to the north of Stuttgart in Germany and the Styria region of Austria.

SWEA’s lead Project Manager on Biogas Regions, Andy Bull, has already undertaken two days of training in Wolpertshausen in Germany and later in April spends two more days in the classroom in Graz, Austria.

David Williams of Potters (waste management contractors in Powys) joined Andy in Germany and also plans to be in Graz. The first round gave Potters a new lead and so was well worth the effort.

Biogas Regions Web site us up and running
www.biogasregions.org or visit
www.swea.co.uk/biogas

Seminar at Royal Agricultural College

23 people with a wide range of backgrounds attended the "Biogas – Are You Wasting an Opportunity" seminar at the Royal Agricultural College in Cirencester on the 12th December 2007.

Andy Bull was able to pass on his recently acquired teaching as he was fresh from his visit to Germany, whilst Lucy Lewis of Greenfinch spoke with the assurance of her intimate knowledge of the UK's biogas industry. Chris Reynell of Bioplex provided a case study.

The day was very well received with excellent feedback and Knowledge West (event sponsors) is keen for there to be a repeat performance further east. Watch this space... Thanks go to Knowledge West and the RAC for sponsorship and organisation.



Lucy Lewis explains the barriers to implementation in one of the interactive workshops.

Intelligent Energy  Europe



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England and Wales Advisory Group

The SWEA region Advisory Group met for its first meeting on the 21st Feb in Coleford, Forest of Dean. It was very much an inaugural meeting with one agenda item being "additional members". Whilst not all of the business stuck closely to the agenda, it was clear that those around the table enjoyed the opportunity of being together and exchanging news/views and ideas. The Group currently consists of:-

Richard Baines (Royal Agricultural College)
Adrian Jones/Karin Black (Welsh Assembly Government)
Richard Dinsdale/Tim Patterson (University of Glamorgan)
Lucy Lewis (Greenfinch)
Oliver Harwood (Country Land and Business Association)
David Williams (Potters Waste Management)
Sue Thompson (Glasu)
Mark Brown (Powys CC)

We are looking for more English reps!

Greenfinch's Ludlow biogas plant – one of the England/Wales "shining examples"



Case Studies Brochure

The Project will be producing a brochure of case studies from around the partner countries. SWEA is busy compiling the necessary information for the English examples.

Regional Strategy and Action Plan

A key part of the early work in the SWEA region is the compilation of a key piece of work that identifies barriers to implementation. This will lead on to the consideration of a Regional Strategy and Action Plan. The next newsletter will major on this document and seek your views.

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