Green Gas Goes Global

720 biomethane production plants in operation in the world

Biomethane benefits are being recognized by a growing number of governments and biogas upgrading plants are being built around the world.

At the end of 2017, there were 720 plants in operation in the world, compared to 173 in 2010. More and more countries are adopting the biogas upgrading technology, a mature and proven technology.

Since 2010, global biomethane production has increased exponentially and reached 3 billion cubic meters (bcm) in 2017. Most of the growth has occurred in Europe, but more regions participate in the global growth.

In Europe, the use of biomethane is spreading across the continent. There are now 19 European producing countries and production totalled almost 2 bcm (19.5 TWh) in 2017.

Surging production over the period 2014-17 has propelled the US to the first rank in the world for the use of biomethane as vehicle fuel. Federal and state regulation has driven this boom.

Recent adoption of the biogas upgrading technology by China and India is a game changer. Both countries have ambitious biomethane production targets which make them emerging giant markets.

In Central and South America, Brazil is taking regulatory steps to exploit its huge potential.

Wide benefits from biomethane

Biomethane not only lends itself to becoming a strategic energy source in energy supplies in a growing number of countries, and notably in the transport sector, but it also offers a fundamental tool for waste management and the fight against climate change. It allows reducing waste, GHG emissions and local pollutants, and at the same time producing renewable energy that uses existing infrastructure and biogas upgrading, a proven mature technology. The biogas/biomethane supply chain has also positive repercussions on the economy and society at large, in particular in the agriculture sector.