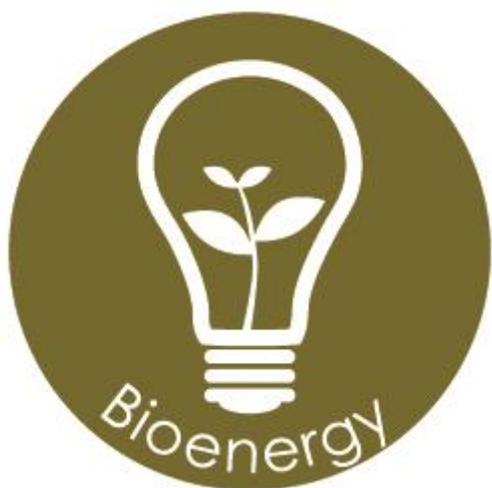


News Review



Issue Ninety-Seven

April 2020

Each month we review the latest news and select key announcements and commentary from across the bioenergy sector.

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Foreword

Welcome all, to April's Bioenergy News Review.

As the lockdown for Coronavirus is set to continue, many events have already been cancelled or postponed, which now includes the COP26 talks, which were scheduled for Glasgow in November. COP26 is the United Nations climate change conference and would have been the biggest international conference the UK has seen, solely focused on addressing climate change, but the event will now be held next year.

Electricity generation is something that we all hope will be unaffected while the nation self-isolates. Working from home still requires the computer for many! Drax are working to maintain their sustainable biomass supply, which back in February was made difficult by damage to rail tracks. GB Railfreight have been working with Drax in order to keep the trains carrying the supplies running. The market for biomass fuel at Drax, which is used in three of the eight burners there, is doing well. Last month, the largest shipment of sustainable biomass for Drax reached the UK, marking a milestone for the company and large enough to generate electricity for 1.3 million homes. This isn't the only milestone either – Drax have announced they've received their 100th cargo of sustainable biomass from its dedicated US export facility in Louisiana.

In addition to Coronavirus responses, funding to support us in achieving the target of net-zero was announced last month. The UK's 2020 Budget included a number of plans which should support the bioeconomy and bioenergy sectors. Significant aspects include the opening of a Low-Carbon Heat Support Scheme to aid investment of new installations. A Green Heat Networks scheme should also encourage the uptake of low carbon heat sources. The Domestic RHI will also be extended until the end of March 2022 and a new round of flexible tariff guarantees has been offered to support biomethane projects and bridge the gap until a new Green Gas Levy mechanism is in place for the sector

We hope you are all managing to stay safe in these difficult times and we look forward to supporting as many of you as possible with future developments in this sector so please don't hesitate to get in touch – we're continuing business as usual, albeit from home, through the current situation.

Read on for the latest news.

Policy

Food waste collection high priority



Flickr

The UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) has provided recommendations for prioritising waste collection services, listing food waste as a high priority.

According to DEFRA, it is 'non-statutory guidance' to help local authorities to maintain services during the Covid-19 pandemic.

On food waste, the government body said that where food waste is collected weekly, services should be maintained 'so far as possible' so that putrescible waste is removed frequently. The guidance states: "For mixed food and garden waste collections, these would need to continue as for food waste to prevent food and garden waste build-up.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Budget - Spring 2020 supports 'green measures'

The UK's new chancellor Rishi Sunak has presented the country's 2020 Budget that, apart from fiscal plans related to the coronavirus outbreak, includes a multi-billion package for green projects backing the UK's goal of reaching net-zero emissions by 2050.

The government will open a Low-Carbon Heat Support Scheme that will support the installation of heat pumps and biomass boilers from April 2022. This will assist households and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to invest in such technologies by taking advantage of £100 million of government funding. Additionally, a Green Heat Networks scheme will be introduced to encourage new and existing heat networks to use low-carbon heat sources, with £270 million of funding to be made available.

The Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) will be extended until 31st March 2022, with flexible tariff guarantees to be introduced under the Non-Domestic RHI in March 2021. The development of greener fuels, meanwhile, will be supported by a new Green Gas Levy.

Click [here](#) for more information.

New green jobs in Virginia on horizon

The Virginia Clean Economy Act, which requires nearly all coal-fired plants in the state to close by 2024, has been signed into law.

On 12 April, Governor Ralph Northam signed the act an amended the Clean Energy and Community Flood Preparedness Act, that requires Virginia to join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

The Virginia Clean Economy Act focuses on several key areas, such as establishing renewable portfolio standards and energy efficiency standards. The law requires new measures to promote energy efficiency and sets a timeline for closing old fossil fuel power plants.

Under the new legislation, electricity must come from 100% renewable sources, and energy companies must pay penalties for not meeting their targets. Part of the revenue generated from these penalties will fund job training and renewable energy programmes in 'historically disadvantaged communities', according to a statement by the Governor.

The Act requires major energy firms in the area to be 100% carbon-free – Dominion Energy Virginia by 2045 and Appalachian Power by 2050.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Markets

Siemens and Uniper look to Hydrogen

Uniper and Siemens Gas and Power signed a cooperation agreement for the development of projects on the decarbonisation of power generation and promoting sector coupling. It extends the long-standing partnership between the two companies. It is important to look at the energy, mobility and industry sectors together, because they all can and must contribute to reducing greenhouse gases. One focus of the planned cooperation is the production and use of "green hydrogen" - in other words, hydrogen from renewable energy sources. The companies intend to implement projects in this field together, addressing the entire value chain.

The scope of the new cooperation agreement also includes the evaluation of the potential of Uniper's existing gas turbines and gas storage facilities for the use of hydrogen. The focus of the work is to define what role can hydrogen play in the future evolution of Uniper's coal power plants. Uniper recently announced that it would close or convert its coal-fired power plants in Germany by 2025 at the latest. Uniper's coal-exit plan is instrumental to make the company achieve its objective of becoming climate neutral in its European power generation by 2035.

Click [here](#) for more information.

EIB supports agriculture and bioeconomy



Pxfuel

The European Investment Bank (EIB) has approved €700 million of financing for the agriculture and bioeconomy sector. The initiative aims to unlock around €1.6 billion of investment in these sectors by supporting private companies operating throughout the value chains of production and processing of food, bio-based materials and bioenergy.

The funding will be guaranteed by the European Union (EU) budget under the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI), which forms the financial pillar of the 'Investment Plan for Europe'. The programme will enable direct lending for private sector investments ranging from €15

million to €200 million, with the EIB loan amount ranging from €7.5 million to €50 million.

According to the EIB, targeted investments will support environmental protection and natural resource efficiency, renewable energy, innovation, competitiveness and energy efficiency. The new initiative is a continuation of the first €400 million agriculture and bioeconomy programme loan launched in 2008 and is nearly fully committed.

The first initiative generated "significant interest" in the sector, with multiple projects originated with corporate and cooperative counterparties in several EU countries, including France, Poland, Italy, Ireland and Latvia.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Uskmouth close could be delayed

Simec Atlantis Energy Ltd. announced on April 14 that the target financial close date for its Uskmouth Power Station conversion project in the U.K. may be delayed by the Covid-19 pandemic and associated ongoing workplace disruptions.

Atlantis said work programs related to the Uskmouth conversion are under review as the company adapts to the constraints imposed by the pandemic. Atlantis also noted that essential project development works are continuing in order to minimize any delay. The company plans to make further updates on the revised timelines for financial close when available.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Research & Development

Renewables in 2019



Pixabay

The renewable energy sector added 176 gigawatts (GW) of generating capacity globally in 2019, marginally lower than the (revised) 179 GW added in 2018. However, new renewable power accounted for 72% of all power expansion last year, according to new data released by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA).

IRENA's annual Renewable Capacity Statistics 2020 shows that renewables expanded by 7.6% last year with Asia dominating growth and accounting for 54 per cent of total additions. While expansion of renewables slowed last year, total renewable power growth outpaced fossil fuel growth by a factor of 2.6, continuing the dominance of renewables in power expansion first established in 2012. Solar and wind contributed 90% of total renewable capacity added in 2019.

Click [here](#) for more information.

UK greenhouse gas emission



Flickr

In 2019, total UK greenhouse gas emissions were provisionally 45.2% lower than in 1990 and 3.6% lower than 2018. These figures rely on provisional estimates of carbon dioxide emissions based on UK energy statistics. In 2019, UK net emissions of carbon dioxide were provisionally estimated to be 351.5 million tonnes (Mt), 3.9% lower than 2018 (365.7 Mt).

Carbon dioxide is the main greenhouse gas, accounting for 81% of total UK greenhouse gas emissions in 2019. The decrease in carbon dioxide emissions was driven by the continuing downward trend in emissions from power stations, with a 13.2% decrease between 2018 and 2019. This is mainly as a result of changes in the fuel mix used for electricity generation, away from coal and towards renewables.

There was also a 2.8% fall in carbon dioxide emissions from transport, which fell for the second year in a row following several years of increases. But transport remains the largest source of carbon dioxide emissions in the UK, accounting for 34% in 2019.

Click [here](#) for more information.

COP26 postponed

With no end in sight to the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic, the UN climate change talks which were due to take place in Scotland later in the year, have been postponed until next year.

The decision was announced by the advisory group to the COP26 talks, overseen by the UN climate change body, the UNFCCC, after talks involving the United Kingdom and other countries.

UNFCCC said the postponement would better enable all parties to focus on important climate issues while allowing more preparation time.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Biomass Heat and Power

GB Railfreight and Drax work to maintain supplies of biomass

Teams at GB Railfreight (GBRf) are continuing to work closely with Drax to maintain supplies of the sustainable biomass needed for the UK's largest power station to generate electricity needed by millions of homes and business during the Covid-19 crisis.

Severe storms and flooding in the area near Drax in February resulted in damage to the rail tracks. GBRf has been working closely with Drax to reschedule rail deliveries and maximise capacity on the rail link while the repairs are completed – maintaining the vital supplies of biomass needed for Drax to generate enough renewable electricity for up to four million households.

The rail planners who helped rework the timetable to accommodate the new train timings combined forces with train drivers, signal controllers, Network Rail train marshals and Drax logistics specialists to speedily restore flows of sustainable biomass to the power station.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Largest shipment for Drax



Geograph

Associated British Ports (ABP) and Drax received and unloaded the largest shipment of sustainable biomass to arrive at the Port of Immingham in the UK's Humber region last month, marking an important milestone for the port and the energy company.

The Zheng Zhi bulk carrier vessel transported 63,907 tonnes of Drax's sustainable biomass from the US port of Baton Rouge in Louisiana. The consignment supplies Drax Power Station with enough fuel to generate electricity for 1.3 million homes.

The vessel berthed at Humber International Terminal in the port of Immingham – ABP's largest terminal, on Friday March 13th.

Click [here](#) for more information.

New Belarus wood plants

Engineering company Prodesa has agreed to build two turnkey pellet plants in Belarus. The facilities will be built near the cities of Vitebsk and Polotsk, in north-east Belarus.

The plants are expected to be completed in early 2021 and deliver up to 20 tonnes per hour of industrial wood pellets. Each facility will consist of a wet line – including debarking, chipping and milling – a belt dryer, as well as the pelleting line, storage and product output.

Prodesa will be responsible for the complete design, procurement and construction of the pellet plants. The company's integrated service includes all the engineering, manufacture and purchasing processes, supervision of the build and commissioning the start-up and the training.

To support the plants' performance, Prodesa, through its operations branch Smart Operations, will establish a workshop in Belarus to provide after-sales assistance.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Biogas

Food waste to AD in Peterborough

Severn Trent Green Power has won a five-year contract with Peterborough City Council to manage the city's food waste and convert it into renewable energy.

The contract starts this week and includes responsibility for the collection, haulage and treatment of Peterborough's separately collected kerbside food waste over five years, with a possible extension of a further three years.

Peterborough's food waste will be treated at Severn Trent Green Powers North London anaerobic digestion facility in London Colney, Hertfordshire, where 50,000 tonnes of household and commercial food waste is treated each year. That's enough to generate 3MW of electricity or produce enough energy to power almost 6,000 homes. This site alone has the net carbon benefit equivalent of taking 71,000 cars off the road.

Click [here](#) for more information.

£11 million from JLEN for Scottish AD site

Environmental infrastructure investment fund JLEN has invested £11 million in an anaerobic digestion (AD) facility in Scotland.

The Peacehill Farm AD plant in Fife was commissioned in December 2015. It has a capacity of around 5MW and predominantly produces biomethane to be exported to the national gas grid. The Peacehill Farm AD facility is accredited under the Renewable Heat Incentive and Feed-in-Tariff schemes and houses a 0.25MWe CHP engine on site.

The investment marks JLEN's eighth investment in the agricultural AD sector and increases the total capacity of its renewable energy assets to 302.9MW.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Energy from Waste

London's second Cory EfW plant



Wikimedia Commons

The Planning Inspectorate has approved Cory Riverside Energy's plans for an energy from waste (EfW) plant with the capacity to process more than 800,000 tonnes per year, based in Belvedere, south east London.

The plant will mean the construction of a second large EfW facility on the south bank of the river Thames for Cory. It will be developed alongside its existing facility which has a capacity of 750,000 tonnes of residual waste per year.

Alongside the EfW plant, an anaerobic digestion facility with an annual waste throughput of up to 40,000 tonnes per annum of green and food waste is also to be constructed, "enabling infrastructure for combined heat and power".

This is thought to be significant as Greater London Authority specifically mentioned the lack of offtake of heat from the plant in its response to the consultation on the proposed facility.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Uniper enters UK EfW market

International energy company Uniper, formed in 2016 following a split from E.ON, will submit plans to Nottinghamshire county council this summer for a 500,000 tonnes per year capacity energy from waste plant.

The facility will be based at the Ratcliffe-on-Soar Power Station, known as the East Midlands Energy Re-Generation (EMERGE) Centre. Uniper says it hopes to have the plant operational by 2025. Uniper added that the plant will generate up to 49.9MW of electricity, "helping the East Midlands region meet its landfill diversion targets".

In a statement given to letsrecycle.com, a spokesperson for the company said the waste will be sourced from the Nottinghamshire region and any waste transfer stations within a two-hour drive. The facility will generate energy from non-hazardous domestic and commercial waste left over from the recycling process, Uniper says, while creating up to 600 temporary construction jobs and 45 permanent jobs on the site once operational.

The plant represents Uniper's first movement into the UK EfW market. It currently specialises in consultancy services for UK biomass plants and runs coal and gas power plants. These include seven power plants in the UK, including six natural gas plants in Willesden, North Lincolnshire, Kent, Enfield, Nottinghamshire and Flintshire. It also runs a coal powered plant in Ratcliffe. Alongside this, Uniper has facilities in Germany, Sweden, the Netherlands, Hungary and Russia.

Uniper says it will be submitting a planning application supported by an Environmental Impact Assessment in Summer 2020 to Nottinghamshire county council.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Events

Biogas Development Forum **Amsterdam, 6th July 2020**

Event rescheduled due to Covid-19 outbreak.

Meet the people developing opportunities in power generation, grid injection and transportation.

Click [here](#) for more information.

World Biogas Expo **Birmingham, 7-8th October 2020**

Event rescheduled due to Covid-19 outbreak.

The dedicated seminar theatres on the expo floor enable delegates to discuss current market and policy trends and operational issues with industry leaders from the UK and around the world. The extensive exhibition will enable delegates to view the latest AD and biogas technologies, products and services and hear global success stories. The event provides market analysis and unrivalled opportunities for delegates to meet current business partners and create new relationships.

Click [here](#) for more information.

UK Green Gas Day
Birmingham, *12th November 2020*

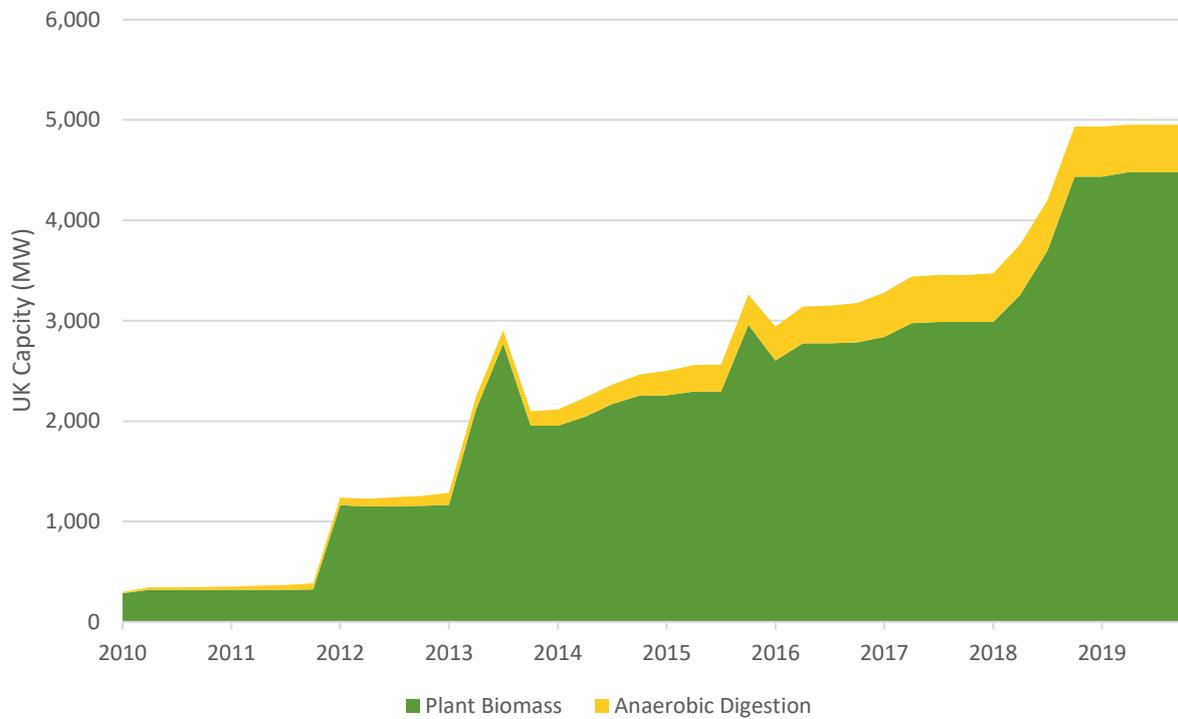
Event rescheduled due to Covid-19 outbreak.

Come to Green Gas Day to meet project developers and operators, financiers, feedstock providers, waste hauliers, technology providers and government officials. Visit exhibition stands from all of the major suppliers to the biomethane industry. If you interested in Green Gas, this is the one industry event you cannot afford to miss.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Deployed biopower capacity

Quarterly information on UK renewable electricity capacity



Click [here](#) for more information

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