



Renewable Biomethane: *Opportunities, Challenges & Strategies for Greening the Gas Grid*

European Commission strategic outlook for energy networks includes Biogas, CNG, and LNG

The European Commission strategy for energy infrastructure priorities for 2020 and beyond is targeting CNG, LNG and biogas/biomethane to increase European energy diversity and energy security. The European Commission, in its Communication to the European Parliament, Council, and the Committee of the Regions (COM [2010]677 final) lays the groundwork for its *Energy infrastructure priorities for 2020 and beyond - A Blueprint for an integrated European energy network*. The outlook for natural gas in its diversity of forms and applications is looking brighter than ever. The Commission document says:

- “In the long run unconventional and biogas resources may contribute to reducing the EU's import dependency.”
- In the face of potential depletion of indigenous gas resources, the Commission indicates that, “Gas networks face additional flexibility requirements in the system, the need for bi-directional pipelines, enhanced storage capacities and flexible supply, including liquefied (LNG) and compressed natural gas (CNG).”

Additionally, in a late-2010 call for proposals for new research projects, the Commission recognized that, “At present, there is little biomethane injected into the grid, and there are no precise rules to determine toward which sector (electricity heating/cooling or transport) it should be counted.” The Commission will, in 2011, fund new research on this subject because, “It is of interest to look into this question for biomethane in parallel to those for electricity and hydrogen for renewable sources” with the purpose of “developing a method for calculating the contribution of biomethane injected into the natural gas grid.”

Further to this positive news about biomethane and grid injection Clean Fuels Consulting is hosting its fourth Critical Issues Workshop, “**Renewable Biomethane: Opportunities, Challenges and Strategies for Greening the Gas Grid**,” in Brussels on 16-17 February 2011. The goal is to identify the key issues facing the gas industry, governments, and entrepreneurs as to what strategies and next steps are required to expand and ultimately legitimize the adoption and use of renewable biomethane for all gas-consuming sectors, including natural gas vehicles. Four members of the European Commission will be on hand to explain more fully their strategies, plans, as well as current legislation and regulations associated with grid injection of biomethane.

The workshop provides an excellent opportunity to understand and discuss in-depth the laws and regulations, technical, and financial elements affecting the broader use of renewable biomethane, and particularly its addition into the natural gas pipeline network. As with other *Critical Issues Workshops* a strategic position paper will be prepared shortly after the conclusion of the workshop that summarizes the issues, challenges and opportunities facing the natural

gas and biomethane industries. Specific recommendations will be made to help motivate the European and worldwide market development of renewable biomethane. For more information, visit www.greeningthegasgrid.com.

Critical Issues Workshop
Renewable Biomethane:
Opportunities, Challenges & Strategies for Greening the Gas Grid
16-17 February 2011
Le Chatelain Hotel, Brussels, Belgium
www.greeningthegasgrid.com

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