

Biogas Regions Advisory Group

Meeting held at the University of Glamorgan, Pontypridd.
13th April 2010

Present: Andy Bull (SWEA), Tim Patterson, Sandra Esteves and Richard Dinsdale (University of Glamorgan), Lucy Lewis (BiogenGreenfinch), Adrian Jones (WAG), Gaina (CLA), Kierson Wise (SWEA), Michael Butterfield, David Saunders (DNS), David Williams (Potters) and Christopher Maltin (Organic Power)

Apologies for Absence: Sue Thompson (Glasu), Oliver Harwood (CLA) – Gaina as substitute, Steve Rist (Merlin Biofuels), Nial Rees (TEG)

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as accurate.

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising that were not covered by a specific item on the agenda.

3. Opportunity and Decision-Preparing Studies

AB reported that he had completed opportunity studies:-

- One in Pembrokeshire
- Two in Montgomeryshire (north Powys)
- One near Salisbury
- One in Breconshire (south Powys)
- One in Radnorshire (mid Powys)
- Three in Gloucestershire

The site near Salisbury and the one in Breconshire progressed to feasibility via Biogas Regions' "Decision-Preparing Study". A further study had been undertaken in Gloucestershire.

AB described the findings of the studies and this led onto a discussion about the current situation in respect of gas-to-grid in the UK and the advantages of bio-methane as a transport fuel.

MB described the current proposals for the Glanusk Estate (Breconshire project) which involved an ambitious plan for an AD plant and a woodchip boiler, providing heat to a district heating scheme for Llangatock and Crickhowell High School.

DW described a scheme that Potters were shortly to be submitting for planning permission in Llanidloes (Powys). The plan was for an AD plant with electricity to the grid – this would replace an existing LFG generator. The LFG was to be converted to bio-methane and injected into the gas grid. The grant-giving bodies were not prepared to allow the gas2grid option for the biogas.

4. Training Seminar

It was reported that SWEA and the UoG had arranged an event for training AD plant operators, that would involve Karl Puchas from Austria, UoG staff and Russell Mulliner from Marches Biogas. It was arranged for the 27th and 28th May at the new university lab. facilities in Pontypridd (same venue as the Advisory Committee meeting). The meeting was very positive about the need for such training.

5. UK Dissemination Seminar

AB described discussions that he had had with the ADBA about holding a seminar at their Trade Show at the NEC. He was unsure about whether or not to accept their offer and what would be the subject of interest for the seminar (other than the IEE project description). The Advisory Committee encouraged AB to accept the offer and suggested that the seminar be focussed on the communications strategy and the desirability of involving the local community. MB offered to speak about the Glanusk project which is a joint venture between the Glanusk Estate and the Community Interest Company.

6. Match-making Opportunities

It was agreed that AB's plan of offering free tickets to the ADBA exhibition in exchange for notes made of the contacts with supply companies, was a good way of fulfilling the project's requirements for match-making.

7. Future of the Group

AB reported that he hoped that it would be agreed at the Biogas Regions project partner meeting that an application be submitted to IEE for Biogas Regions II in the current round (deadline in June). If successful, this would mean that the follow on project would commence in the Spring of 2011.

11. Date and Venue for Next Meeting.

Unless there was to be a Biogas Regions II, there would be no further meetings of the Advisory Committee.