

REGATRACE NEWSLETTER | IRELAND |

June 2022 edition



INTERNATIONAL BIOMETHANE AND REGATRACE PROJECT NEWS

REPowerEU

As part of its [REPowerEU plan](#), the European Commission proposed on the 18th of May a [Biomethane Action Plan](#), including a Biomethane Industrial Alliance, to stimulate the renewable gas value chain and achieve the production of 35 bcm of biomethane by 2030.

The Biomethane Action Plan explores the actions that could be envisaged to achieve the target of 35 bcm annual biomethane production by 2030 as set out in the REPowerEU Communication of March 2022. Among these actions, the European Commission highlights the necessary support to innovative solutions and research on barriers and integration of sustainable biomethane to the gas grid. According to the plan, this action should focus on integrating results from research projects, including Horizon 2020 project REGATRACE on a pan-European methane grid access action plan.

REGATRACE is a valuable project to address bottlenecks, such as cross border trading, for biomethane project scale up. The development of a European renewable gas market is essential to ensure that increasing shares of renewable gases are injected into our gas grids. This will support the decarbonisation of the gas sector in the path towards a climate-neutral Europe. By providing certainty and information on where, when and how the renewable gas is produced, renewable gas certificates give confidence in the green gas sector, encourage gas producers to inject green gas into the grid and allow for biomethane producers to sell the gas to all EU member states.

European Renewable Gas Registry (ERGaR) Update

ERGaR is pleased to announce its statistics of the first quarter 2022 of the CoO Scheme. In total, the number of transfers totalled more than 200 (as opposed to 11 in Q4 of 2021), while the amount transferred was more than 430 GWh (compared to 30 GWh in Q4 of 2021).

In the first quarter of 2022, all biomethane CoO were transferred to the German Biogasregister, while the highest volume of exports derived from the United Kingdom. It is worth noting that despite the small overall biomethane production in Austria, more than 10 GWh of biomethane CoO were transferred from the Biomethan Register Austria to the German Biogasregister.

ERGAr was founded in 2016 as a cooperation between established, national renewable gas registries in Europe that will enable cross border transfer of renewable gas certificates among the member registries. The association currently has 29 members from 14 European countries.

OMV Group Launches Platform for the Marketing of Green Gases in Austria

Central European Gas Hub AG, a fully consolidated company of OMV Group, launches the CEGH GreenGas Platform for the marketing of green gases, such as biogas and green hydrogen, in Austria. The platform enables purchase or sale of biomethane with or without guarantees of origin. In addition to a bulletin board, also auctions will be available, which means that for the first-time suppliers and buyers can interact on a common marketplace.

Link: <https://www.cegh.at/en/about-us/news/cegh-greengas-platform-for-trading-and-marketing-of-biogas-and-hydrogen/>

Ara Partners Acquires FNX Liquid Natural Gas to form a European biomethane platform.

Ara Partners, a private equity firm specialised in industrial decarbonisation investments, has acquired the Spanish company FNX Liquid Natural Gas to form CycleØ Group, a European biomethane platform. CycleØ will actively develop and operate biomethane projects across Europe. The company will capture, process and upgrade naturally occurring methane gas produced by the agri-food and livestock industries to produce biomethane.

Link: <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/ara-partners-invests-in-cycleo-301506118.html>

IRELAND NEWS

RGFI REGATRACE Knowledge Exchange 1 June 2022

The European REPower EU Plan and Irish policy for sustainable biomethane, as well as opportunities for collaboration and capacity building, featured at the REGATRACE Knowledge Exchange hosted by RGFI at the Castleknock Hotel on 1 June. The launch of the Ireland Roadmap for Biomethane was central to the event, which was attended by 70 delegates from government, industry consumers, academia, farming representatives and the technology sector.

Ireland Biomethane Roadmap launched

The Ireland Roadmap for Biomethane in Ireland has been published at a time when Europe has increased its ambition for biomethane production in response to the pressing need for energy security while the climate action imperative to decarbonise remains. The Roadmap was produced through a series of participative workshops and consultation as part of the EU REGATRACE (REnewable GAS TRAdE Centre in Europe) project, of which RGFI is the lead partner in Ireland. Mieke Decorte,

European Biogas association (EBA), along with PJ McCarthy, RGFI described the project which started in June 2019 and thanked all involved for their inputs.

The European vision is that Ireland and other target countries, will be prepared to join the European biomethane/renewable gas trading system through the establishment of national, renewable gas GoO issuing bodies. REGATRACE has supported the development of a long-term strategic Vision and Roadmap for biomethane in each target country, via a participative process. It has complemented wider RGFI activity in raising the profile of biomethane in Ireland, supporting industry collaborations to develop the related business case and liaising with government on the key asks in terms of policy, legislation and finance.

The Roadmap is essentially a working document, at a time of great change and opportunity for biomethane in Ireland. It will be adjusted and updated over the coming year as events unfold and the policy context moves on with the roll-out of REPowerEU, revisions of the EU Renewable Energy Directive and the expected announcement on a Renewable Heat Obligation Scheme.

https://www.renewablegasforum.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/RGFI-Regatrace_Final-Ireland-Roadmap-20-April-2022-1.pdf<https://www.regatrace.eu/>

REPowerEU Update from Brussels

Matthieu Ballu from the European Commission's Directorate General for Energy, joined from Brussels, to give an insight to how REPowerEU is moving from goals to actions.

- Dedicated plan to double production by 2030 to 35 bcm bio-methane a year
- EUR 36 billion investment needs eligible for EU co-financing : CAP, RRFs, regional structural funds ...
- Establishment of an industrial biogas and bio-methane partnership to stimulate the renewable gases value chain

The opening session presentations were followed by a panel discussion.

Tony Collins, Dept Environment, Climate and Communications, advised that his team would be presenting to Minister Ryan on the Renewable Heat Obligation Scheme, by the end of July 2022.



Biogenic CO₂ White Paper Preview



The EBA's Biogenic CO₂ White Paper is due to be published at the end of June. Anthony Lorin from the European Biogas Association, represented the Working Group which produced the White Paper, under the chairmanship of Dr James McGreer, Director, RGFI, who unfortunately could not attend.

Reuse and storage of biogenic CO₂ from the biogas industry are among the solutions to mitigate global climate warming identified by the IPCC to decarbonise energy supply and reduce net emissions. The White Paper examines the biogas sector as a source of biogenic CO₂; the positive climate impact of the use and storage of biogenic CO₂; existing and new potential markets of CO₂ production and uses; and CO₂ quality and purification methods.

Currently CO₂ is either directly used as feedstock or is pre-processed or chemically treated before utilization. Some uses have a long tradition, including brewing, horticulture and chemical production. The presentation described the new opportunities opening up in Renewable fuels (power to gas), Polymer manufacturing, Inert gas in a European semiconductor industry, Algae micro-algae culture and Building materials

Green Gas Certification



Brendan O' Riordan, Gas Networks Ireland (GNI), presented on Ireland's Green Gas Certification Scheme and Registry. GNI registers and issues certificates to Irish producers that inject renewable gas into the gas network. Each certificate represents a guarantee that the equivalent amount of renewable has been injected into the gas network.

By providing an objective means of tracking the commercial transactions of renewable gas through the supply chain, Ireland's Renewable Gas Registry will help establish trust in the market and confidence in the renewable gas sector. This will support the expansion of production, provide certainty for consumers who buy the gas and provide an incentive for gas producers to inject renewable gas into the network.

Further information email: RGcertificates@gasnetworks.ie

<https://www.gasnetworks.ie/business/renewable-gas/registry/>

Agriculture

Dr Paul Crosson, from Teagasc, described how Teagasc research is assessing the potential of alternative feedstocks, co-digestion and valorisation options and that sustainability and economic viability are central issues. He stated that collaboration with industry and research partners is a critical aspect of this research programme.



The Grange anaerobic digestion plant is important infrastructure to test and demonstrate farm level operation and will be an essential part of the engagement with farmers.

Teagasc AD research covers biomass availability, plant construction, feedstock options, and along with the pilot AD plant will help to optimise the number and location of plants.

The presentation also described FLEET (Farm Level Economic, Environmental and Transport) modelling of feedstocks for AD



Transport

The transport sector accounts for circa 20% of Ireland's emissions annually. Transport remains almost entirely (97%) dependent on fossil fuels (SEAI, 2020). Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) and buses account for 4% of vehicles on the road but produce 30% of transport emissions in Ireland (GNI Vision 2050). HGV freight is the second largest use of transport energy outside of aviation at 19%.

Vision Green Logistics Solutions Ltd, in partnership with BWG Foods / Spar group and Green Generation Ltd, was the first logistics company in Ireland to make retail deliveries on gas powered vehicles fuelled with biomethane. Ronan Murphy, Vision Green, described the opportunities for biomethane in transport and the next steps.



Department of Transport Public Consultation on Renewable Fuels for Transport Policy

RGFI responded to this call with a policy statement on Renewable Fuels for Transport, which emphasised the importance of biomethane to decarbonising HGVs.

“Many solutions proposed to decarbonise transport are still conceptual and / or uneconomical, particularly when applied to HGVs. The greater the size and weight of vehicle, the greater the challenge of moving to low or zero emissions. Electrification, hydrogen and biomethane (bio-LNG) are the only true zero-emissions solutions, however battery electric HGVs carry prohibitive costs, huge battery size and load or range restrictions and hydrogen technology is still at the infancy stage and is currently non-economic. Hydrogen fuels cell technology currently lacks in proof of concept and will require significant investment in the re fuelling infrastructure, which currently does not exist. However, biomethane is ready to be implemented now, subject to necessary Government policy and legislative supports, and capital funding to meet targets to 2030. “

Renewable Fuels in Transport Policy, RGFI Position Paper May 2022

https://www.renewablegasforum.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/RGFI-Renewable-Fuel-in-Transport_Policy-Position-Statement-20-May-2022.pdf

PARTICIPANTS' UPDATE

Germany

The technology group Wartsilä will supply equipment for the world's second-largest plant capable of liquefying bio-methane and synthetic methane from renewable energy sources to produce carbon-neutral transportation fuel. When operational it will have a capacity of approximately 63,000 tons Bio-LNG per year. The contract was placed in March 2022 by the German energy company REEFUELERY GmbH – a joint venture of Erdgas Südwest GmbH and avanca, a company focused on sustainable energy and logistics solutions.

The plant will be located in Burghaun near Fulda, Germany. Burghaun was chosen as the preferred location for this project due to its direct access to the MIDAL, one of the most powerful gas pipelines

in Germany. The central location enables optimum supply to the Alternoil filling stations – owned by the avanca group.

The plant will utilise biomethane from communal and agricultural waste materials as feedstock. The biomethane is subsequently liquefied and delivered to the Alternoil filling station network as the climate-neutral fuel REEFUEL (Bio-LNG).

Poland

There's no Russian gas coming through pipelines in Poland since April 27. Gazprom announced a suspension of supplies after Poland refused to pay for gas in rubles.

In 2018-2020, 80% of natural gas in Poland came from foreign supplies. As reported by NIK (Supreme Audit Office), in 2020 approximately 18 billion m3 of gas was delivered to Poland, of which 9.8 billion m3 from Russia.

The minister of climate and environment, Anna Moskwa, emphasized that in recent years, activities aimed at diversifying gas supplies and investing in gas infrastructure have been carried out in Poland.

As part of the process of becoming independent from Russian gas supplies, work is underway on three gas pipelines:

– Baltic Pipe – two-way gas transmission connecting Norway, Denmark and Poland. Thanks to the investment, 10 billion m3 of gas will be delivered to Poland annually, and from Poland to Denmark – 3 billion m3 of gas per year.

– Poland-Lithuania – two-way gas transmission – approx. 1.9 billion m3 of gas will be delivered to Poland annually, and from Poland – 2.4 billion m3 of gas per year.

– Poland-Slovakia – two-way gas transmission – approx. 5.7 billion m3 of gas will be delivered to Poland annually and from Poland – 4.7 billion m3 of gas per year

Additionally, the Świnoujście LNG (liquefied natural gas) terminal is under development. Thanks to an additional installation, from the end of 2023, liquefied gas will be converted into its gaseous form in the amount of 6.2 billion m3 per year.

Anna Moskwa assured that Poland has the necessary gas reserves and sources of supply that protect its security, and that Polish warehouses are 76% full of gas.

The deputy minister of climate and environment, Ireneusz Zyska, announced that a large support program for biogas plants and biomethane plants is being prepared together with the ministry of agriculture. He stressed that the government's strategic goal is to become independent from Russian hydrocarbon supplies. At the same time, he pointed out that in order to fill the gap left by Russian gas, it is necessary to increase the production of biomethane in the Polish mix, which can be injected into the gas network. He recalled that appropriate legal regulations are being prepared to strengthen the development of this sector (there is a draft amendment to the act on renewable energy sources). He estimated that in Poland we can produce as much as 1.5 billion m3 of biomethane annually until 2030. However, he pointed out that the potential is much higher and, according to estimates, may even amount to 8 billion m3 of gas per year.

REGATRACE CONSORTIUM

The REGATRACE consortium is comprised of 15 partners from 10 countries (Austria, Belgium, Estonia, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Romania and Spain.)

