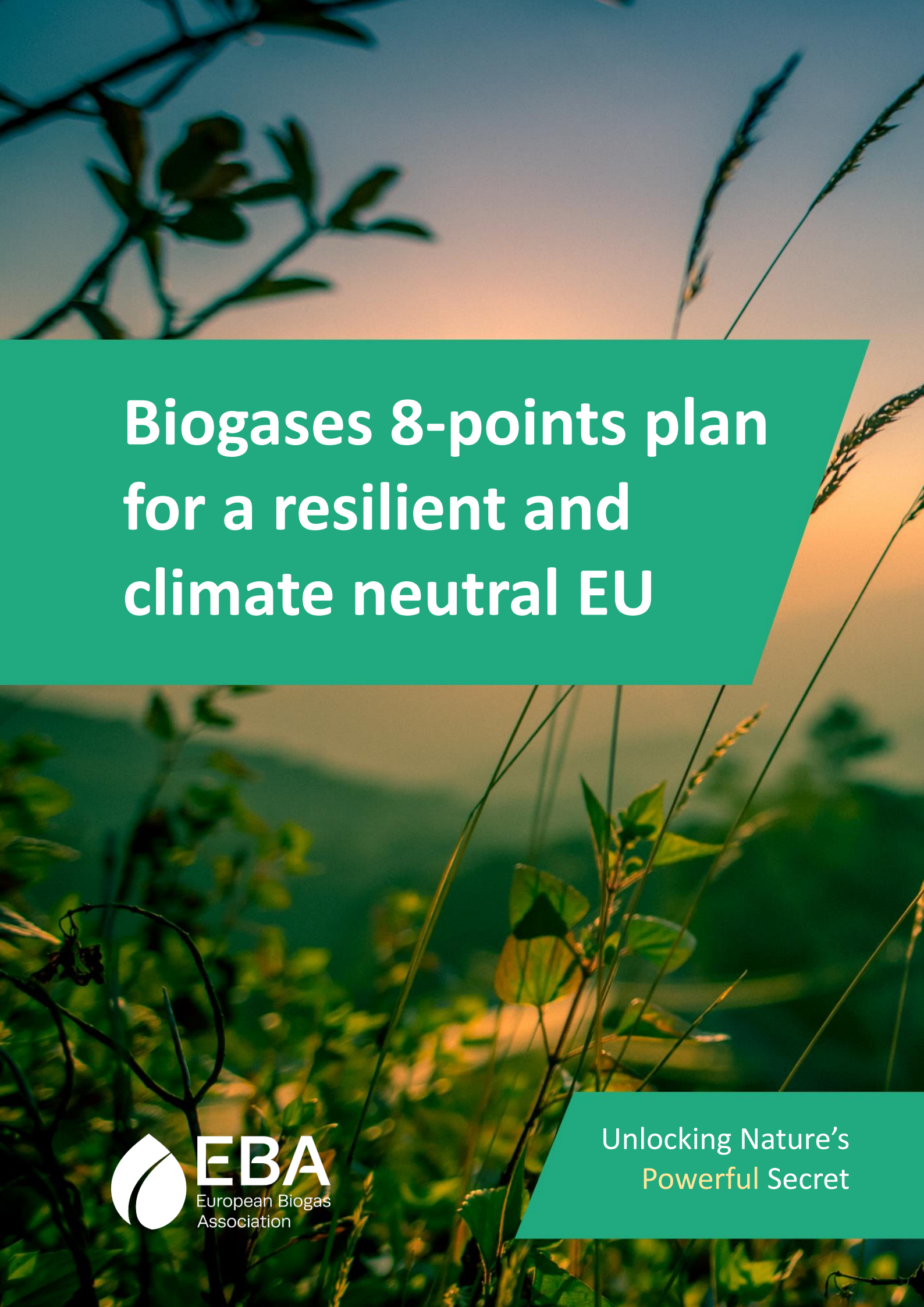


Biogases 8-points plan for a resilient and climate neutral EU

EBA
European Biogas Association

Unlocking Nature's Powerful Secret

The European Green Deal and the REPowerEU plan have charted a visionary course for a sustainable, carbon-neutral Europe by 2050. As representatives of the European biogases sector, we stand firmly committed to these pivotal objectives and highlight the legislative priorities we will need to achieve those objectives.

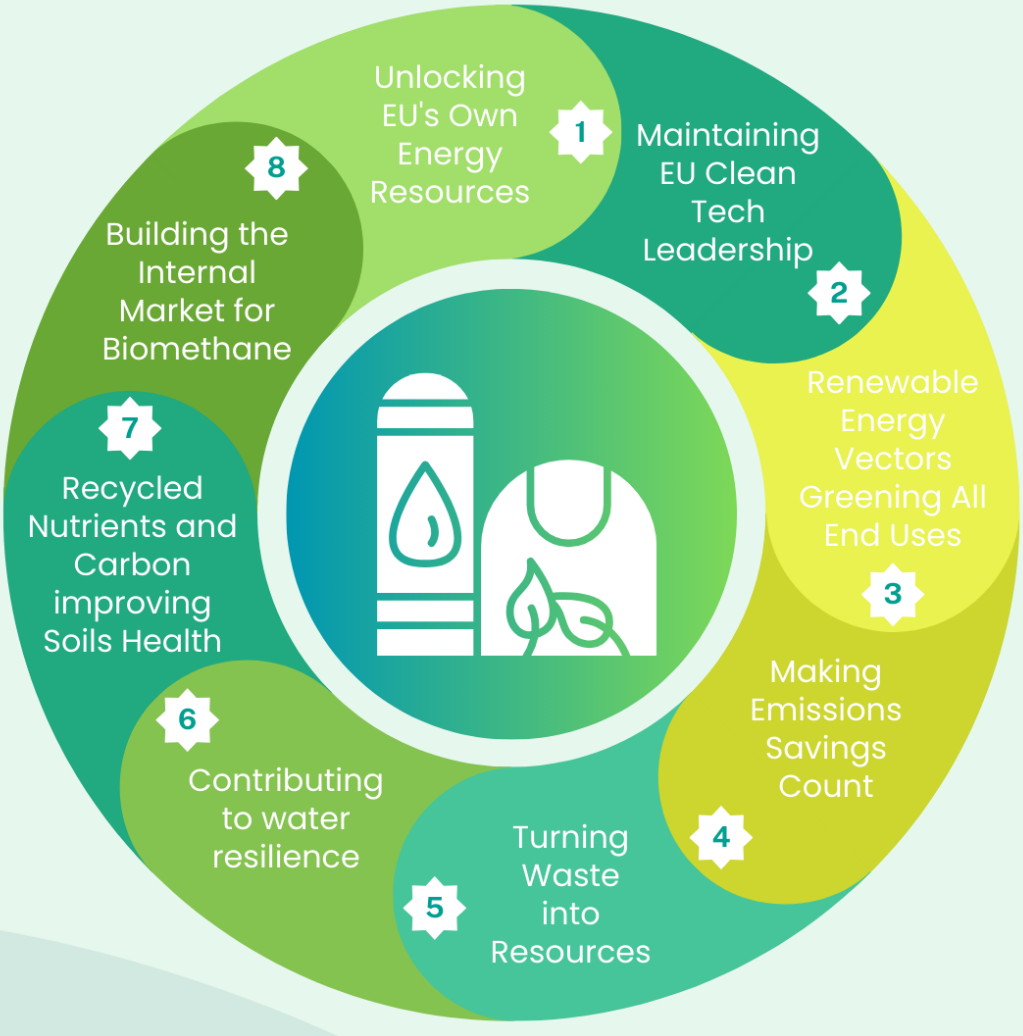
The European Biogas Association stands ready to collaborate with policymakers, industry stakeholders, and communities to realise a vision for a greener and more sustainable Europe. By prioritising biogas and biomethane as essential components of the green circular transition, we can collectively achieve EU climate neutrality, securing a safer and more sustainable future for all.

"Renewables give us the freedom to choose an energy source that is clean, cheap, reliable, and ours."

(Frans Timmermans, Former Executive Vice President of the European Commission)

Biogases, including biomethane, are EU made renewable energy vectors and have the potential to revolutionise our energy system, drive sustainable practices in agriculture and waste management. Because they can adapt to existing infrastructure, they deliver systemic cost efficiency while leading transformative shift towards a greener and cleaner Europe.

Biogases 8-points plan for a resilient and climate neutral EU



1. Unlocking EU's Own Energy Resources

Europe possesses abundant renewable energy resources within its borders. The biogases sector has a large sustainable growth potential: considering the expected reduction in natural gas consumption, it could provide the equivalent of 2/3 of gas demand by 2050. We aim to unlock these resources by:

- Encouraging the mapping of EU's production potential of biogas and biomethane, considering the largely available sustainable feedstocks and the extensive existing EU gas network that can deliver renewable energy to all types of users.
- Establishing integrated national strategies for biogases, including ambitious national targets.
- Reducing administrative burden and streamlining the EU regulatory framework to facilitate the sustainable scale-up of biogas production while supporting the private sector's effort to deploy new value chains of biogas production, such as gasification of organic solid waste and bio-methanation.

2. Maintaining EU Clean Tech Leadership

Europe is the global leader in biogas and biomethane technologies and equipment manufacturing. This guarantees that investments in our value chain are revolving in our communities. To secure our position at the forefront, we propose:

- Setting up rules ensuring a fair treatment of EU-made biogases in green public procurement of renewable energy.
- Focusing research funds to ensure the market uptake of new technologies such as gasification and innovative biomass pretreatment steps.
- Accelerating EU-wide deployment of curricula and training programmes for operational staff to be employed in the biogases value chain, in synergies with national and local initiatives.

3. Renewable Energy Vectors Greening All End Uses

Revolutionising our energy system requires us to explore all sustainable solutions. Biogases are versatile renewable energy sources that can be harnessed across sectors, from electricity generation to heating, industry and transport. Our proposals include:

- Incentivising the use of biogases in all end-uses, especially in the most energy intensive ones, to maximize efficiency and societal value.
- Fostering a strong role for biogases de-risking the shift from fossil to renewable energy and break the dependency from third countries in the run for the decarbonisation of EU economy.
- Supporting research and innovation to enhance biogas and biomethane production, storage, and end-use technologies.

4. Making Emissions Savings Count

It's time to account for emissions fairly across all sectors and industries. The impactful emissions reductions achieved through biogas utilisation must be duly recognized. We advocate for:

- Establishing a comprehensive emissions accounting framework based on a technology neutral Life Cycle Approach.
- Recognising the greenhouse gas emissions avoidance achieved through the production and utilisation of biogas and its valuable co-products.
- Creating drivers for sectors to transition towards low-carbon biogas-based alternatives.

5. Turning Waste into Resources

Biogases have the power to transform waste into valuable resources while displacing high-carbon intensive waste treatment and management processes. Our initiatives include:

- Stimulating the use of biodegradable fraction of waste, agricultural waste, wastewaters and industrial residues to produce biogases and additional co-products.
- Fostering a circular bioeconomy by prioritising low-carbon waste management options which recycle waste instead of combusting it.
- Supporting technological improvements to monitor and capture methane emissions from landfills.

6. Contributing to water resilience

Water is a precious resource, and biogases production can contribute to its responsible use and storage. We advocate for:

- Promoting the reutilisation of water in anaerobic digestion plants to address water scarcity.
- Implementing organic fertilisation in combination with sequential cropping to improve soil water retention.
- Combining new irrigation techniques such as drip irrigation with ecological practices of biogas production to minimise water usage.

7. Recycled Nutrients and Carbon improving Soils Health

Digestate is a valuable co-product of biogas production and its application to the soil can contribute to mitigate soil degradation in Europe. This can contribute to fight land abandonment and driving the sustainable transition in agriculture. Our proposals include:

- Encouraging investment in biogas plants in rural areas to stimulate local economic growth and ensure a fair standard of living for farmers.
- Promoting the utilisation of digestate as an excellent fertiliser providing recycled available nutrients improving soil carbon and fighting land erosion.
- Supporting smart farming initiatives including regenerative, sustainable soil management and carbon practices and strengthening the role of rural communities in on-farm circularity.

8. Building the Internal Market for Biomethane

Based on existing assets the EU should establish a true single EU biomethane market by removing barriers to trade within and across EU countries. This will further support the ability of the sector to meet energy demand in a cost-effective way. To this end, we aim at:

- Promptly implementing a right to access existing gas grids in all EU Member States.
- Harmonising how the renewable value of biogas production is documented and marketed, independently of the public support that it may receive.
- Simplifying biomethane procurement across the EU countries using existing reliable tools such as guarantees of origin (GO) and proofs of sustainability (PoS).
- Removing barriers to Biomethane Purchase Agreements (BPA)s and promoting them as a decarbonisation pathway for industries.

EBA
European Biogas Association

About the EBA

The EBA is the voice of renewable gas in Europe. Founded in February 2009, the association is committed to the active promotion of sustainable biogas and biomethane production and their use across the continent. The EBA today counts on a well-established network of 290 national organisations, scientific institutes and companies from Europe and beyond.

Contact

European Biogas Association
Renewable Energy House
Rue d'Arlon 63-65 B – 1040 Brussels (Belgium)
www.europeanbiogas.eu

Biogases 8-points plan for a resilient and climate neutral EU

October 2023

EBA
European Biogas Association