

Info Session for EBA members: ‘Dive into the EU Taxonomy’

21 May 2021



The treatment of anaerobic digestion in the Taxonomy

This document is complementary to the [PowerPoint presentation](#) shared at the Info Session on 21 May 2021 and to the [associated Q&A](#). It aims to help you navigate the sections of the Taxonomy¹ that are relevant for anaerobic digestion.

The Taxonomy is organised in chapters and sections. Each section is “an economic activity”. Within each section, you will find:

- a. A “description of the activity” defining the scope of it
- b. Criteria for Substantial Contribution to climate change mitigation (SC Criteria)
- c. Criteria determining the activity Do No Significant Harm to the other environmental objectives (DNSH Criteria)

Anaerobic digestion (AD) of sewage sludge and biowaste have their own sections in the Taxonomy (sections 5.6 and 5.7), under chapter 5 “Water Supply, Sewerage, Waste Management and Remediation”.

Additionally, the production of biogas/biomethane from sewage sludge and biowaste and its use must comply with criteria under a section of usage, namely:

- Section 4.8: Electricity generation from bioenergy, p. 83
- Section 4.13: Manufacture of biogas and biofuels for use in transport and of bioliquids, p. 93
- Section 4.20: Cogeneration of heat/cool and power from bioenergy, p. 103
- Section 4.24: Production of heat/cool from bioenergy, p. 110

AD of agricultural biomass is only treated through thematic sections related to the use of the produced biogas/biomethane:

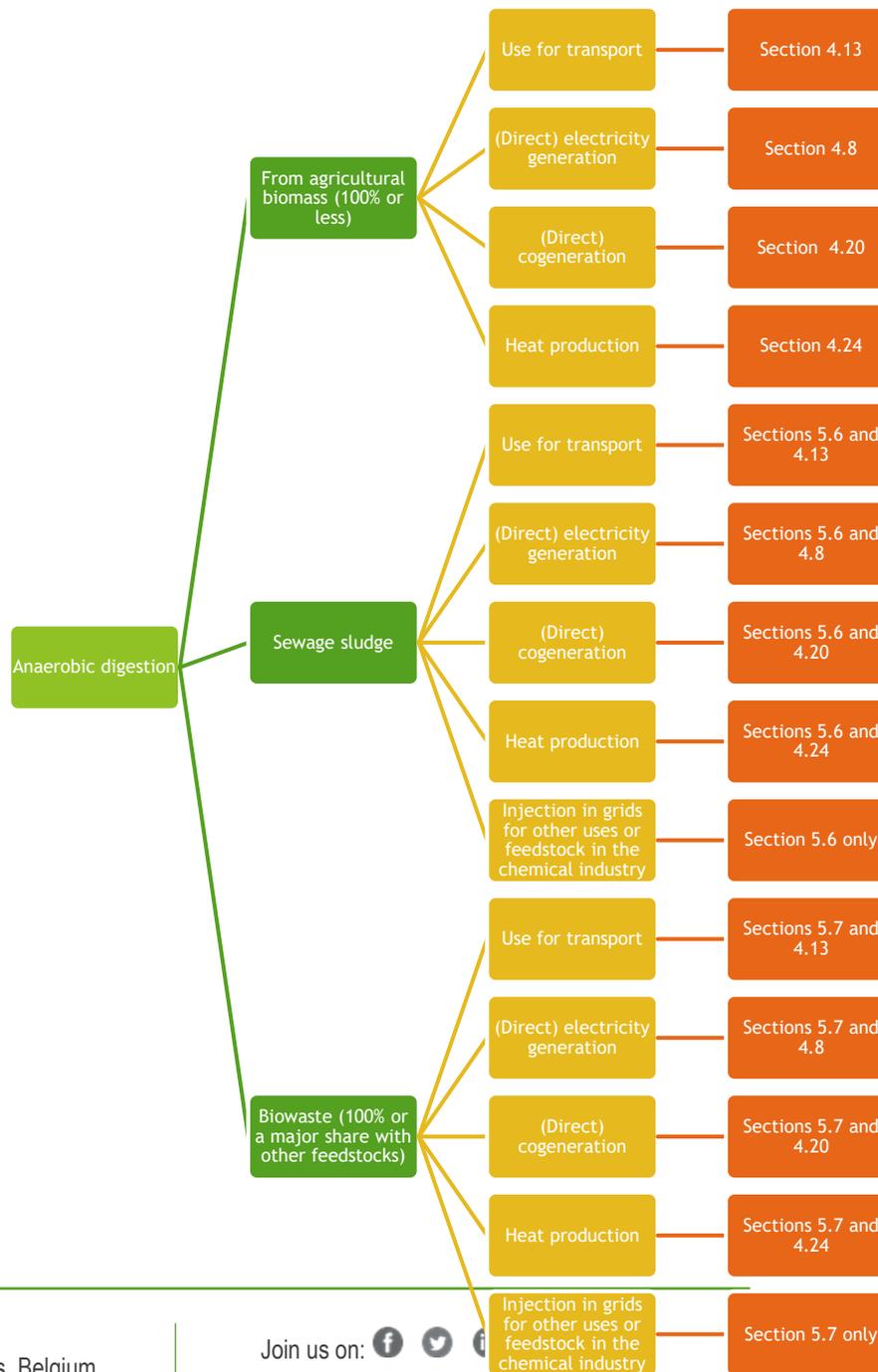
- Section 4.8: Electricity generation from bioenergy, p. 83
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For AD facilities using a mix of feedstocks (especially a mix between agricultural biomass and biowaste), you should refer to:

- When biowaste is predominant feedstock, to both Section 5.7 and the relevant sections of usage
- When agricultural biomass is predominant, to the relevant section of usage only.

See figure below.

¹ See [Annex I of the Taxonomy](#) establishing the technical screening criteria for determining the conditions under which an economic activity qualifies as contributing substantially to climate change mitigation and for determining whether that economic activity causes no significant harm to any of the other environmental objectives.



Operators of AD plants cannot know the final use of the biomethane produced and injected in the grid. Therefore, to qualify as “sustainable” under the Taxonomy they will need to prove compliance with the most stringent criteria.

Two criteria, in different sections related to AD, **are more stringent than others**:

- a. Greenhouse gas emission savings are at least 80% with the methodology of RED II – a threshold set in sections 4.8 (electricity from bioenergy), 4.20 (cogeneration from bioenergy) and 4.24 (heat/cool from bioenergy).
- b. A gas-tight cover on the digestate storage is applied – a criterion only set in section 4.13 (production of biogas for transport).

Contact

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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.