

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Brussels, 25 January 2021

PRESS RELEASE



EBA Statistical Report 2020 shows significant growth and potential of biomethane to decarbonise the gas sector

- Our sector now produces 167 TWh of biogas and 26 TWh of biomethane.
- By 2030, the biogas and biomethane sectors combined can almost double their production and by 2050, production can more than quadruple.
- The report includes analysis of 19 national markets in Europe and new features.

Brussels, 25 January 2021 – The European Biogas Association is launching today an enhanced edition of the EBA Statistical Report. This publication features the most recent data and statistics on the development of the European biogas and biomethane markets, as well as potential growth forecasts for the coming years. It also investigates the state of play of 19 national markets in Europe.

Our sector now produces 167 TWh or 15.8 bcm of biogas and 26 TWh or 2.43 bcm of biomethane. At the end of 2019, we have reached a total of 18,943 biogas plants and 725 biomethane plants across Europe. These figures show that biogas and biomethane can contribute very substantially to the much-needed decarbonisation of the gas sector, making renewable gases available for transport, industry and heating.

The biomethane market continues to grow significantly. Biomethane production in 2019 increased by 15% relative to the previous year, the biggest increase in biomethane plants to date. France is leading the development of the biomethane market with over 1,000 biomethane injection projects at different stages of development in the country. Europe has seen a rapid year on year increase in biomethane production capacity and so far this growth shows no sign of slowing down. In 2019, the largest increase since 2014 was reported, with an additional 0.39 GW for that year. **A clear trend is visible in feedstock usage for biomethane production:** 2013 saw the beginning of a move away from energy crops, towards agricultural residues, bio- and municipal waste and sewage sludge. From 2017, almost no new plants were established to run on energy crops.

In addition to the analysis on the state of play of the biogas and biomethane markets, for the first time, the EBA Statistical Report has summarised the growth potential for biogas and biomethane according to different studies. **There is a strong consensus that by 2030, the biogas and biomethane sectors combined can almost double their production and by 2050, production can more than quadruple.** The potential biogas and biomethane production calculated for 2030 could reach up to 44 bcm, equivalent to 467 TWh.

The implementation of the EU Green Deal will be a determining factor in shaping the role of biogas and biomethane in future energy systems, and this report correspondingly includes an **incisive analysis of the impact of key EU policies** on the scale-up of our industry. The vast potential of biogas and biomethane goes beyond the reduction of emissions in the energy sector. For this reason, the 2020 edition also covers the positive impact of biogas and biomethane on the development of a thriving **bioeconomy**. On the innovation side, the 2020 edition looks at what is currently one of the most promising areas of growth in the sector: the production of **Bio-LNG and Bio-CNG**.

Harmen Dekker, EBA Director *“Biogas and biomethane are accessible sources of renewable energy: the sector is ready for expansion and perfectly placed to make a significant and sustainable contribution to the EU Green Deal. A supportive and consistent legislative framework will accelerate our ongoing progress and encourage investment, helping our sector to reach a minimum of 380 TWh by 2030, with further growth in the years thereafter.”*

Contact

Angela Sainz Arnau - EBA Communications Manager
sainz@europeanbiogas.eu | +32 24 00 10 89

About the EBA

The European Biogas Association is the voice of renewable gas in Europe since 2009. EBA advocates the recognition of biomethane and other renewable gases as sustainable, on demand and flexible energy sources that provide multiple knock-on socio-economic and environmental benefits. Supported by its members, EBA is committed to work with European institutions, industry, agricultural partners, NGOs and academia to develop policies which can enable the large-scale deployment of renewable gases and organic fertilisers throughout Europe, supported by transparent, well-established sustainability certification bodies to ensure that sustainability remains at the core of the industry. The association counts today on a well-established network of over 100 national organisations, scientific institutes and companies from Europe and beyond.