Report on 1st National Feed-In Info Days held in all partner countries

July 2012

Compiled by the Austrian Energy Agency
The reports of the national feed-in Info Days were contributed by the following project partners:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Contributors</th>
<th>Organisation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>Astrid Buchmayr, Alfred Schuch, Herbert Tretter</td>
<td>AEA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Croatia</td>
<td>Robert Fabek</td>
<td>EIHP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>Olivier Théobald</td>
<td>ADEME</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Alexandra Lermen</td>
<td>dena</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>Kornel Kovacs, Attila Kovacs</td>
<td>University Szeged EBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>Lorenzo Maggioni</td>
<td>CIB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>Matté Brijder, Matthieu Dumont</td>
<td>Agentschap NL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>Maria Dobrowolska</td>
<td>KAPE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slovakia</td>
<td>Pavel Starinský</td>
<td>SIEA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>John Baldwin</td>
<td>CNG Services Ltd</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table of Content

Introduction .................................................................................................................................. 4
Aim of National Feed-In Info days ............................................................................................. 4
1st National Feed-In Info Day in Austria .................................................................................. 5
1st National Feed-In Info Day in Croatia .................................................................................. 7
1st National Feed-In Info Day in France .................................................................................... 9
1st National Feed-In Info Day in Germany ............................................................................. 12
1st National Feed-In Info Day in Hungary ............................................................................. 13
1st National Feed-In Info Day in Italy .................................................................................... 15
1st National Feed-In Info Day in The Netherlands ................................................................. 20
1st National Feed-In Info Day in Poland ............................................................................... 24
1st National Feed-In Info Day in Slovakia ........................................................................... 26
1st National Feed-In Info Day in the United Kingdom .......................................................... 29
Result of the National Feed-In Info Days ............................................................. 32
Introduction

The role of biomethane in the European energy market is about to change. Energy from biomass makes a significant contribution towards reaching the EC targets for renewable energies by 2020. And the field of application can still be expanded. As biomethane features the same characteristics as natural gas the possibilities of usage are many. At the moment the development in this field is slow or in many European countries still has to be initiated.

The GreenGasGrids project aims to support the biomethane market, help ‘starter’ countries to establish the technology and thereby increase the European biomethane production. Accordingly, throughout the duration of the project the following measures are undertaken:

- Hand-on know-how transfer to ‘starter’ countries
- Support finding solutions to market barriers
- Bring together potential business partners
- Promotion of biomethane in the countries with high potential but few activities

Aim of National Feed-In Info days

In course of the GGG project a total of two national feed-in Info days will be held in each of the partner countries. The aim of the Info Days is bring together national stakeholders of different areas of expertise and to inform them about the opportunities the biomethane production presents.

For the forerunner countries (Austria, Germany, France, The Netherlands, United Kingdom) these Info Days present the opportunity for business match-making, bringing together stakeholder and discussion of the current and future situation of the national biomethane market.

For the starter countries (Croatia, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Slovakia) the Info Days have the aim to provide decision-makers with technical and legislative advice for the implementation of biomethane projects. Further the occasion should be used for knowledge transfer from experts of forerunner countries to the stakeholders of the starter countries.

By June 2012 the first national feed-in Info Days was carried out in each of the partner countries. The following report gives a summary of each event and presents the results and conclusions obtained.

The programme of each of Info Day, the presentations held and the list of participants can be downloaded in the respective country section of the project website www.greengasgrids.eu.
1st National Feed-In Info Day in Austria

The Austrian 1st national feed-in Info Day was held on 18 April 2012, starting at 9:00 am to 5:15 pm. The Info Day took place in a conference room of the Arcotel Wimberger.

More than 63 people were registered for the Info Day. 57 people attended the meeting. Besides the speakers, a significant amount of operators, other stakeholders like lawyers specialized on biogas/biomethane, experts from the financing industry, consultants, marketing experts etc. attended the meeting.

All in all 15 experts contributed as active speakers and/or round table participants including politicians (e.g. a member of the Austrian parliament) and policy makers (representatives of all four Austrian Social Partners attended), public authorities (federal ministry of finance), a representative of the GreenGasGrids coordinator Dena, gas grid operators, a producers of biogas upgrading plants, experts dealing – among others- with related certificates etc.

Through the wide area of expertise presented by the various speakers topics of all interests were covered and a detailed insight into the market situation obtained.

The conference was held in German.

Programme

The programme of the Info Day included presentations of experts of the field and a round table discussion. In between the presentations there were also time planned to be used for answering questions and discussion. Likewise the breaks were intensively used for network activities and for the recognition of potential business activities.

The Info Day started with the welcome of the participants by the CEO of the Austrian Energy Agency opening the first national biomethane feed-in Info Day. The programme consisted of three main parts: The first part concerned with
international developments and the general framework in Austria for biomethane. The starting point was the presentation of the GGG project by the Austrian Energy Agency. First results in relation to the status quo of the project partner countries – in terms of biogas and biomethane markets, subsidies and FIT schemes were presented and the homepage: www.greengasgrids.eu was introduced to the audience. The participants were made aware of the information intended to be made public via the homepage and how potential input by the stakeholders could be taken into account.

More presentations followed and discussion breaks were provided which offered the possibility of open discussion among the participants and with the speakers.

The second part consisted of a round table discussion concerning the status of biogas and biomethane in Austria and future perspectives. The results of the discussion are stated below identifying the conclusion drawn in the course of the Info Day.

The last part gave information about the Austrian subsidies programme and subsequently offered the opportunity for business match making. Business, authorities and other stakeholders had the chance to connect and exchange opinion. E.g. the Austrian Energy Agency was immediately asked by market participants for meetings in relation to “hot” topics like the certification process.

**Conclusion of the event**

In relation to the outcome of the round table discussion it can be concluded that the most urgent hurdles for the realization of plants are – from the viewpoint of the debaters – as follows:

- missing legal provisions in relation to sustainable feed in tariffs;
- missing overview in terms of relevant entry points and the resulting connection to the grid;
- the undifferentiated requirements in relation to the biomethane;
- not given security/guarantee for long term investments related to subsidies;
- unstableness in relation to tax treatments (biogas plants are investments of long term nature, thus investors need a stable long-term “tax” framework for such investments.
1st National Feed-In Info Day in Croatia

The 1st Croatian feed-in Info Day for ministries, regulators, state agencies, gas industry, plant constructors, project developers and other participants interested in bio-methane production was implemented on April 17, 2012, at the hotel International. It was organized as a joint event with the biogas conference with BiogasIN project.

Programme

The program of the info-day was divided in four sections.

First section comprised information about biogas projects and promotion policy in Croatia, contribution of biogas to EU 20-20-20 targets and socio-economic aspects of biogas projects.

Second section covered experiences related to biogas market development, permitting procedures and financing options for biogas investments as well as financing mechanism for biogas projects in Croatia.

Afterwards, biomethane production technologies, financial aspects of biomethane production and technical aspects of injection of biomethane into the natural gas grid where presented.

Among that, there were also presented three projects addressing biomethane: GreenGasGrids, Urban biogas and Biomethane regions.

Invitations for the biomethane feed-in info-day were sent to all relevant national and regional administrative bodies, including Ministry of Economy, Labour and Entrepreneurship (MINGORP), Croatian Energy Market Operator, Croatian Energy

Response to the invitation was very good, so that representatives of almost all relevant bodies and institutions took part at the event. The discussion among the participants was very fruitful and results of the evaluation showed that participants were satisfied with the event. Results of the evaluation are presented in the last section of this report.

**Conclusions of the event**

1st biomethane feed-in info-day in Croatia comprised an overall overview of the biogas projects and promotion policy in Croatia, socio-economic aspects of biogas projects, experiences in market development, permitting procedures, financing options in EU countries as well as existing financing mechanism for biogas projects in Croatia.

The event continued with the presentation on the biomethane production technologies, financial aspects of biomethane production and technical aspects of injection of biomethane into the natural gas grid.

The last part (fourth section) of the workshop was dedicated to the information about the three projects addressing biomethane in Croatia: GreenGasGrids, Urban biogas and Biomethane regions.

**Evaluation of the event**

Participants of the event were asked to evaluate the event according to the evaluation form developed for BiogasIN and GreenGasGrids events.

The participants were asked several sets of questions - regarding the reasons for attending the event, their satisfaction of the organisational issues, communication prior to the event, and finally they were asked to evaluate each of the presentations given by the experts. Based on the results of the questionnaire, it can be concluded that:

- Most of the participants got the information about the event within their organisations or via the internet
- There are several reasons for attending the events, whereby these mostly regarding interest in the biogas and renewable energy projects
- The participants found the organisation of the event excellent to very good
- The presentations were evaluated with very high grades - mostly excellent and very good.
1st National Feed-In Info Day in France

The first Info Day was organized in Paris during the national Renewable Energy exhibition and the special exhibition “ExpoBiogaz” (http://paris.bepositive-events.com/congress/colloque-expo-biogaz-en).

Around 280 people (included speakers and organisation staff) attended the conference which was organized in two parts:

- the morning session was dedicated to up-grading and injection to the grid;
- the afternoon session did a focus on biomethane as fuel.
Programme

**Morning program**

Animation by Olivier THEOBALD, Agency for Environment and Energy Management

1/ Opening: short presentation of GGG project (organization, goals and perspectives)
Olivier THEOBALD

2/ Injection into the grid: rules, regulations and recent published texts
Thomas PERTUISET, Ministry for Ecology, Sustainable Development, Transport and Housing

3/ Injection into the distribution grid: technical and economical conditions
Claire BRECQ, GrDF (Gaz réseau Distribution France)

4/ Injection into the transport grid
Karine VERNIER, GrT Gaz and Fabrice CONQUES, TIGF

Round Table - Discussion

5/ Control the regularity of biomethane production to meet the technical requirements of contract
Sylvain FREDERIC, Naskéo

6/ Feedback on the injection into the distribution grid in Lille
Gildas LE SAUX, Lille Community

7/ Feedback on the injection into the distribution grid in Forbach
Serge WINKELMULLER, Forbach Community

Round Table - Discussion

Lunch

**Afternoon program**

Animation by Caroline MARCHAIS, French Biogas Association

1/ French market for NG vehicles and perspectives
Clément CHANDON, Product Manager, IVECO France

2/ Experiment on small scale upgrading with alkaline materials
Anthony KERIHUEL, Manager, S3D, and Laura SARPERI, PhD Student, S3D

3/ Commercial supply of compressors for a small number of vehicles
Jean Baptiste FIELD, GN Drive

4/ Building of CNG filling stations and storage on-site
Jean François GUITARD, CIRRUS
5/ Economy of the upgrading and biomethane station - Feedback on the Trifyl site
Philippe KHAIRALLAH, Associate Manager, VERDEMOBIL BIOGAZ

Round Table - Discussion

End of the Info Day

Short analysis of participation
Around 95% of attendees came from France and its overseas territories. A total of nine countries were counted. All French metropolitan regions were represented, as 2 overseas territories. A large part (half near) of people came from the Paris area. The second region represented was Champagne-Ardenne, just before Rhône-Alpes, where a EIE project (Biomethane regions) is in progress directed by Rhône-Alpes Energie Environnement.

The main activity represented was “energy” (25%), before “other” (23%) and “services” (13%). Stakeholders represented at least 10%.

Conclusion of the event
At the end of the conference, we can note the few following points or facts:
- works of the National Task Force on injection are to be continued, particularly on:
  o technical aspects and regulations;
  o opportunity to enhance biogas both by cogeneration and by injection on the same site;
  o study to feed-in biogas from WWT plant
- creation of a WG on biomethane fuel by the French Biogas Association; press release; creation of a specific logo to identify vehicles and the communication on this subject;
- organization of a second Info Day in February, 2013 during the ExpoBiogaz event (http://www.expo-biogaz.com/).
1st National Feed-In Info Day in Germany

On February 15th 2012, the first German GreenGasGrids biomethane Info Day took place at the Quadriga Forum in Berlin-Mitte. Organised by the German Energy Agency (dena), around 30 interested market actors and stakeholders discussed the actual situation and future development of the German biomethane market. Actual numbers showed a significant growth of plants and capacity: By January 2012, 77 plants were feeding into the natural gas grid. By the end of 2012, around 133 plants are expected to be connected to the network with an hourly feed-in capacity of 86,000 cubic meters of biomethane. Currently a growth up to 147 plants with 94,000 cubic meters per hour till 2013 is planned. This growth, steep also in comparison with other European countries, is at least in part a direct consequence of the past and on going changes of the political framework in Germany.

Another key issue debated was the new German Renewable Energy Act (EEG) which came into effect on 1st January this year and caused changes in the political and legal framework. As a result of the Info Day market actors got to know the opportunities of the new EEG such as small improvements of biomethane statutory compensation as well as incentives for market and system integration. Further topics were the new Renewable Energy Heating Act (EEWärmeG) and biomethane as a fuel.

In a third part participants discussed other European biomethane markets. A short overview given by dena showed some actual numbers and also a tremendous growth for plants and capacity: From more than 155 operating installations in Europe, which according to the International Energy Agency (IEA) and the German Energy Agency (dena) upgrade biogas, in January 2012 120 plants injected biomethane into public gas grids. All in all, in January 2012 according to information provided to dena, in Europe biomethane injection plants with a feeding in capacity of about 59,000 cubic meters per hour are operating. In 2012 it is expected that about 71 more biogas upgrading plants will be connected to the grid. The majority of these projects will be implemented in Germany. After debating situations in several countries participants agreed on the growing importance of other European biomethane markets for German biogas and biomethane industry, reconfirming their interest in the GreenGasGrids project.

Conclusion of the event

In conclusion, the Info Day was quite a success. It helped to support market actors with information on the new regulatory framework and enabled dena to provide participants with the latest biomethane-related information of the GreenGasGrids project for Germany and other European countries.
1st National Feed-In Info Day in Hungary

In Hungary two information days have been held during May, 2012. The first one had a larger audience as part of the 4th Hungarian Biogas Conference (May 10, 2012), the second one was essentially a joint workshop together with the IEE Project “Geronimo-2” (May 18, 2012). The GGG project was presented at both meetings and its goals and tasks were discussed together with other biogas-related issues. The following report gives a summary of each event and presents the results and conclusions obtained.

The first Info Day took place in Budapest at the HUNGEXPO exhibition center as part of the RENEXPO Renewable Energy exhibition, which lasted for a week. The 4th Hungarian Biogas Conference was part of the RENEXPO program.

RENEXPO is the largest international event in Hungary covering various fields of energy saving, renewable energy, smart housing, etc. The expo occupied 3 000 m² floor space, the exhibitions were seen by 3 025 visitors and about one tenth of them participated in one of the two conference events.

The conference was entitled “4th Biogas Conference: The Energy Revolution’s All-rounder”. The conference was co-organized by the Department of Biotechnology, University of Szeged and the Hungarian Biogas Association. 14 presentations were delivered in Hungarian with simultaneous English translation. The speaker list included representative of the Ministry of National Development, a Member of the European Parliament, the president of the Hungarian Gas Vehicle Association, representative of the Foundation for Sustainable Development, president of the Hungarian Biogas Association and scientists from universities and research centers. The GreenGasGrids project was represented by, member of the Presidium of the European Biogas Association and the leader of the Hungarian participating team and biogas plant operators.

The various experts covered a wide range of biogas related issues from research and novel technological developments to legal and economical aspects.

About 150 people registered for the biogas conference and Info Day. Many participants took part in the lively discussions following the sessions.

Conclusion of the event

According to the estimations Hungary has a biogas production capacity of about 100 PJ, which is around 10% of the total energy consumption of the country. Therefore we have a large potential to be tapped and only an extremely small fraction is actually used today.
The EU obligations for 2020 and rational reasoning require the utilization a significant proportion of this renewable energy carrier. The Hungarian existing conditions and infrastructure (natural gas grid) are favorable for the biomethane application of biogas, particularly as biofuel. This route of biomass exploitation should be emphasized in the Renewable Energy Roadmap of Hungary (under construction).

1st Joint Info Workshop of the Geronimo-2 and GGG projects

The joint workshop of these two IEE projects intended to provide information for the experts and laymen interested in biogas production in animal farms (Geronimo-2) and the transformation of the generated biogas to biomethane (GGG). The one-day program was divided into two halves: in the morning section the Geronimo-2 project activities were presented, in the afternoon the GGG and the biomethane benefits were discussed. The presentations were held in Hungarian, the event was organized in Budapest. The speakers covered a wide range of area related to the biogas industry, biogas use, utilization of the fermenter effluent and legal issues. In the GGG section the Hungarian representative in the presidency of the European Biogas Association and the president of the Hungarian Gas Vehicle Association gave presentations and Dr. Kornel Kovacs, president of the Hungarian Biogas Association and professor at the University of Szeged introduced the GGG project goals and tools.
1st National Feed-In Info Day in Italy

The Italian 1st national feed-in Info Day was held on Friday 03 February 2012, starting at 9:00 am to 6:00 pm.
The Info Day took place in Verona during “Fieragricola”¹, the most important Italian exhibition of the agricultural sector. “Fieragricola” has been a landmark in the agricultural panorama for more than a century and the only international event in Italy ensuring a complete offer of technologies and products in sectors such as agricultural engineering, animal farming, agro-supplies, renewable energy and services for agriculture.

In particular, the fair organizers have made available the Forum Area of “Bioenergy Expo”, the exhibition of sustainable energy designed to offer new income and cost saving opportunities for agricultural entrepreneurs and present information and opportunities to energy sector operators concerning the generation of energy from agricultural sources.

The conference, entitled “First bio-methane day - Biomethane: an opportunity for the Green Economy”, was organized by the following important institutions and organizations working in the field of renewable energy, agriculture and environmental protection:

- Consorzio Italiano Biogas - CIB²
- Associazione Italiana Energie Agro-forestali - Aiel³
- Agroenergia-Confagricoltura⁴
- CRPA⁵
- Assogasmetano⁶
- Legambiente⁷
- Confederazione Italiana Agricoltori - CIA⁸

All in all 18 experts contributed as active speakers and/or round table participants including politicians (e.g. a member of the Italian parliament), consultants and energy managers, energy supply utilities, research institutes, producers of biogas upgrading plants, public authorities (authority for electricity and gas). Among the experts and as representative of the GreenGasGrids project, Arthur Wellinger, president of European Biogas Association.

Other significant contributions from representatives of foreign countries by Manuel Maciejczyk (Fachverband Biogas e.V. - German Biogas Association) and by Marten Ahlm (Kommunförbundet Skane SEA - Sweden).

Through the wide area of expertise presented by the various speakers topics of all interests were be covered and a detailed insight into the market situation obtained.

¹ www.fieragricola.it
² www.consorziobiogas.it
³ www.aiel.cia.it
⁴ www.confagricoltura.it
⁵ www.crpa.it
⁶ www.assogasmetano.it
⁷ www.legambiente.it
⁸ www.cia.it
Strength of the conference was the idea of bringing together in one event three different projects funded by the Intelligence Energy Europe programme:

- GreenGasGrids<sup>9</sup>
- Agriforenergy II<sup>10</sup>
- Biomaster<sup>11</sup>

The conference was held in Italian and English.

More than 100 people (exactly 106) were registered for the Info Day and attended the meeting. A significant amount of operators, other stakeholders like lawyers specialized on biogas/biomethane, experts from the financing industry, consultants, marketing experts etc. attended the meeting.
Programme

The “First bio-methane day - Biomethane: an opportunity for the Green Economy”, (first Italian Info Day) started with the welcome of the participants by the president of Verona Fiere, the organizer of FieraAgricola, and by the president of Consorzio Italiano Biogas, Piero Gattoni.

The conference was moderated by a famous journalist of the renewable energy sector.

The programme12 consisted of three main parts.

The first part entitled "the biomethane, an European resource" began with the presentation of the GreenGasGrids project by Lorenzo Maggioni (Consorzio Italiano Biogas) and with a focus on opportunities that biomethane offers for the development of European energy system by the president of European Biogas Association, Arthur Wellinger. During the first session were also presented the experiences of German and Swedish in the field of biomethane.

The second part consisted of a round table discussion concerning the status of biogas and biomethane in Italy and future perspectives. Summarizing, Italy has excellent conditions for the development of biomethane due to the extensive network of gas for a distributed generation system with natural gas in electrical, thermal and (relative to other countries) an important spread of distributors and gas vehicles.

Between the second and third part, there was the lunch with a buffet offered to participants by the organizers of the conference.

During the third part has been possible to discuss what technologies can be successfully used for purification of biogas to biomethane. Presentations focused on the potential of biomethane in Italy, the opportunities for biomethane as transport fuel and agricultural uses, the evaluation of the economic convenience to produce biomethane.

Throughout the conference, there was the possibility of open discussion among the participants and with the speakers.

The President of the Italian Consortium Biogas, Piero Gattoni, closed the proceedings noting that "biomethane is an opportunity for development of the Italian green economy: we want rules that allow the creation and consolidation of stable jobs in agro-industry and a system of rules that stimulates growth of biomethane made in Italy".

Conclusion of the event

For Italy, the Consorzio Italiano Biogas estimates a requirement of 7-8 billion nm³ of biomethane per year. Production equivalent to that of Italian fossil natural gas.

In relation to the outcome of the round table discussion it can be concluded that the biomethane in Italy is a great opportunity for the country from every point of view:

- Environmental
  In terms of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by vehicles and electricity/heat generation in the urban area, both in terms of maximum reduction at the

12 http://www.fieragricola.it/convegni/conferences_it_5202_2485.aspx
lowest cost of greenhouse gas emission, both in terms of mitigation of environmental impacts of conventional agricultural practices (reduction of synthetic fertilizer, livestock manure management);

- Economic major impact on the economic sector of the country, both in agriculture and industry;

- For the consumers
  Drastically reducing the expenses on import and biomass technologies and being able to offer competitive prices as of now programmable energy in the electricity and biofuels for automobiles.

Therefore it is important that the Italian Government publishes new decrees (economic incentives and technical parameters) for the production of biomethane provided by Legislative Decree 28/2011.
1st National Feed-In Info Day in The Netherlands

What is the outlook for the future of Green Gas? This was the key question that was addressed during the second large-scale ‘Green Gas’ symposium that took place on 11 April 2012 in the context of the European Green Gas Grids project. Netbeheer Nederland (the Energy Networks Association in the Netherlands) and Agentschap NL (NL Agency) joined forces to organize the event. All parties concerned convened in a beautiful location by the River Vecht in Dalfsen, the Netherlands, for an exciting and very educational event moderated by Judith de Bruijn, on the current state of affairs. How many green gas producers do we currently have? How are these projects financed? What are the obstacles we come across? And how do we, in the Netherlands, perform in the international market?

Agenda for the future

Heated discussions, intriguing spoken columns and detailed presentations sharpened the minds of the 155 participants, including producers, policymakers, consultants and grid operators. Subsequently, the audience was invited to help draw up the agenda for the future. Which challenges do we still need to confront? How will we address the issue of any possible differences in the calorific value of different gas flows, for instance? And a particularly important question: How can we ensure a speedy implementation process while at the same time guaranteeing absolute safety?

The experiences gained within the entire chain from working with green gas were discussed during the symposium both in plenary sessions and in the corridors. This is important, for one of the conclusions that can be drawn from the event is that if we want to hold on to the flow that we have today, all parties will have to unite and commit to the cause.

Full cooperation of Netbeheer Nederland

In his opening presentation, Han Fennema, Director of Netbeheer Nederland (the Energy Networks Association in the Netherlands) pointed out that the parties involved are, indeed, willing to cooperate. The objective is to achieve a 3% injection of green gas into the gas grids by 2020. By now, this goal is embraced by all of the parties involved, as Fennema observed. Netbeheer Nederland itself extends its full cooperation to the development of the Green Gas market. One of the ambitions is to ensure that injection of green gas into the gas grids is a standard option by 2014. Until that time, Netbeheer will take the necessary preparatory measures to facilitate this.

Objective: green gas as a mature component of gas supply

One of the objectives of Netbeheer Nederland is to ensure that in future, green gas will be a mature component of the Dutch national gas supply. Netbeheer Nederland definitely sees opportunities to achieve this goal. In addition to contributing to facilitating the injection of green gases into the standard natural gas networks, for example, Netbeheer Nederland also wants to contribute and take a constructive approach to the development of biogas networks, which are currently not covered by the Gas Act.
Challenge
Netbeheer holds the view that a mature role for green gas is absolutely possible and feasible. However, it will present serious challenges as well, as Fennema’s presentation revealed. One of these challenges is in the field of the legal and regulatory framework, which imposes constraints that limit the freedom of movement of Netbeheer Nederland. For example, if Netbeheer Nederland would want to play a role in the production of green gas or the upgrading of biogas to green gas, the legal framework currently does not allow them to engage in these activities.

Learning curve still steep
Fennema’s presentation furthermore demonstrated that the learning curve is still steep: relatively little practical experience has been gained with green gas, and the situation is far from ‘business as usual’. For instance, the learning curve also involves finding a practical solution to the question as to how and where green gas should be stored when the storage capacity of the gas grids is limited during the summer months.

History, state of affairs, future and international context
Obviously, Fennema was not the only speaker to address the audience. Albert van der Molen, Asset Management Expert at Stedin and Chairman of the Netbeheer Nederland Green Gas project group, placed the developments in the area of green gas in their historical context. In addition, he highlighted the current state of affairs and outlined the green gas progress towards 2020 targets.

International developments
And in his presentation, Mathieu Dumont, Programme Adviser at Agentschap NL (NL Agency) and specialist in the field of green gas, addressed the developments in the Netherlands from an international perspective. In the EU-sponsored Green Gas Grids project – which runs from June 2011 until June 2014 – the international situation is described and innovators and adopters are encouraged to forge alliances.

Forum discussion
A special element of the symposium was a forum discussion addressing the key question as to where we stand with regard to an agenda for the future, and which items should be on our ‘shopping list’. Participating in the discussion were a number of leaders in the chain:
- Rens Knegt, Director of Netbeheer Nederland;
- Bert de Vries, Deputy Director-General for Energy, Telecommunications and Competition of the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation;
- Annemieke Traag, Member of the Gelderland Provincial Executive, responsible for biogas networks;
- Ulco Vermeulen, Director of Business Development at GasUnie, Chairman of the Green Gas Netherlands foundation;
- Eric Douma, Chairman of the LTO (Dutch Federation of Agricultural and Horticultural Organizations) Renewable Energy Task Force.
EDGaR
During the symposium, Luc Rabou, Senior Researcher at ECN, explained and summarized the fundamental scientific research programme EDGaR. EDGaR focuses on issues including developments in the area of the Green Gas market.

Suiker Unie
The Suiker Unie currently is the largest producer of green gas in the Netherlands, operating one installation in Dinteloord and constructing a second installation in Groningen. Teun van de Weg of Suiker Unie and Ton Schuurmans of grid operator Enexis delivered a presentation on their successful collaboration.

Spoken column
Also during the symposium, Mayor Ferd Crone of Leeuwarden delivered a thought-provoking spoken column. Crone is a fervent advocate of the development of the Green Gas market, and highly dedicated to the promotion of green gas applications.
Debate

A substantial part of the afternoon session was devoted to a debate, raising a number of arguments to discuss present interest and practical topics with the audience.

Information fair

The information fair, where a substantial number of companies were represented, offered the attendants an excellent networking opportunity.
1st National Feed-In Info Day in Poland

The 1st Polish Info Day “Biogas injection – existing state and market development” was held on April 24, 2012 at the KAPE office. The aim of the meeting was to present the GreenGasGrids project and to give information about current status in the field of bio-methane injection into natural gas grids. The meeting was attended by 27 participants, among them: representatives of public administration and ministries, regulators, state agencies, gas industry, plant constructors, project developers, scientific and research institutions and other stakeholders linked to bio-methane production.

Programme

KAPE decided to present an overview of the most important aspects concerning bio-methane injection. The cross-cutting approach creates possibility to identify areas of greatest interest and the fields, where it is essential to raise community awareness.

The presented program included: national regulations, bio-methane production technologies, financial aspects of bio-methane production, technical aspects of injection of bio-methane into the natural gas grid and best practice examples.

As far as KAPE knows, it was the first meeting in Poland concerning of bio-methane injection into natural gas grids.

Organisation

The training center at KAPE office had been chosen as a meeting place because of the good location in the center of Warsaw. KAPE planned participation of guests from abroad and participants from across the country. The invitations were sent to all important stakeholders. In total nearly 100 recipients from prepared database received invitation by email.

KAPE has received 37 confirmations of participation.

Finally 27 participants and employees of KAPE took part in the meeting.

Participants received project leaflet and information about project in national language. Materials contained also KAPE’s briefcase, notebook and a pen from IEE contact point.

Presentations are available on the polish website of the project - http://www.kape.gov.pl/new/news20120424_20120424_a.phtml

Detailed Report

Mr. Zbigniew Szpak – President of The Polish National Energy Conservation Agency welcomed the participants and invited them to cooperation within the field of bio-methane injections into natural gas grids.

The goals of the GreenGasGrids project and the expected outcome of this international project was shortly explained by Mr. Ryszard Wnuk – coordinator of project in Poland.

Special guest from Fraunhofer Institute (DE) – Ms. Sabine Strauch, presented in detail available biogas upgrading technologies.
The presentation delivered by the representative of Greater Poland Gas Company brought many questions among participants. Mr. Andrzej Barczyński – management adviser - introduced participants into technical problems of injection into the distribution grid, and quality requirements of injected biogas. Automotive Industry Institute within the IEE project GasHighWay developed pre-feasibility studies for two biogas plants connected to distribution gas network. Ms. Barbara Smerkowska was asked to present their results.

The company Biowatt provides German concepts and technology for biogas and biomethane systems in Poland. The vice president of company presented best practice example of biogas plant with upgrading installations in Darmstadt.

Highlight of the meeting was the presentation of the representative of the Ministry of Economy. Mr. Maciej Kapalski from Renewable Energy Department informed the audience about the objectives of the new energy legislation, in particular the law on renewable energy sources. Nearly all participants waited for this presentation and asked many questions about planned support system for renewable energy.

Conclusions of the event
The Info Day can be considered as successful, because of attendance of main stakeholders representatives: Ministry of Economy, Energy Regulatory Office, Agricultural Market Agency, Greater Poland Gas Company and biogas project developers. Arrangement of meeting helped to create the right conditions for asking questions and giving feedback. Two aspects attracted the greatest interest:
- cost-effectiveness and financial support
- technical problems of injection into the distribution grid
Participants actively participated in the discussion and were highly interested within project results and outcomes. Many participants also expressed their willingness to participate in next meetings.
1st National Feed-In Info Day in Slovakia

In the framework of the GreenGasGrids project, national feed-in Info Days to be organized in each of the six starter target countries. Those events have been organized during the second and last year of the project.

The aim of this Info Day was to present the GreenGasGrids project and to give information about current status in the field of biogas and biomethane, potential prospective for biogas and biomethane production and utilization in Slovakia, barriers as well as evaluation of questionnaires and information about the preparation of the National Road Map for Biomethane.

Invitations were sent to stakeholders involved in the biogas/biomethane sector according stakeholder list prepared in the frame of this project was sent. (Representatives of Public bodies, biogas producers, research institutes, universities, servicing companies, consultants, gas industry, distribution system operators, regulatory office developers and other stakeholders off the biogas market) Altogether 62 stakeholders were invited to attend the first Info Day.

Organizational process

The preparation work for the national seminar took several weeks. As most suitable room for the Info Day was chosen the conference room in the SIEA building. Among the criteria was the number of participants and speakers, technical equipment necessary for simultaneous translation, no costs for the rent, distance to the hotels etc.

Among the first task of the event preparation was to compose an official invitation letter accompanied with short information about GreenGasGrids project. There were two versions of the letter, one version for attendees another one for speakers.
The invitation email was sent according to the list of stakeholders compiled during the duration of the GGG project. The announcement about the Info Day was issued on the SIEA web-site (www.siea.sk), Ministry of Economy web-site (www.mhsr.sk) as well as on energy portal website (www.energia.sk)

Chosen information channels were evaluated as satisfactory, because total 73 people have signed up to the Info Day and the real number of attendees was very close to 60 including speakers. Moreover attendees from other business areas were welcomed as well (heat producers, companies dealing with new technologies, energy service companies, renewable association). As these companies were not contacted directly the assumption is that the information channels were efficient.

At the beginning of the seminar participants received the GreenGasGrid leaflet, all presentations were also uploaded to the SIEA web-site and seminar participants were informed about this after the event finished. Brief information about Info Day was published on the Slovak News Agency (TASR) website.

The speakers were chosen in line with the scope of the GreenGasGrids project as well as the target groups. The seminar was divided into two parts. The first one was more dedicated to biogas and the other part to biomethane.

**Conclusion of the event**

In the course of the Info Day the results of the evaluation of questionnaires sent to stakeholder were presented. Totally 53 questionnaires were distributed, 24 were returned, one of which was uncompleted. A total of 23 questionnaires were evaluated. There are some of the results:

There is only partial satisfaction (65%) with the legislative and regulatory framework as well as with the conditions for connection to distribution networks, either electric or gas in Slovakia. Maybe that is why the majority (64%) of respondents considered that the technical conditions for production of biomethane and its injection into the distribution network should be set by national standards or technical rules issued by the independent professional organization.

11 organisations (48%) think that the production of biomethane can improve the economic results of the manufacturer of biogas, 8 organisations (35%) have the opposite view.

Majority of the questioned (74%) encourages the use of biogas produced by anaerobic fermentation of energy crops, e. g. corn silage, grass. Even more questioned support biogas produced from agricultural waste, sewage treatment plant or landfill (91%), as well as the use of biomethane as a fuel for motor vehicles (70%)

A relatively large proportion of respondents (70%) do not have sufficient information on EU support programs for biogas or biomethane production. On the other side about 61% wants the state to support the producers of biomethane as a part of customers (8). Similarly, 83% of respondents want the Government to develop support programs for the production of biomethane.
The biggest barriers to development and use of biomethane production are considered:

- The legislative framework (9)
- High investment costs (9)
- Lack of support (9)
- Logistics (3)
- The lack of starting material (2)
- Other (2)

A slight majority (16%) thinks that biomethane has a future in Slovakia, but some of the questioned state that a real chance depends on the support of the Government.

70% of the respondents expressed the opinion that it is necessary to improve information on the production and use of biogas or biomethane. 74% of those respondents agreed with the view that the development of a national roadmap for bio-methane is necessary and 83% of them expressed interest to participate in its development.

To the final question: "Do you think that there is sense in establishing a national association for biogas in Slovakia?" 70% replied with Yes and 30% with No or not sure.

The quoted results present the base-line for a National road map. But at least 50 completed questionnaires are needed for a significant result.

This is only a small extract of responses. Questionnaire contained in total 31 questions.

Generally, the 1st feed-in Info Day can be considered successful, because of quite high attendance and their positive and active approach. Maybe this Info Day will launch the establishment of a national biogas association.
1st National Feed-In Info Day in the United Kingdom

The UK 1st Biomethane Information day was held on 26th June 2012, starting at 9:30 am to 5:00 pm. The Info Day took place in the Conference & Exhibition Complex at the National Motorcycle Museum, Birmingham.

11 experts contributed as active speakers; including local authority members, policy makers, representatives from other Intelligent Energy Europe projects, producers of biogas upgrading plants, and experts dealing with related certificates and incentive schemes etc. In addition to this, 6 companies chose to exhibit at the event.

Besides the speakers and exhibitors, a significant number of operators, producers and other stakeholders, as well as representatives of the gas distribution networks, clean-up and upgrading companies and regulatory bodies attended the event. In total 138 attendees were pre-registered for the UK Biomethane Day, with 156 people attending the conference and exhibition on the day.

Through the wide area of expertise presented by the various speakers, topics of all interests were covered and a detailed insight into the market situation obtained.

The conference was held in English.

Programme

The programme of the Info Day included presentations of experts of the field extensive opportunities for networking and an exhibition area. In between the presentations there were also time planned to be used for answering questions and discussion.

The Info Day started with the welcome of the participants by the Chief Executive of the Renewable Energy Association (REA) opening the inaugural UK Biomethane Day. This was followed by a general overview of the UK biomethane market. The programme consisted of four main parts:
1. "Getting Connected" which dealt with issues such as engineering solutions and commercial arrangements for injecting biomethane into the UK gas grid.
2. "Securing Income" which included presentations from industry regulators, Ofgem, on the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) as well as the new Green Gas Certification Scheme recently launched in the UK.
3. "Learning from the EU Biomethane Experience". This focused on specific learning points from various Intelligent Energy Europe (IEE) projects, including the Green Gas Grids project.
4. "Future Developments" which included a summary from two UK Gas Distribution Networks on a project aiming to create capacity in the gas grid for more biomethane, as well as other areas for progression in the UK biomethane market.

The UK Biomethane Day also had an area for exhibition stands, and a range of companies chose to exhibit at the event. These included companies from all points of the waste to energy chain, including companies involved in the following sectors:

- Planning and construction for AD plants (e.g. Future Biogast Ltd, EnviTec)
- Gas quality monitoring and CV measurement instrumentation producers (e.g. Siemens)
- Clean-up and upgrading of biogas to biomethane (e.g. Chesterfield Biogas, FloGas, Purac)
Presentations from the event

All the presentations given at the UK Biomethane Day can be viewed and downloaded via the following link: http://cngservices.co.uk/events/

Summary of the Event

UK Biomethane Day received very positive feedback from attendees at the event and the intention is to run it again next year, in May 2013.

By having the focus on biomethane injection, the networking opportunities were very good.

The UK market is attractive for biomethane injection and the REA forecasts a potential 40 projects in the period 2012 to 2015. The majority of potential projects were represented at the UK Biomethane Day event.

There are 3 projects underway for completion before May 2013 and the intention is to have presentations structure around these at UK Biomethane Day 2013.
**Result of the National Feed-In Info Days**

In general, the feedback to the national Feed-In Info Days was a very positive one. In all of the partner countries the event was well-attended by interested parties, like plant and grid operators, representatives of different federal ministries, regulators, state agencies, biogas project developers or research institutions. Those stakeholders were brought together and within the framework of the event were offered up-to-date information, opportunities of discussion and business contacts of the field.

The main issue picked up during the events was the question of successful and economic integration of biomethane into the existing natural gas market. A number of partner countries presented existing barriers of the current market situation and discussed their meaning for the future development of the technology. The international market and its future progress were of particular interest in the forerunner countries.

For starter countries the main focus was panned on the introduction of the conversion technology and highlighting of national potentials of the technology. In the course of many events it was concluded that assistance from the national government would be needed to establish the technology, e.g. by including the method into the national energy policy.

For example during the Info Day in Hungary it was determined that biomethane injection should be emphasized in the Renewable Energy Roadmap of Hungary currently under development.

The Info Day in Slovakia showed that a majority of the questioned stakeholder are for the formation of a National Biogas Association for further coordination and promotion of the technology.

As accumulation of know-how and previous experiences is an important topic when a new technology is to be established, the GreenGasGrids project emphasizes the know-how transfer from forerunner to starter countries. The project aims to use the Info Day as a possibility to communicate experiences to a large audience.

In the course of the Info Days the input of international organisations and stakeholder was welcomed and highly valued. Most forerunner countries invited international speakers to take part and share their experience.

For example in the course of the Info Day in Croatia 4 international speakers from 3 of the forerunner countries where invited to hold presentations.

Additionally, to the presentations held all of the Info Days offered the opportunity and enough time for open discussion between the participants and with the speakers. Sometimes also forum discussions were part of the agenda.

The discussion slots were willingly used by the participants. Business relation could be established, which will benefit the further progress of the biomethane field.

All in all the first national feed-in Info Day created not only interest in all of the partner countries for the field of technology but also sparked discussions about potentials and feasible utilization. For some countries the event meant the introduction of biomethane to the national energy mix, for others it served the purpose of connecting with business partners and contemplating the market situation for the years to come. All of them analysed the current barriers and risks of the application. Various plans were made to integrate the technology into the national policy schemes and use the given potentials.