

# BiomethaneNews

The Biogasmax Project newsletter **may / 2007 - n°1**

The international forum for urban decision-makers



From May, 14<sup>th</sup> to May, 16<sup>th</sup>, Globalcity 3 answered some key issues, such as:

- What are the cities which made significant progress to reach the objectives of the sustainable development? How did they succeed?
- How can the best realizations in urban management be duplicated at a european level, or even worldwide?

During this event Lille Métropole Urban Community (LMUC) was present, in particular to represent its role as coordonnator of the Biogasmax project. The city of Stockholm, another Biogasmax partner, assisted LMUC by testifying of its 10 years of clean vehicles experiments. Both cities previously worked together on the use of biofuel in public transport; Trendsetter project / European Civitas program.

[www.globalcityforum.com](http://www.globalcityforum.com)



## BIOMASS-BASED METHANE: A 20% potential of the fuel needed for transportation in Europe\* !

THE EUROPEAN BIOGASMAX PROJECT CREATES A NETWORK OF BIOMETHANE-RELATED DEMONSTRATIONS ON THE EUROPEAN TERRITORY WITH THE AIM OF SHARING EXPERIENCES IN TERMS OF BEST PRACTICES IN MANAGING URBAN TRANSPORTATION AND WASTE.

Human activities, in particular transport, are partially responsible for the problems associated with the greenhouse effect, and therefore global warming. A key short-term action consists in increasing the use of alternative fuels to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

In terms of its needs for energy, the European Union is increasingly dependent on imported fossil fuel. But:

- Resources are limited,
- The demand for energy is constantly increasing,
- Oil products come from politically unstable regions,
- Oil prices are rising.

**Greenhouse gases emitted by fossil fuels through combustion contribute to climate change. This complex situation leads to significant ecological and economical risks for society.**

That's why the European Commission started a series of initiatives, including many that focus on the transport industry, which is almost fully dependent on oil. In this context, it has launched a call for projects that focus on biofuels (Biofuel Cities).

\* Origin: Wuppertal Institut



Fossil fuel combustion (petrol, diesel, kerosene, gas,...) emits more than three billion tons of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere each year.

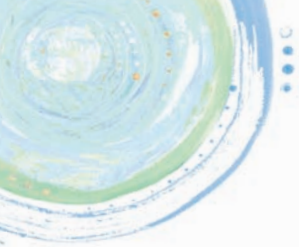
Biogas used as fuel (biomethane) can eliminate smog in the atmosphere and significantly reduces noise pollution.

The most environmentally harmful compounds (particles, non-methane hydrocarbons) are absent when biomethane is used. For example, using biomethane as a fuel in buses leads to a reduction of 95% in particles, 99% in sulfur compounds and 70% in nitrogen oxide, as compared to diesel buses.

  
**biogasmax**  
A DRIVING FORCE



[www.biogasmax.eu](http://www.biogasmax.eu)



## ...Biogasmax in brief...

The Göteborg, Lille Métropole, Torun, Zielona Gora, Stockholm and Berne regions enhance the value of their experiences and their specific experiments inside the Biogasmax project. Most of their approaches to production and use of biogas are working today at an industrial level and are integrated in the territory management. Their descriptions are available on the internet web site: [www.biogasmax.eu](http://www.biogasmax.eu)

Coming soon: Free technical result of experiments and research. Downloadable on [www.biogasmax.eu](http://www.biogasmax.eu)

## The BIOGASMAX symposium on april 3rd 2007 in Lille, France

A group of experts in the field of biogas met in Lille during the Symposium, initiated by the European Natural Gas Association (ENGVA).

The objective of this meeting, which was planned inside the framework of the Biogasmax project, was to discuss the optimal circumstances for a municipality or region to implement biomethane as an environmentally friendly fuel solution. The plenary session introduced the 3 discussion points: the various aspects of biomethane business, the lessons learned from research in the BIOGASMAX project, and the technical aspects related to the production and distribution of biomethane.

Interested participants took part in a visit to the biomethane production site of Lille Métropole Urban Community, which was implemented in Sequedin in 2007.

More information is available on: [www.Biogasmax.eu](http://www.Biogasmax.eu) site

Events to come on  
[www.biogasmax.eu](http://www.biogasmax.eu)



# THE CITY OF BERNE, capital of Switzerland, joins the European project BIOGASMAX.



THE BIOMETHANE EXPERIMENT CONDUCTED IN BERNE IS AN EXAMPLARY APPROACH OF TERRITORIAL MANAGEMENT AND HAS LED TO CONCRETE RESULTS.

**The city of Berne integrated the use of biomethane into its sustainable development plan.**

Berne is a city of 130.000 inhabitants and within the greater city area live about 300.000 inhabitants. The local government has set clear goals for a sustainable development and has decided, among others measures to exchange the old diesel buses by new gas buses, preferentially operated with biomethane. Three private companies with the city formed a consortium and joined their efforts to implement this solution.

**Actually 32 public transport buses, 70 in 2010 for an objective of 100% replacement and an opening towards light duty vehicles and taxis.**

The actual gas production of the the local waste water treatment plant (8000 litres of petrol equivalent) is used for heat and electricity production. An upgrading system, which will be delivered in 2007, shall produce enough biomethane to operate about 30 buses.

For this purpose, two different actions will be implemented:

- kitchen and restaurant waste will be fed to the digester.
- an additional digester for source separated waste might be built.

It is also considered to re-introduce the selective collection system that was initiated in the nineties.

**The participation of the city of Berne significantly contributes to the progress of the Biogasmax project**



The project brings information about follow-up and evaluation of the upgrading unit, about energy efficiency and reliability of the operation and also about conditions and operation and maintenance costs. The gas consumption will be monitored.

A system like green certificates or labels will ensure the sale and marketing of green gas. It is expected to be an efficient tool for the Biogasmax project.

Furthermore, Switzerland has a long history/proven experience of biomethane grid injection that can now be shared with the other project partners. Berne also implicates itself on the evaluation of the security of supply on the national and European levels.

**For more information on the activities of the city of Berne, see: [www.biogasmax.eu](http://www.biogasmax.eu)**

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