Bioenergy Insight

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Volume 17 • Issue 3

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National strategy attracts investment

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Regional focus: UK

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Contents

04 News

08 Plant update

10 Biogas leaders meet for International Biogas Congress & Expo
Full report of the must-attend event

14 What buyers need to know before acquiring a biogas asset
Technical due diligence has never been more consequential

16 BioticNRG on scale, food waste and net-zero
Aiming to outlast the UK's policy uncertainty

18 Biogest targets Ireland's biomethane opportunity
Martin Schlerka, CEO, explains the deliberate timing

20 Trending segments in briquetting
C.F. Nielsen outlines the shift in better resource utilisation

22 SBP-certified biomass tops 22 million tonnes
The Sustainable Biomass Program has published its annual review

24 CRI-MAN, LEWA and Wangen Pumps showcase new portfolio synergies
On display at World Biogas Expo 2026

26 Pressure on UK bioenergy to speed up development
Energy expert Colin Ley analyses the UK sector

30 Keeping bioenergy plants audit-ready with practical OSHA Certification
How to streamline safety training

31 ARB Biogas: Building the next generation of AD infrastructure
The company is one of the UK and Ireland's most active AD engineering specialists

32 How biomass delivers system stability in an uncertain energy landscape
Drax chief sustainability officer Ross McKenzie on grid resilience

34 Anaergia's new CTO on the engineering frontier of anaerobic digestion
Sasha Rollings-Scattergood outlines the significance of co-digestion

36 Powering circular cities
Glanua explains how urban systems are under increasing pressure

38 Flexible gas storage solutions
Gas storage technology is unlocking potential

40 Up close and personal with Phil Roche
Roche is commercial director of BioteCH4

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Scaling up requires action

Brussels played host to the International Biogas Congress & Expo on 14-15 April, and the two days at Hotel Le Plaza reinforced what this industry has long known: the technology works, the infrastructure exists and the policy case is stronger than ever. Producers, utilities, transport operators, policymakers and investors gathered with a shared understanding that the conversation has moved decisively from whether biogas and biomethane can scale, to how quickly.

The answer, in large part, depends on Brussels. Europe's biomethane market faces uneven growth in 2026, with numerous unresolved policy hurdles as RED III reshapes national compliance frameworks across member states. With 22 bcm of combined biogas and biomethane already produced in Europe, the sector offers immediate, scalable relief for an energy system still heavily dependent on imported gas. Yet the gap between current production and the REPowerEU target of 35 bcm per year by 2030 remains substantial.

The March Joint Biomethane Declaration, backed by 11 leading European industry associations, called for biomethane to become a central pillar of EU reindustrialisation, energy security and climate neutrality. That ambition now requires legislative follow-through. As RED III transposition proceeds unevenly and FuelEU Maritime continues to drive certified biomethane demand in the shipping sector, the industry's message to policymakers is unambiguous: remove the barriers, or risk missing a target that was always within reach.

Tom Daldry
Editor

Stream BioEnergy begins construction of Ireland's largest food and garden waste biomethane plant

Stream BioEnergy Ltd has begun construction of a €80 million biomethane facility in Little Island, Cork, set to become Ireland's largest plant dedicated to processing municipal food and garden waste.

The facility, due to become operational in 2027, will process up to 90,000 tonnes of domestic and commercial food and garden waste each year. The company said the plant will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by approximately 40,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent annually while delivering more than 80 gigawatt hours (GWh) of renewable biomethane to the Irish national gas grid.

The development is expected to play a significant role in supporting Ireland's 2030 climate commitments under the government's National Biomethane Strategy. In addition to producing renewable gas to replace fossil fuels in sectors such as heating and transport, the plant will generate sustainable biofertilisers by recycling nutrients from food waste, supporting more sustainable farming and food production.

Major contractors and partners involved

The project is being delivered under an engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) contract by Kanadevia Inova AG – formerly known as Hitachi Zosen Inova – alongside Coffey Group, one of Ireland's largest construction firms.

Bord Gáis Energy, part of Centrica, has secured the gas off-take contract, while several national and regional waste collection companies are expected to supply feedstock to the plant.

Funding for the development has been provided by Pioneer Infrastructure Partners SCSp and Goldman Sachs Asset Management, following a recent portfolio-level debt raise exceeding €75 million. Kanadevia Inova has also taken a minority stake in the project.

Local economic impact

A significant portion of the €80 million capital investment will be spent with local civil, mechanical and electrical contractors. Once operational, the plant is expected to generate around €4 million in annual local expenditure, supporting ongoing economic activity in the region.

More than 100 jobs are expected to be created during the construction phase, with over 20 permanent operational roles at the facility, alongside additional employment opportunities across the supply chain.

Call for progress on renewable heat policy

Commenting on the project, Kevin Fitzduff, co-founder of Stream BioEnergy, said the development marked an important milestone for Ireland's decarbonisation efforts.

'At a time when Ireland is under enormous pressure to decarbonise its heat and transport sectors, we are proud to have started construction on one of Ireland's largest biomethane facilities and welcome the support from investors, commercial counterparties, Cork County Council, the local community and other stakeholders,' he said.

'This project will significantly contribute to Ireland's decarbonisation efforts and make the country a more energy-secure place to live and conduct business.'

He also urged the Irish government and the European Commission to reach agreement on the proposed Renewable Heat Obligation (RHO), warning that delays could affect the growth of Ireland's biomethane sector.

The Little Island project marks a key milestone in Stream BioEnergy's wider expansion strategy across Ireland and the UK. ●

EBA revises down Europe's biomethane potential as policy gaps slow deployment

Europe holds sufficient resources to scale biomethane significantly, but regulatory barriers and slow implementation are preventing the sector from delivering on that potential, according to a new report published on 21 April, the same day the European Commission released its Accelerate EU communication.

The report, launched by the European Biogas Association, estimates total biomethane potential at 34-35 bcm by 2030 across the EU-27 plus the UK, Norway and Switzerland. That figure is lower than previous assessments — not because the sustainable resource base has shrunk, but because insufficient action has been taken to deploy projects and mobilise available feedstocks in time.

Europe currently produces around 22 bcm of biogases annually, of which 5 bcm is biomethane, with output almost entirely based on anaerobic digestion. The gap between current production and 2030 potential underscores the scale of the deployment challenge facing the sector.

Agricultural residues, animal manure, sequential crops and industrial wastewater together account for 81% of the identified potential and around 60% of that total is concentrated in five countries: Germany, France, Italy, Poland and the United Kingdom.

The long-term projections are considerably larger — 116-132 bcm by 2040 and up to 205 bcm by 2050 — reinforcing biomethane's role in a fully defossilised European energy system.

The report's publication coincides with renewed pressure on European energy policy following another costly year of fossil fuel dependence. The European Commission estimates the EU spent €336.7 billion on energy imports in 2025, with a further €22 billion attributable to recent geopolitical tensions.

Harmen Dekker, CEO of the European Biogas Association, said Europe had the resources to scale up biomethane but that deployment was being held back by persistent regulatory barriers.

'Without a stable and coherent policy framework, the sector cannot scale at the pace required to deliver on Europe's energy and climate objectives,' he said.

Australian meat processor to cut emissions with anaerobic digestion facility

Casino Food Co is to begin construction on an anaerobic digestion facility at its beef processing operations in northern New South Wales, in a project developed in partnership with technology provider LMS Energy.

The Casino Biohub will be built on the company's San Marla farm near Casino and will treat abattoir effluent using anaerobic digestion, capturing methane-rich biogas that would otherwise be vented to atmosphere. In the first stage, captured gas will be destroyed via flaring. A second stage is planned to convert biogas into electricity-to-power boilers and other on-site infrastructure.

The facility will include a 50-million-litre covered anaerobic lagoon and a biogas flare. The project is expected to be to be operational by the first quarter of 2027.

Casino Food Co chairman Lennard Blok said the Biohub was expected to reduce emissions by around 35,000 tonnes of carbon equivalent per year, equivalent to removing approximately 11,200 cars from the road. The project is also anticipated to eliminate more than 98% of the facility's Scope 1 emissions associated with effluent treatment.

LMS Energy chief executive Matthew Falzon said methane was up to 86 times more potent than carbon dioxide over the short term, making its reduction among the most effective near-term actions available to industry.

Cindrigo raises £11m to launch Finnish biomass joint venture

Cindrigo Holdings has secured more than £11 million (€13.1 million) in new funding and guarantees from a strategic investor group to support balance sheet strengthening and biomass expansion.

The package comprises approximately £6.7 million (€8 million) in equity at 12 pence per share and up to £4 million (€4.7 million) in additional potential share subscriptions. The company will also co-fund a new joint venture, Fuelwood Finland, with €3 million from the investor group and a €1 million development loan from Cindrigo itself.

Fuelwood Finland is designed as an integrated wood pellet operation, targeting annual capacity of 80,000 tonnes by the end of 2026. The venture is intended to align closely with Cindrigo's existing Finnish energy plant, with Fuelwood acting as the primary customer for the plant's heat and power output – creating a vertically integrated biomass model.

The longer-term ambition is to scale pellet capacity to around 400,000 tonnes per year, with potential annual revenues of approximately €100 million at current prices. Management said the funding would also support acceleration of development activity in Germany, with

the group positioning itself as a scaled participant in Europe's energy transition.

Alongside pellet production revenues, the structure is expected to generate management service income and reduce the company's dependence on a single off-taker. ●

Ence targets tripling of renewables EBITDA by 2030 as biomass strategy expands

Spanish bioeconomy company Ence is accelerating the development of its renewable energy platform, which is built on the transformation of biomass into industrial heat, regulated electricity, biomethane and renewable fuels.

The company manages more than two million tonnes of biomass annually, positioning it as the leading biomass manager in the Iberian Peninsula. The renewables business unit is targeting a tripling of operating profit by 2030.

Ence's biomethane ambitions are central to that growth. The company aims to exceed 1 TWh of annual biomethane production by 2030, with an EBITDA contribution of more than €60 million. It currently has a pipeline of 42 identified projects, 25 of which are in the permitting phase, alongside one operational plant at La Galera.

On the heat side, Ence's subsidiary Magnon is targeting 2 TWh of thermal energy production by 2030 and more than €40 million in EBITDA from its renewable industrial heat business. The portfolio currently includes one facility in operation, one in commissioning and three under construction.

Magnon is also the largest biomass manager in Spain for electricity generation, with 266 MW of installed capacity drawing on agricultural and forestry residues. Ence positions biomass-based electricity as a firm, dispatchable resource capable of supporting grid stability, an advantage it contrasts with intermittent renewables.

Looking further ahead, Ence is developing opportunities in renewable fuels linked to the use of biogenic CO_2. The group generates more than four million tonnes of biogenic CO_2 annually, approximately 50% of the Spanish total, concentrated near ports and industrial hubs, which the company describes as a distinctive competitive position for future sustainable fuel production. ●

Velocys and Varhad Capital sign MoU to develop biomass-to-SAF projects in India

Sustainable fuel technology provider Velocys has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with India-based biofuel and carbon dioxide removal project developer Varhad Capital to advance a new generation of biomass-to-sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) projects in India.

Under the agreement, the companies will engineer and design scalable biomass-to-SAF facilities using indigenous agricultural residues as feedstock. The collaboration combines Varhad's existing operational gasification platform, which already produces syngas and biochar from agricultural residues, with Velocys' Fischer-Tropsch (FT) technology, creating a pathway from biomass to SAF. Initial projects will establish a hub-and-spoke model for SAF production across the country.

The partnership is targeting SAF that can compete with conventional fuel pathways on cost while achieving strong lifecycle carbon performance.

India's SAF opportunity is driven by abundant agricultural residues, rapidly growing aviation demand, and a policy focus on domestic production.

Prasad Dahapute, founder and managing director of Varhad, said: 'With an operating gasification platform already in place, we are moving quickly. Working with Velocys allows us to translate that capability into fuel production through a proven technology that is aligned with favourable market economics.'

Sachin Joshi, chief commercial officer at Velocys, said: 'This collaboration is about combining two commercially proven technologies in a market where we can streamline biomass-to-fuels production with a technically robust, commercially competitive offering.'

Ancala's Croatian biomass platform doubles capacity with three-plant acquisition

Ancala's Croatian Biomass Platform has acquired three 5 MW biomass power plants from Croatian wood trading business The Sherif Group, more than doubling its renewable generation capacity to 25 MW.

The deal brings the platform's total portfolio to five sites across Croatia, with a combined annual output of approximately 200,000 MWh of renewable electricity, which is enough to power around 45,000 homes per year.

The platform's existing plants are located in Gospić and Grubišno Polje; the three newly acquired sites are in Glina, Karlovac and Brinje, in Croatia's highlands and central regions. The plants have been operating since 2017, 2020 and 2021 respectively.

All three sites benefit from long-term feed-in tariffs and biomass supply agreements in line with those already in place across the platform. The plants use low-grade forestry biomass sourced from local suppliers and will continue to be operated by their existing teams, reporting to platform chief executive Laurent Sessa.

The platform has also appointed Tihana Stupnisek as chief financial officer to support its expansion. Stupnisek was previously chief executive of Euro Cable Group, a manufacturer of low-voltage electrical cables in Central and Eastern Europe.

Ancala said it is working with the management team to optimise operations, develop commercial and operational synergies across the portfolio and explore further capacity increases.

Plant update

Hydron Energy

Alternative fuel: Biogas

Location: Canada

Date: April 2026

Canadian clean energy company Hydron Energy has launched a renewable natural gas (RNG) platform project at the Bailey Landfill in Chilliwack, British Columbia, Canada, aimed at validating its proprietary biogas upgrading system for landfill gas operation. The project centres on Hydron Energy's INTRUPTor system, which uses a novel metal organic framework (MOF) to remove both nitrogen and carbon dioxide from biogas streams simultaneously at ambient pressure. The company says this single-stage approach eliminates the need for multi-stage processing required by conventional upgrading technologies, reducing capital and operating costs while simplifying deployment. Landfill biogas presents particular upgrading challenges due to elevated nitrogen concentrations, which conventional systems address through higher operating pressures and multiple process stages.

Kanadevia Inova

Alternative fuel: Biogas

Location: UK

Date: April 2026

Swiss green-tech company Kanadevia Inova has completed construction and commissioning of the Rivenhall Integrated Waste Management Facility (IWMF) near Kelvedon in Essex, England, handing the plant over to operator Indaver. The provisional acceptance certificate was issued on 18 April 2026, marking the conclusion of construction works that began in October 2022. Kanadevia Inova will continue to support Indaver under a long-term service agreement signed in June 2025. Located in a former quarry, the two-line facility will process up to 595,000 tonnes of residual municipal and commercial waste annually, generating 55 MW of electricity – enough to power more than 125,700 homes. It is the first waste-to-energy plant to be built and operated in Essex.

Walker Industries Holdings

Alternative fuel: Biogas

Location: US

Date: April 2026

Walker Industries Holdings has completed the acquisition of two organic waste-to-energy facilities from Miller Waste Systems, expanding its operations into anaerobic digestion for the first time. The deal includes Miller Waste's Escarpment Renewables and Maryland Farms facilities, along with pre-processing assets previously operated at sites in Grimsby, Maryland and Pickering, Ontario. Walker said the acquisition represents a strategic extension of its existing organics portfolio, adding renewable gas production to its current offer of sustainable fertiliser and soil amendment solutions. The company said it will now also supply nutrient-rich digestate to the agricultural sector.

CITA VIA

Alternative fuel: Biogas

Location: Slovakia

Date: April 2026

Slovak gas distributor SPP – distribúcia has connected a new biomethane station in Ožďany to the national distribution network, adding nearly 4 million cubic metres of renewable gas capacity per year. The station, owned by CITA VIA, was created by retrofitting an existing biogas plant in the Rimavská Sobota district over 24 months. The upgrade – supported by a subsidy of approximately €1.5 million from Slovakia's Renovation Plan – added processing, cleaning and odorising technology to convert biogas into grid-quality biomethane. Feedstocks are locally sourced manure and poultry droppings. At full capacity, the Ožďany station will supply enough biomethane to meet the annual gas needs of more than 2,400 households, according to SPP – distribúcia. The connection brings the total number of biomethane stations on SPP – distribúcia's distribution network to four, following the country's first injection point in Jelšava in 2022. The distributor says it currently holds connection contracts with a further 18 stations and expects the pace of connections to accelerate this year and next.

Naked Kitchens

Feedstock: Biomass

Location: UK

Date: April 2026

A kitchen manufacturer based on a former RAF airfield in Norfolk has applied for retrospective planning permission for two biomass boilers installed at its factory in 2024. Naked Kitchens, which operates from a hangar at the former RAF West Raynham base near Fakenham, says the boilers replaced two older units and burn timber offcuts generated during kitchen unit production. According to a planning statement submitted by the company, one boiler heats water circulated to wall-mounted radiators and a ceiling-mounted space heater serving the factory's gluing area, while the second supplies hot water to radiators in the finishing room and taps in the workforce canteen.

Sublime Energie

Feedstock: Biogas

Location: France

Date: April 2026

French cleantech company Sublime Energie has commissioned a demonstrator system designed to liquefy biogas directly at farm level, in what the company says is a first-of-its-kind installation. The unit, known as 'Charlie', has been installed at a farm in Plélo, Brittany, where it processes biogas from on-site anaerobic digestion into liquefied form. The liquefied biogas is then collected and transported to centralised facilities, where cryogenic distillation produces bioLNG for heavy-duty transport and liquid bioCO_2 for agricultural and industrial use. Sublime's approach involves collecting liquefied biogas from individual farms and aggregating it at central processing hubs – a decentralised model the company says could also extend the operational life of AD plants currently operating under expiring cogeneration contracts. The Plélo unit is designed to produce around 180 tonnes of bioLNG and 330 tonnes of liquid bio CO_2 per year.

Seras

Feedstock: Biomass

Location: UK

Date: April 2026

Seras has completed a £3.25 million (€3.8 million) investment in its Tilbury waste wood processing facility, with upgrades carried out during a planned shutdown in late 2025 now delivering improved operational efficiency across the site. Work included the installation of new shredding equipment and a new screw conveyor, alongside refurbishment of other parts of the processing line. The improvements have resulted in better material quality through the process, producing higher-grade biomass fuel with increased reliability, reduced downtime and greater output for power plant customers across the UK.

Aurivo

Feedstock: Biomass

Location: Ireland

Date: April 2026

Irish dairy cooperative Aurivo Co-operative Society has announced a €12 million investment in a wood pellet burner and boiler system at its Dairy Ingredients facility in Ballaghaderreen, Co Roscommon in Ireland. The project, co-funded through the Shared Island Sustainability Capital Grant scheme delivered by Enterprise Ireland, InterTradeIreland and Invest Northern Ireland, will replace a large proportion of the fossil fuel currently consumed at the site with renewable biomass energy. Aurivo said the system is expected to reduce carbon emissions by approximately 7,500 tonnes of CO_2 annually. The boiler will be fuelled by locally supplied, sustainably certified wood pellets.

PGB

Alternative fuel: Biogas

Location: Poland

Date: March 2026

Polska Grupa Biogazowa (PGB), Poland's largest agricultural biogas operator, has agreed a large-scale electricity trading partnership with energy trading firm Hekla Energy, the first deal of its kind in Poland for electricity generated from agricultural biogas. Under the agreement, more than 200 GWh of biogas-derived electricity will enter Hekla Energy's portfolio in the first year of cooperation, representing over 15% of Poland's total agricultural biogas electricity output. The contract covers electricity from almost all of PGB's operating and newly built plants. PGB currently operates 21 biogas plants with a combined installed capacity of 22.5 MW, producing around 200 GWh annually. All facilities are managed remotely through the company's Monitoring and Analysis Centre, which it describes as a unique capability in Europe. The partnership gives PGB access to a wider range of trading products on the Polish Power Exchange, while allowing Hekla Energy to offer customers a stable, dispatchable renewable energy source that can balance intermittent wind and solar generation.

Napa Recycling and Waste Services

Alternative fuel: Biogas

Location: US

Date: March 2026

A new dry anaerobic digestion and renewable natural gas (AD-RNG) facility is being developed at the Napa Recycling and Composting Facility in California, through a public-private partnership between equipment manufacturer BHS (Bulk Handling Systems), waste services operator Napa Recycling and Waste Services and the City of Napa. The facility will use BHS subsidiary Zero Waste Energy's plug-flow digestion system to recover energy from organic waste collected across the Napa service area, converting it into biogas that can be processed into renewable natural gas (RNG). The development expands on the site's existing composting operation by capturing greenhouse gas emissions that would otherwise be released and converting them into a usable fuel source. Annual output is estimated at up to 500,000 diesel gallon equivalents of compressed natural gas, which is sufficient to power around 50 heavy-duty waste collection vehicles per year. The RNG produced will be used directly to fuel Napa Recycling's own fleet of collection trucks, creating a closed-loop system in which organic waste collected from households and businesses is converted into the fuel used to collect it.

Suzuki

Feedstock: Biogas

Location: India

Date: March 2026

Suzuki Motor Corp has unveiled its second biogas facility in India, as the Japanese automaker continues to develop alternative fuel infrastructure in one of its key markets. The plant is located in Bhukhala in the northwestern state of Gujarat. It processes cow dung sourced from local farmers, fermenting the material to extract methane which is then compressed and sold as CNG vehicle fuel via an on-site filling station. A tractor collects the raw feedstock, which is processed through an on-site fermentation tank. The facility began operations in January and can handle up to 100 tonnes of cow dung per day, producing around 1.5 tonnes of biogas daily. Biogas from agricultural waste is classified as a carbon-neutral fuel, and the project is designed to generate additional income for the farmers supplying feedstock.

Teofipol Energy Company

Feedstock: Biogas

Location: Ukraine

Date: March 2026

Ukraine has commissioned a new biomethane facility owned by Teofipol Energy Company, bringing the total number of biomethane producers in the country to six, according to Georgii Geletukha, head of the Bioenergy Association of Ukraine. The new plant is the largest in Ukraine's biomethane sector, with a design capacity of around 56 million cubic metres per year. A notable feature is its direct connection to the gas transmission system, enabling biomethane to be fed into main pipelines — a distinction from most other Ukrainian producers, which operate through distribution networks. Combined capacity across the six operating plants now stands at 106 million cubic metres per year. Four of the facilities supply biomethane into pipelines, while two produce bio-LNG transported via cryogenic tanks. All output is certified under the ISCC EU system, recognised by the European Commission. A seventh plant is expected to come online later this year. Despite the recent growth in facilities, production volumes remain modest relative to domestic demand: total sector capacity stands at around 0.1 bcm per year against estimated national gas consumption of approximately 20 billion cubic metres annually.

*This list is based on information made available to *Bioenergy Insight* at the time of printing. If you would like to update the list with additional plants for future issues, email tom@woodcotemedia.com

The International Biogas Congress & Expo returned on 14–15 April 2026, bringing together producers, investors, policymakers and end-users. *Bioenergy Insight* reports

Biogas leaders meet in Brussels for International Biogas Congress & Expo 2026

Two days of keynotes, case studies and panel discussion indicated that biomethane is not a niche proposition for decarbonisation. To succeed, it needs policy clarity, faster permitting and stronger market infrastructure to fulfil its potential.

EU platform to unlock biomethane trade

Opening proceedings, Maciej Ciszewski, head of unit for energy security and international relations at DG ENER, European Commission, set the geopolitical scene with characteristic directness. 'We meet at a very important moment for energy policy,' he told delegates. 'The situation in the Middle East is putting waves of impact on oil products and energy. This will not go back to normal any time soon.'

Against that backdrop, Ciszewski positioned biomethane as a strategic asset that is homegrown, storable and dispatchable, and outlined the Commission's most practical tool for developing its market. This is the EU Energy and Raw Materials Platform, and specifically its forthcoming gas and biomethane mechanism.

The platform operates on a voluntary matching-and-aggregation model. Its hydrogen mechanism is already live and completed its first matching round; its raw materials mechanism launched the day before the congress, with more than 100 companies already registered. The gas and biomethane mechanism is close to launch. 'I would say, with a pinch of salt, that in around May or June we will be ready to start registrations,' he said.

He was careful to manage expectations. The platform is not a regulatory tool and will not resolve all market fragmentation overnight. It will, however, offer users a regulatory transparency dashboard giving registered participants reliable, up-to-date information on certification systems and regulatory environments across member states.


There were two days of keynotes

Feedstock availability, grid injection rules and access to finance all vary significantly by country, and the dashboard is designed to reduce information asymmetry for cross-border transactions. Banks and financial institutions will have a special status on the platform, enabling producers to identify and approach potential financing partners.

On confidentiality, Ciszewski

was emphatic: negotiations take place entirely outside the platform, and the Commission will not disclose participation to third parties. 'We create a safe space to connect and to improve transparency on demand and on pricing,' he said. 'We do not interfere with the business-making.'

Market growing, but momentum slowing

Harmen Dekker, CEO of the European Biogas Association (EBA), provided a market overview.

The headline figures are strong. Europe currently produces 22 billion cubic metres of energy from biogas and biomethane combined, representing close to 70% of total renewable gas output. Biomethane production stands at 5.2 bcm, with installed capacity already at around 7 bcm and growing. Some 25 million tonnes of digestate are being produced annually, offsetting chemical fertiliser use and its associated emissions and 25 European countries are now active in biomethane production.

However, the growth rate is slowing. After expansions of 15-20% in earlier years, 2024 saw growth of 9%. 'That's nice,' Dekker said, 'but we need to acknowledge it is slowing down.' He attributed this partly to the volatile post-2022 environment, noting that European countries spent €800 billion to offset the energy crisis. This is money that went to consumers and businesses rather than into long-term renewable gas infrastructure.

The 35 bcm political target, set under REPowerEU, has not delivered the acceleration the sector needed. 'We can now say the ambition is running out of steam,' Dekker acknowledged. 'It is more a direction than a hard target.' He pointed to national energy and climate plans as evidence: when aggregated, member state biomethane commitments add up to only 26 bcm, which is still well short of 35 bcm.

Despite this, Dekker argued that the fundamentals have never been stronger. Europe imports 90% of its natural gas, and an increasing share is LNG from the US. 'We are changing one dependency for another,' he said. Biomethane, produced domestically, injectable into existing grid infrastructure without major new capital expenditure, sits at the intersection of the energy trilemma of security, affordability and sustainability in a way few other technologies can claim.

Cornelius Claeys, CleanMotion Advisory

Franz Gaisch, GKT GmbH

He pointed to the EBA's own investment outlook, which identifies €28bn set aside for investment in biogas and biomethane through 2030, adding 7.3 bcm of capacity and around 900 new plants. The countries showing the greatest appetite for growth include Spain, Denmark and the UK. A biomethane declaration from end-use industries, such as chemicals, paper, food processing, calling for the molecule was launched two months prior to the congress.

Dekker closed with a clear list of structural bottlenecks: permitting speed, grid injection access and recognition of biomethane's non-energy co-products like digestate and biogenic CO_2. 'We have more to offer than only energy,' he said. 'We need to make sure we valorise all the products which are there.'

France as a model, and its limits

Annette Kroll, head of regulation and advocacy at ENGIE Renewable Gas Business, offered a detailed anatomy of the French biomethane market: both its successes and the uncertainties now facing it.

France is Europe's largest biomethane market by installed capacity, with more than 800 installations producing 15.6 TWh and accounting for nearly 4% of national gas consumption. Kroll attributed this to three factors: a clear long-term vision (a 10% renewable gas target set almost a decade ago), stable feed-in tariffs that gave investors confidence and an early focus on grid injection rather than electricity generation. 'France was among the first countries that really focused on the grid injection of biomethane,' she said. 'While other countries were subsidising electricity and heat production, France also supported upgrading and injection into the grid.'

She highlighted the grid injection framework in which transmission and distribution operators jointly plan injection zones, model demand and consumption, and fund grid reinforcements up to a defined cost threshold (around €4,700 per cubic metre per hour) through socialised network costs. 'Whenever I go to other countries, I promote this as a real good practice,' she said. France has already built 37 reverse-flow mechanisms to manage the seasonal mismatch between supply and demand.

On the transport sector, Kroll noted that France has the largest heavy-duty gas truck fleet in Europe, with public transport fleets in most major cities running on locally produced biogas. Biogas now accounts for nearly 50% of gas used in the transport sector, with filling station coverage sufficient for professional use.

The challenge, she warned, lies ahead. France is transitioning from feed-in tariffs to market-based mechanisms. A new biomethane production certificate scheme, obligating gas suppliers to incorporate an increasing percentage of renewable gas in supply to residential and commercial customers (reaching 4% by 2028), started this year. A parallel scheme for the transport sector is expected to follow. However, the trajectory beyond 2028 has not been set, creating uncertainty for investors and lenders. 'Based on three years' visibility, it is very difficult to make that business case,' Kroll said. For smaller producers, the risk is acute. 'We need a trajectory – very soon.'

She also flagged the greenhouse gas protocol recognition issue, noting cautious optimism following a recent paper that moves towards certificate-based accounting for biomethane. She also pointed to feedstock normalisation, particularly intermediate crops, which she estimated could represent 40% of future French potential, as a key lever for cost reduction.

Ferrero's circular model

Simona Amerio, operations sustainability, environment and energy regulatory and ISO systems manager at the Ferrero Group, brought an end-user perspective to proceedings.

Ferrero is targeting a 50% reduction in absolute scope 1 and 2 emissions by 2030 against a 2018 baseline, with a new science-based target submitted in November 2025 and awaiting verification. The company now operates 41 factories worldwide, with that number continuing to grow through acquisition. Decarbonisation is an operational transformation. 'It is embedded in the redesign of our manufacturing system.'

The group has reached 94% renewable electricity and is targeting 100% by 2030. However, electrification alone is insufficient for a food manufacturer heavily reliant on thermal processes. 'Due to infrastructure constraints, full electrification is not yet feasible,' Amerio said. Biomethane fills the gap. It is dispatchable, compatible with existing infrastructure and capable of reducing scope 1 emissions without disrupting production.

The flagship project is Govone, located 20 kilometres from Alba in Piedmont. Built by a company belonging to the Zangu group, it will process more than 29,000 tonnes per year of by-products from Ferrero's Alba and Poirino factories – hazelnut shells, cocoa fibre and other production residues – converting them into 8 million cubic metres of biomethane annually, injected directly into the national grid. The offtake agreement runs for 15 years, linked to the Italian incentive period. Construction is close to completion, with a start date anticipated by September. 'This is a clear example of how a food company can truly be a circular, reliable and local ecosystem,' Amerio said.

She acknowledged that regulatory fragmentation across markets, particularly in Germany, Belgium and the UK, has complicated roll-out of a consistent model. 'There is fragmentation in the regulatory framework that does not allow us to have a clear picture,' she said. Ferrero's target is for biomethane to represent 20% of its energy mix by 2030, up from a negligible base.

Sourcing strategy and portfolio risk

Ari Suomilammi, head of renewable gases at Gasum, gave a frank account of the commercial realities of biomethane sourcing at scale and the risk management frameworks that make a portfolio approach viable.

Gasum, 100% owned by the Finnish state, operates across the full value chain in the Nordic markets: 22 biogas plants, six LNG terminals, and more than 520 gas filling stations across Finland, Sweden and Norway. Last year the company traded around 7 TWh of biomethane and is targeting 3-4 TWh of external sourcing by 2030 to complement its own production.

Suomilammi's central point was that biomethane is not a commodity. There is no liquid forward market, no standardised product specification and guarantees of origin carry a range of attributes. For example, sustainability certification status, whether the volume is subsidised or not, whether the product can be used in ETS or non-ETS sectors are all factors that make pricing and comparison complex.

Celebrating a successful conference

Many networking opportunities

'You cannot just go to the market and say I want to buy future megawatt hours,' he said. 'There are a lot of attributes which are saying you need to have this and that, and this prevents standardised trading.'

Gasum's sourcing portfolio is structured across three layers: long-term agreements (around 40% of volume), own production (around 40%) and shorter-term or spot sourcing (around 20%). Long-term agreements typically fix prices for up to 10 years, including the grey gas component, which Gasum hedges on commodity markets; the biomethane premium remains as an open position. Shorter-term sourcing provides flexibility in volatile market conditions.

Suomilammi flagged cross-border sourcing as one of the fastest-growing elements of the business. Gasum sources from across western Europe, managing grid injection, shipper rights and guarantees of origin in multiple jurisdictions, which is an administratively intensive process. 'The administrative burden is quite heavy,' he acknowledged.

He also noted the growing role of liquefied biomethane for maritime bunkering, where Gasum uses its own LNG vessels to supply biomethane to shipping customers, selling the associated carbon reduction credits to other market participants.

New markets, new models: biomethane across southern Europe

Maria Deryugina, director of regulation and market intelligence at Heygaz Biomethane, gave her perspective from a platform developer operating across markets where biogas infrastructure is still nascent, in Greece, Norway, Spain, Portugal and Ireland.

Heygaz, headquartered in Madrid and backed by French private equity, was founded in 2023 and has grown rapidly to nine operating biogas plants across five countries, with a further pipeline of projects at various stages of development. The company is deploying €250m in capital over the next two years, targeting 1.5 TWh of production by 2030.

Deryugina's argument centred on system resilience. 'Imagine a winter evening – no sun, no wind. The system switches to gas. Not because it wants to, but because it helps.' Biomethane covers the gap between electrification ambition and energy system reality: a gap that Spain experienced directly last year when a major blackout exposed the fragility of a grid heavily dependent on intermittent renewables.

She pointed to the waste treatment economics of biomethane as an underappreciated value driver. In Spain, one region is paying fines for inadequate waste treatment; landfill rates and incineration costs are high in several markets where Heygaz operates. In one project, the company calculated that feedstock collection reduces waste disposal costs for the surrounding area by approximately €6m per year. 'When we think about value we need to think about what biomethane brings to the system as a whole.'

On the country-by-country picture: Spain and Portugal lack formal support schemes, though Spain recently added biomethane blending targets to legislation as a crisis-response measure. Ireland has a biomethane national strategy and a 5.7 TWh target. Norway has limited dedicated support, but strong sustainability credentials and significant untapped potential from fish-processing waste and agricultural feedstocks. Greece adopted national biomethane targets within its energy strategy and is actively transposing the relevant EU directives, with support measures in development.

Heygaz is completing construction of its first biomethane plant in Spain, in the Murcia region, with two further Spanish projects ready to build. In Norway, one project has been selected for an EU Innovation Fund grant from among 359 applications, with a modelled greenhouse gas saving of 175% against the fossil fuel reference. In Greece, the company's five existing biogas plants – acquired alongside an established developer with over seven years of feedstock supply relationships – are being progressively converted to biomethane output, with a combined target of around 350 GWh.

Closing perspectives

Michael Ware, senior director at Green Giraffe Advisory, walked delegates through Project Fisk, comprising the financing of two biomethane plants in Norway based on fish-processing waste, as a case study in pushing the boundaries of project finance in the sector. The deal achieved approximately 80% gearing without an EPC wrap, using 17 separate contractual packages, a mixture of contracted and merchant offtake and a 15-year tenor with a soft-mini-perm structure tied to the longest feedstock contract.

The absence of any government subsidy was notable: 'This was purely based on an offtaker taking the green gas,' Ware said. He argued that the deal has set a new benchmark for what banks can accept in the sector, with ING and Sparebank 1 as the lending group.

Christian Cuenot, CEO of Avanca, made an impassioned case for bio-LNG in heavy road transport. He described this market as finally recovering from the damage inflicted by the post-2022 gas price spike. With diesel prices elevated and the spread between fossil gas and biomethane narrowing, transport customers are now seeing savings of over 100% of the truck purchase price over a four-year contract period.

'Two years ago, none of the transport companies were willing to consider a switch,' he said. 'Now they see a competitor taking it and they say, I'm also going to take it.' Avanca signed contracts for 40 additional filling stations the week before the congress.

The conference demonstrated that the biogas sector has the resource base, technology, investor appetite and industrial demand to scale materially. What it needs is policy stability, long-term revenue visibility and public authorities willing to treat it as the strategic energy asset it has become.

Colleagues and friends

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Ireland's biomethane sector has spent several years articulating ambition. With a national strategy in place and a 5.7 TWh target for 2030, the question is whether the industry can execute at the pace required. For Martin Schlerka, CEO and managing partner of Austrian AD specialist Biogest, the timing of the company's entry into Ireland is deliberate

Biogest targets Ireland's biomethane opportunity

'Ireland combines strong agricultural resources with a now clearly articulated national ambition for biomethane,' he says. 'The publication of the National Biomethane Strategy gives the sector much-needed direction on sustainability, demand creation and enabling policy.'

Biogest has 40 projects in the UK and more than 200 plants worldwide and Schlerka sees Ireland as a natural extension of that agricultural AD footprint, but one that required the right local partner to unlock.

That partner is Local Power, an Irish renewable energy developer with a track record of hundreds of projects across the country over the past decade. The two companies have announced a strategic partnership to advance agricultural biomethane projects across Ireland, with the Curragh Biogas plant in Carnaross, Co. Meath, as the first joint project.

The rationale for the partnership is straightforward. 'Local Power contributes on-the-ground development capability – from site identification and stakeholder engagement to navigating planning, permitting and grid processes,' Schlerka says. 'That local fluency shortens timelines, reduces execution risk and complements Biogest's technology, EPC and operations expertise.'

The facility will deployBiogest's proprietaryPowerRing

Martin Schlerka, CEO and managing partner, Biogest

What Biogest brings to Ireland on its own is significant; what it cannot replicate quickly is the kind of institutional knowledge that comes from hundreds of completed Irish projects.

The Curragh plant

Curragh Biogas is designed to produce 599 Nm^3/h of biomethane from a feedstock mix of poultry, cattle and pig slurry alongside grass, maize and rye silage. Once operational, it is expected to reduce annual emissions by an estimated 25,000 tonnes of CO_2 equivalent. The plant is described as ready-to-build, with a typical construction and commissioning window of 12 to 18 months once on-site works commence, subject to final procurement, grid scheduling and any policy-linked milestones.

The facility will deploy Biogest's proprietary PowerRing technology, which Schlerka describes as specifically engineered for the processing demands of agricultural feedstocks.

'PowerRing is designed for high process stability and efficient mixing with fibrous, variable agricultural feedstocks,' he says. 'Its geometry and flow dynamics help optimise retention time, gas yield and operational reliability.'

The technology has been deployed across the majority of Biogest's global plant portfolio and Schlerka argues its tolerance for variability is a key advantage at Curragh, where the multi-substrate mix presents meaningful operational complexity.

Managing a diverse feedstock combination of multiple slurry types alongside several silage crops requires careful control of dry matter content, fibre levels, nutrient balance and biological inhibitors. Biogest's approach combines the PowerRing digester design with process control systems and upstream logistics expertise to maintain consistent feedstock quality and stable carbon-to-nitrogen ratios. 'This integrated model is exactly why we are comfortable with Curragh's substrate portfolio,' Schlerka says.

Policy: direction without execution certainty

Schlerka is positive about the direction of Irish biomethane policy, but measured about where the sector actually stands. The national strategy exists; the targets are set. What the market now needs is implementation.

'The next step is finalising and operationalising measures like the Renewable Heat Obligation to create predictable long-term offtake, streamlining planning and environmental consenting and completing the grid connection policy to accelerate injection capacity,' he says. 'The framework exists. The sector now needs timelines, instruments and execution certainty so developers, farmers and financiers can commit capital with confidence.'

Projects of this scale require debt and lenders need visibility on revenue over a horizon long enough to service it. Without that, even technically mature, ready-to-build projects can stall. Schlerka's framing is consistent with what developers and investors across the European biomethane sector have said repeatedly: policy intent is necessary but not sufficient.

A farmer-inclusive model

A recurring theme in Biogest's positioning in Ireland is what Schlerka describes as a farmer-inclusive approach to biomethane development. This is a broader model of participation and benefit-sharing that he argues is essential to the viability of an agri-led industry.

'Farmer inclusive means farmers are central to the feedstock supply and to benefit-sharing,' he says. In practice that includes secure, long-term slurry and silage supply contracts, opportunities for co-investment or revenue participation where appropriate and the return of digestate to land as a nutrient-rich alternative to synthetic fertiliser. That last element is increasingly material: as fertiliser costs remain elevated and sustainability requirements tighten, the agronomic value of digestate is a key part of the economics for participating farms.

The model also aligns with the stated intent of Ireland's national strategy, which frames biomethane as an agri-led industry rather than an industrial energy project that happens to use agricultural waste. Whether that framing holds in practice will depend partly on how policy instruments like the RHO are structured. Specifically, whether they incentivise domestic, farm-based supply chains or simply reward the lowest-cost biomethane regardless of origin.

Scaling the pipeline

Beyond Curragh, Schlerka is deliberately circumspect about specific project numbers. Biogest and Local Power are actively assessing a broader Irish pipeline, guided by policy progress and grid readiness, with the objective of scaling a portfolio over the next three to five years in line with the 2030 target pathway.

The scale of the opportunity is not in question. Ireland's agricultural sector, with its density of livestock, the availability of slurry and silage feedstocks, the relative proximity of farms to grid infrastructure in many regions, makes it one of the more credible markets in Europe for agri-led biomethane at scale. What has historically held it back is not resource availability, but policy lag and the absence of proven delivery partnerships.

Biogest's entry, structured around a joint venture with an established local developer rather than a standalone push, suggests a measured approach to a market that has promised much and, until recently, delivered little. Whether Curragh becomes the first in a substantial Irish portfolio will depend less on Biogest's technology than on whether the policy instruments Schlerka is waiting for arrive on a timeline that keeps the pipeline moving. ●

For more information
Visit: biogest.at

> [What the market now needs is implementation]

From emergency callouts to full-scale plant delivery, ARB Biogas has become one of the UK and Ireland's most active AD engineering specialists

ARB Biogas: Building the next generation of AD infrastructure

From emergency breakdown support to full-scale plant delivery, ARB Biogas has quietly become one of the most active specialist engineering firms in the UK and Ireland anaerobic digestion sector. Since 2016, the Northern Ireland-based business has played a role in more than 180 biogas projects, spanning new-build plants, major upgrades, CHP systems, biomethane injection facilities and long-term operational support.

With major projects progressing in Scotland and Donegal, alongside investment in a new manufacturing and office facility, the company is entering its next phase of growth. Following sustained expansion across all areas of the business, 2026 is on course to be ARB's biggest year to date.

From contractor to full delivery partner

ARB's reputation has been built on practical engineering experience. While many businesses focus purely on design or supply, ARB has developed as a hands-on delivery partner – combining fabrication, mechanical and electrical installation, controls, commissioning and aftercare under one roof.

That experience has shaped a clear view of what makes AD projects succeed.

According to the company, many underperforming plants suffer from the same early mistakes: poor access for maintenance, equipment sized only for ideal conditions, limited automation, and layouts that leave no room for future expansion. In response, ARB says its own design philosophy has evolved to focus on long-term operability rather than just initial construction cost.

Plants are now being designed with easier maintenance access, stronger process monitoring, future upgrade routes and more resilient equipment selection from day one.

Major projects signal confidence

One of ARB's most significant current projects is a new plant build in Scotland – a scheme that reflects continuing confidence in renewable gas infrastructure when backed by the right feedstock and engineering model.

Alongside this, the company is delivering a major expansion project at Ballybofey, Donegal, Ireland, increasing capacity and enhancing long-term plant performance, while the Raphoe new-build development in Donegal highlights continued demand for well-structured greenfield AD projects.

Together, these projects showcase ARB's ability to deliver across civil coordination, mechanical installation, electrical integration, control systems and commissioning, while managing the realities of live construction programmes and demanding client expectations.

For the wider market, they also demonstrate that both new-build and expansion works continue to play an important role. While retrofit and repowering works are increasing across older assets, well-planned developments remain highly attractive where there is secure feedstock supply, strong energy demand and clear long-term strategy.

Growth backed by new facilities

To support expanding demand, ARB is also investing in a new manufacturing and office facility. The move represents a major milestone for the business and will significantly increase in-house production capability, project management capacity and customer support functions.

The new base strengthens fabrication of process pipework, plant components, skid systems and bespoke equipment, while providing a larger operational hub for engineering, design and administration teams.

ARB also holds almost £2 million (€2.3 million) in parts and critical spares at their facility in Northern Ireland to support the wider biogas sector, including pumps, valves, instrumentation, mixers and essential process components. This stockholding is strengthening supply and demand across the sector by improving availability of key equipment, reducing downtime for operators and creating greater confidence in responsive support when plants need it most.

For clients, that means faster delivery, improved quality control and greater confidence that key project elements can be manufactured and managed directly by ARB rather than outsourced – with the added reassurance of rapid access to critical replacement parts when required.

It also reflects a wider trend within the sector: developers and operators increasingly want delivery partners with genuine in-house capability, responsive support and dependable supply chains, rather than relying solely on outsourced providers.

Retrofit market still booming

Alongside new-build activity, ARB says retrofit and upgrade work continues to grow rapidly. Many AD plants built during earlier support schemes are now reaching the stage where owners want to modernise equipment, improve uptime and unlock new revenues.

That can include replacing obsolete mixers and pumps, upgrading CHP engines, installing advanced SCADA systems, improving gas handling equipment or converting sites toward biomethane production.

According to ARB, these projects can often deliver strong returns because planning consent, grid connections and core infrastructure are already in place. However, successful upgrades require careful integration with ageing assets and realistic shutdown planning.

Biomethane and the changing opportunity

The company also sees growing interest in gas-to-grid projects as biomethane injection continues to mature across the UK and Ireland.

While CHP remains a strong option where there is valuable on-site heat demand, more developers are exploring grid injection, renewable transport fuel and future carbon capture opportunities. With upgrading technology now more proven and markets better understood, biomethane is increasingly viewed as a long-term infrastructure investment rather than an emerging niche. ●

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As geopolitical shocks reshape energy priorities and AI drives unprecedented power demand, Drax's chief sustainability officer Ross McKenzie explains why dispatchable renewables are essential to grid resilience

How biomass delivers system stability in an uncertain energy landscape

The energy landscape has fundamentally shifted over the past five years. What began as a singular focus on decarbonisation has evolved into a more complex challenge balancing climate goals with energy security, reliability and the explosive growth in power demand from artificial intelligence and data centres.

For Ross McKenzie, chief sustainability officer at Drax Group, this transformation has reinforced a central thesis: that sustainable energy systems require more than just weather-dependent renewables to succeed.

'A resilient energy mix is one that can absorb shocks without compromising reliability, affordability or sustainability,' McKenzie explains. 'In practice, that means balancing three complementary technology groups rather than betting everything on a single approach.'

Those three pillars, according to McKenzie, are weather-dependent renewables like wind and solar; flexible, dispatchable generation including sustainable biomass; and energy storage across multiple technologies from batteries to pumped hydro.

It's a framework that positions biomass as a strategic asset for grid stability, rather than just a carbon-neutral fuel source. This perspective is gaining traction as power systems grapple with the reliability challenges of high renewable penetration.

The flexibility imperative

Wind and solar now comprise 35-40% of UK electricity generation and around 17% in the US, with further growth expected. However, their weather-dependent nature creates what McKenzie describes as 'structural challenges' during extended low-wind, low-solar periods.

'Biomass is often assessed through the lens of carbon, land-use and deforestation, and that is an important part of the picture,' he says. 'But its system value is also significant. As a firm, flexible renewable source it can generate when wind and solar cannot.'

This dispatchability distinguishes biomass from other renewable sources in crucial ways. Unlike wind turbines that idle when the wind drops or solar panels that produce nothing after sunset, biomass plants can ramp up or down on demand, operating across both baseload and peak requirements to maintain grid balance.

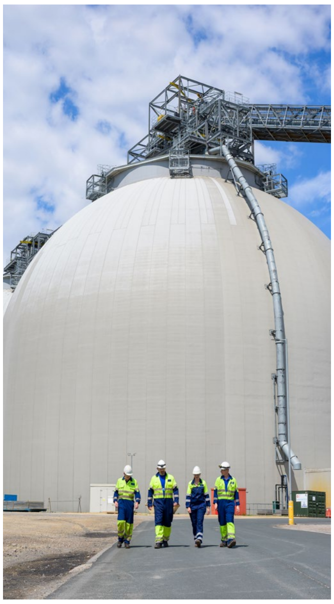
'As grids incorporate more intermittent renewables, extended low-wind and low-solar periods become a structural challenge,' McKenzie notes. 'Sustainable biomass can operate across baseload and peak demand to help keep the system balanced and secure, without adding fossil carbon to the atmosphere.'

This capability becomes increasingly valuable as renewable penetration grows. The more wind and solar capacity connects to the grid, the more critical becomes the need for flexible backup generation that can respond quickly when conditions change.

Geopolitics reshapes the conversation

'Recent geopolitical disruption and supply chain volatility have reinforced the importance of energy security and affordability alongside decarbonisation,' McKenzie continues. 'That has sharpened the focus on the risks of over-dependence on any single fuel source, and on the value of resilient, diversified systems.'

The result is a more nuanced policy conversation that recognises biomass not only for its decarbonisation potential but as what McKenzie calls 'a strategic asset that can



provide firm capacity and support system stability.'

In the UK and Europe, this translates into clearer emphasis on diversified low-carbon generation combining both intermittent and dispatchable sources. In the US, biomass discussions increasingly focus on strengthening domestic supply chains and supporting allies through energy exports.

'Overall, policymakers are prioritising systems that can absorb shocks and maintain stability and predictable costs,' McKenzie says. 'Which elevates the role of technologies that deliver both flexibility and security.'

For Drax specifically, this shift validates its North American biomass supply chain strategy. 'That diversification supports more stable fuel costs for Drax Power Station in the UK than a system reliant on more volatile international gas markets, while continuing to support sustainability objectives,' McKenzie explains.

The AI factor

The emergence of AI and data centres as major electricity consumers adds another dimension to energy planning. Hyperscale companies increasingly seek 24/7 clean power solutions to meet ambitious sustainability commitments whilst ensuring uninterrupted operations.

'Many major tech companies have set ambitious clean energy targets and are increasingly looking for firm, dispatchable generation to complement wind and solar.'

This demand profile strengthens the case for balanced generation portfolios that combine weather-dependent renewables with flexible sources and storage. Unlike traditional industrial consumers that might adjust operations based on electricity availability, data centres require constant power supply regardless of weather conditions.

'That strengthens the case for a balanced portfolio combining renewables with flexible generation and storage to deliver reliable power when the country needs it,' McKenzie notes.

System thinking

Drax's approach reflects what McKenzie describes as 'system thinking' — viewing different technologies as complementary rather than competing assets. The company operates biomass, hydro, pumped hydro storage and is investing in battery storage, seeing each technology as contributing different capabilities to overall system stability.

'Each contributes at different timescales providing firm capacity, flexibility and fast response, so the overall portfolio can balance variability, respond to demand in real time and support grid stability as intermittent renewable generation increases.'

This portfolio approach addresses what McKenzie characterises as the energy trilemma: delivering reliability, affordability and decarbonisation simultaneously rather than trading one objective against another.

'In practice, energy systems must deliver reliability, affordability and decarbonisation together,' he says. 'A resilient approach is to build a diversified portfolio of assets so the system can manage variability and remain secure, even during periods of geopolitical disruption or supply chain volatility.'

The BECCS dimension

Looking forward, McKenzie sees Bioenergy with Carbon Capture and Storage (BECCS) as potentially transformative for biomass's role in energy systems. BECCS combines renewable electricity generation with permanent carbon removal — a dual function that could position biomass at the centre of net-zero strategies.

'As net zero pathways become more defined, it is increasingly clear that carbon removals, including BECCS and other biogenic solutions, can play an important role for addressing residual emissions from hard-to-abate sectors,' he says.

The UK appears well-positioned to develop BECCS at scale, given existing biomass infrastructure and access to carbon dioxide storage capacity in the North Sea. However, McKenzie emphasises that realising this potential requires coordinated infrastructure development.

'The UK has many of the right ingredients to progress BECCS,' he says. 'Realising that potential at scale will depend on turning ambition into delivery, through CO_2 transport and storage networks, investable market frameworks and long-term policy support.'

If those enabling conditions come together, McKenzie sees BECCS moving 'from a promising option to a core part of the UK's infrastructure toolkit — supporting energy security while delivering durable carbon removals.'

Balancing act

Ultimately, McKenzie's vision for biomass reflects broader changes in how energy systems are conceived and managed. The focus has shifted from individual technologies competing for market share to integrated systems delivering multiple objectives simultaneously.

'The objective is not a trade-off, but a balanced system that delivers immediate security of supply while staying aligned with a credible long-term pathway to net-zero,' he concludes.

Images courtesy of Drax Group

For more information
Visit: drax.com