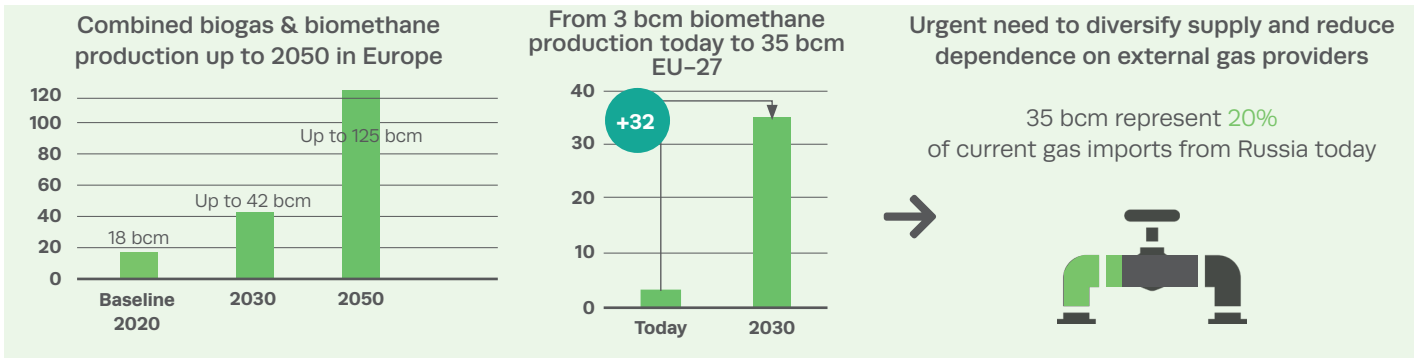


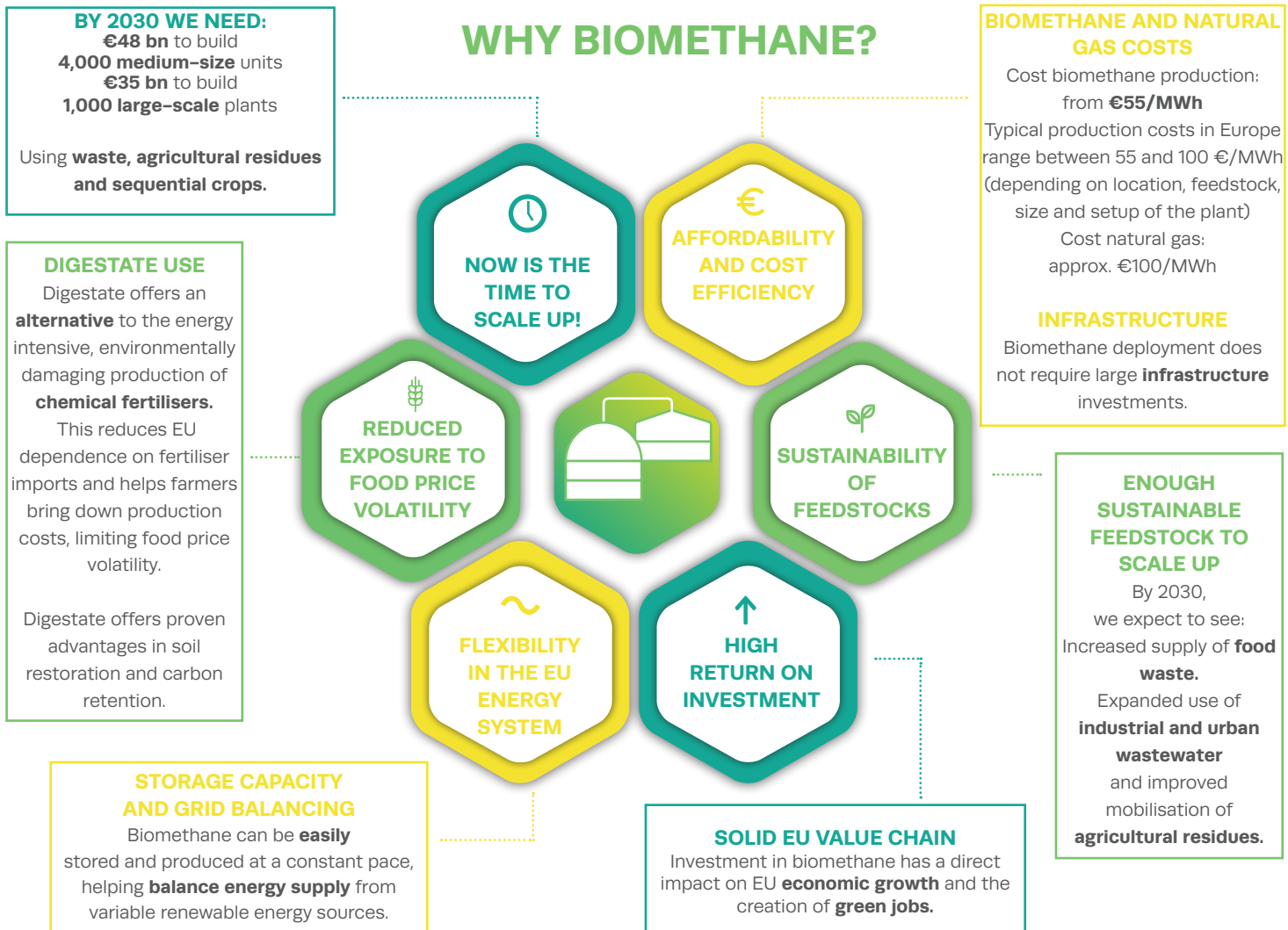
Breaking Free of the Energy Dependency Trap

DELIVERING 35 BCM OF BIOMETHANE BY 2030

RePowerEU calls for urgent action to mitigate the impact of rising energy prices, diversify the EU gas supply and accelerate the clean energy transition. The European biogas and biomethane sectors are committed to delivering 35 bcm of biomethane by 2030, supporting the EU in the achievement of climate goals and energy security alike. In 2020, 18 bcm of biogas and biomethane were produced in the EU. Upgrading existing biogas facilities to produce more biomethane and expanding production capacity will provide the EU with a more resilient and sustainable energy system.



WHY BIOMETHANE?



The European Biogas Association calls on the European Institutions to undertake the necessary policy steps for sustainable expansion of the biomethane sector, encompassing:



PLAN FOR RAPID EXPANSION OF BIOMETHANE CAPACITY

Lock the target in binding legislation and establish an accountable growth trajectory

The 2030 goal of 35 bcm biomethane production must be cemented in EU legislation by including a mandatory EU-wide target in the revised Renewable Energy Directive II (RED) and the Gas Regulation. This also strengthens the need for a GHG emissions savings target for gas.

Corresponding indicative trajectories should be put in place at national level via an update of the National Energy and Climate Plans and through the identification

of milestones, as required by article 4 of the Governance of the Energy Union Directive.

Recalibrate Cap Strategic Plans to support increased capacity

The rural development funding referred to in the Cap Strategic Plans should support the conversion of existing biogas capacity to biomethane production, mobilisation of residues and necessary infrastructure adjustment.



PROMOTE EASY MARKET ACCESS

Set out EU-wide rules enabling quick and affordable grid connection for biomethane projects

The revision of the Gas Directive Regulation represents an opportunity to decarbonise the EU gas supply. Clear rules are needed to ensure that grid injection requests are addressed effectively, with limited costs for the biomethane producer. Network operators must prioritise the injection of renewable gases and optimise the network as appropriate.

Fast-track authorisation and permission procedures for biomethane projects

Existing authorisation, permission and support frameworks are limiting the speed of biomethane deployment. Any recommendation concerning fast track permissions processes for renewable energy projects should include specific guidance for biomethane projects, to help lift the administrative burden that is currently slowing down growth in the sector.

Improve the price signal for biomethane by applying the minimum taxation level wherever sustainability is ensured (Energy Taxation Directive)

The recasting of the Directive as currently proposed fails to set a level playing field in taxation minima and does not accurately reflect the environmental performance of different fuels.

A reliable EU Guarantees of Origin system to encourage take-up of biomethane

The Guarantees of Origin system should be straightforward and transparent, integrating sustainability information to allow cross border trading. Traceability and transparency are essential to the energy transition and promote consumer empowerment. Biomethane production must be certificated and valorised to provide customers with accurate information about its merits.



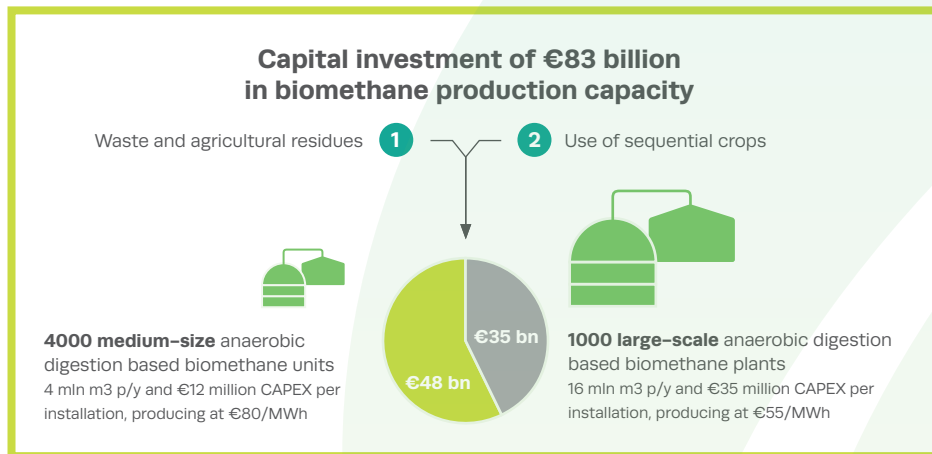
FINANCE

Qualify biomethane production as sustainable in the Taxonomy of sustainable activities, reflecting its contribution to the circular economy

The contribution of anaerobic digestion to the “transition to a circular economy” should be recognised in the Environmental Taxonomy expected from the Commission by the end of this year. The criteria should be transparent and should refer to the digestion of biowaste, such as sewage sludge and landfill, as well as organic waste, agricultural residues and sequential crops.

Exempt operational aid for biomethane production from state aids rules, as per the General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER)

Automatic approval of state aid relating to renewable gases (with a sunset provision linked to a pre-defined market maturity signpost or a date) would significantly speed up the development of supply. The size threshold should be high enough to fit all Member States and for biogas-to-biomethane conversion. There should be no discrimination between different sustainable feedstock types.



SUSTAINABLE FEEDSTOCK MOBILISATION

Maximise mobilisation of sustainable feedstocks such as waste and wastewater

The upcoming revision of the Waste Framework and Urban Waste Water Treatment Directives provides an opportunity for the inclusion of regulatory drivers to maximise energy production potential in the waste and waste water sectors.

Foster agroecology and recognise the increased carbon sequestration capacity of sequential cropping

Sequential crops should be included in the list of advanced feedstocks (Annex IX of the Renewable Energy Directive), in recognition of the multiple environmental benefits they offer. This would allow sequential crops to count towards the advanced biofuels target.