

Biogas Action – Replication



The ambition of Biogas Action is to serve as a vehicle for an unbiased and rapid development of the European biogas / biomethane sector and thereby contribute to the EU 2020 targets. One of the central activities of the project is the cooperation between different policy levels at EU, national and regional level by replication in different regions in the EU

With a view to replication in other EU regions, the **Western Development Commission** and the **3 Counties Energy Agency** in Ireland were approached. This resulted in Andy Bull and Maggie Keville of Severn Wye visiting Kilkenny in April 2018 where Paddy Phelan of the 3 Counties Energy Agency hosted an initial meeting. The discussions largely revolved around the description of the biogas industry in Ireland, the history of support for renewable energy, the current discussions around the future incentivisation of biogas production and the possibility for cooperative solutions. The emphasis appeared to be focussing on gas-to-grid. The afternoon was largely taken up with a visit to an AD plant processing a number of feedstocks – but importantly, having access to gas grid sub-station, and having aspirations to move towards biomethane production and gas grid injection.



For the return replication visit in June 2018, Paddy Phelan of the Three Counties Energy Agency and Stephen McCormack of the Western Development Commission came to Hereford to meet with Andy and Maggie. Simon Burgess of the University of Chester, Will Llewelyn of Red Kite Management and James Murcott of Methanogen were invited to give presentations and to join in discussions.

After initial introductions and a brief overview by Andy, discussions commenced with Paddy giving an outline of the legislative barriers to renewable energy generation in Ireland, and in particular, the complete absence of gas to grid access. The potential for small scale on farm gas production, upgrading, compression and transportation to centralised injection plants in Ireland was discussed. This led on to the first presentation given by Simon, which gave a background to his work with CREST, the Centre for Research in Environmental Science and Technology. He then went on to talk about the use of biogas for transport and his ideas for Shropshire. Will's presentation developed this concept, when he gave the economic case for the biomethanisation of transport.

Following discussions held during the first replication visit in Ireland which looked at cost-effective solutions to the capturing of biogas from cattle slurry, James described to the group the DigestNstore being developed by Methanogen. This floating lid allows the collection of gas from slurry tanks, and could be an affordable solution for the average small scale farmer. The day ended with a visit to a farm based gas to grid plant with CO₂ liquefaction in Herefordshire with a total capacity of 1.56 MWe. The plant has a feedstock of maize, hybrid rye, chicken manure and apple pomice.

All agreed the day was very useful, with connections for potential projects, partnership working and business made.

