

## **Biogas Regions Advisory Group**

Meeting held at the offices of Organic Power, Horsington, near Wincanton, Somerset.  
12<sup>th</sup> October 2009

Present: Andy Bull (SWEA), Tim Patterson (University of Glamorgan), Kierson Wise (SWEA), Steve Rist (Merlin Biofuels), Michael Butterfield, Nial Rees (TEG), David Saunders (DNS) and Christopher Maltin and Susan Moore (Organic Power)

Apologies for Absence: Sue Thompson (Glasu), Sandra Esteves (University of Glamorgan), Lucy Lewis (BiogenGreenfinch), Bev Hodgett (Ceredigion CC) Oliver Harwood (CLA), David Williams (Potters), Adrian Jones (WAG), Richard Baines (RAC)

### **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 Studies and Feasibility**

AB reported that he had completed opportunity studies:-

- One in Pembrokeshire
- Two in Montgomeryshire ( north Powys)
- One near Salisbury
- One in Breconshire (south Powys)

The site near Salisbury is likely to progress to feasibility via Biogas Regions whilst the one in Breconshire had already appointed a consultant to undertake a study without Biogas Regions support.

The meeting discussed the cost of feasibility studies and the way in which they should best be staged so as to address potential barriers in a sensible order. If early barriers cannot be overcome then a study should not progress and thus avoid unnecessary costs to the client. AB advised the meeting that he would be requesting a budget transfer in order to bolster the available finance for feasibility. It was agreed that Biogas Regions should choose the cases that it supports very carefully in order to make best use of the available resources.

### **4. Other Sites of Potential Interest**

AB reported that he had had contact with other sites some of which are preliminary enquiries but some have planning permission already:-

- South Powys food-waste
- Two farms in the Ross-on-Wye area
- An existing composting site in Gloucestershire
- The Environment Agency in the SW region
- Two farms in Eastern Radnorshire (Powys)
- A farm near Mitcheldean with a nursing home adjacent

SR described a scheme that was under development in the Ebbw Vale area that included a host of inter-related projects with AD at its core. He also relayed further information about discussions that he'd had with other potential developers and the possibilities of integrating algae production.

## **5. The Draft Partnerships Report**

AB introduced the concept behind the partnerships report and referred to the draft that had been circulated with the agenda prior to the meeting. No comments were offered but AB stressed that he would be very happy to receive comments and suggestions over the coming few weeks.

## **6. The Draft Communications Guide**

The guide had been circulated prior to the meeting. AB explained that it had been written by Austrian partners so some of the contents would need to be changed to fit the UK situation. Comments and suggestions were invited.

## **7. Suppliers and Services Directory**

The meeting was shown a copy of the suppliers directory that is located on the Biogas Regions web page and invited to submit further entries if appropriate.

## **9. Training Seminar**

It was reported that SWEA and the UoG were working on an event for training AD plant operators, that it would involve Karl Puchas from Austria and it would be based at the new university lab. facilities in Pontypridd. The meeting was very positive about the need for such training. **ACTION AB and TP**

## **10. Future of the Group**

AB reported that the requirement for meetings under the Biogas Regions project had come to an end but members of the group felt that it had proved to be a valuable means of "networking" and should be continued. It was agreed that SWEA should look for funding to continue networking activity after the completion of the current project. **ACTION AB.** The continuation of the independent advice service currently available

via Biogas Regions was also discussed with various suggestions as to where funding may be found.

**11. Date and Venue for Next Meeting.**

It was agreed that the group would meet again in the Spring of 2010 but no date or venue was set.