

March 2026

# Bioenergy

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



**Announcements  
& Commentary**



**Research &  
Development**



Providing clients with a strategic view of feedstock, technology, policy and marketing opportunity across the bioeconomy.



## Welcome readers, to this month's Bioenergy News Review.

The UK's largest gas distribution network, Cadent surpassed 1.5 billion cubic metres of biomethane injected since 2013 - enough green gas to heat around 1.5 million homes for a year. This underscores the growing viability of anaerobic digestion (AD) as a cornerstone of energy security, particularly as calls intensify for the Prime Minister to champion British biomethane amid ongoing energy crises, emphasizing its role in reducing reliance on imports. Building on this momentum, industry experts stress the urgent need to expand AD capacity to handle rising food waste collections from new household mandates, such as 'Simpler Recycling', ensuring feedstocks like organic waste fuel more plants without overwhelming existing infrastructure.

That is why the Anaerobic Digestion and Bioresources Association's recent letter to the Prime Minister could not be timelier. With global energy markets under pressure from conflict in the Middle East, ADBA is urging the swift removal of artificial production caps and regulatory barriers that are currently holding back existing plants. Lifting those constraints could increase British biomethane output by nearly a third to around 9 TWh by next winter, replacing volatile imports and providing affordable, home-grown energy security for hundreds of thousands more households. The story of UK bioenergy is no longer one of potential; it is one of proven delivery meeting real-world demand. The next chapter depends on policy that matches the sector's ambition.

This urgency resonates globally, as the Global Renewables Alliance (GRA) launched its five-point Renewables Action Plan on March 12, 2026, urging governments to break recurring energy crises by fast-tracking permitting, modernising grids, mobilising finance, accelerating electrification, and scaling supply chains for biogas, wind, solar, hydrogen, geothermal, and storage. Energy crises have repeatedly exposed the vulnerability of fossil fuel dependent energy systems, from the oil shocks of the 1970s to the gas crisis following Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the current tensions in the Middle East. Aligning biomethane expansion with GRA's blueprint could position bioenergy as a vital bridge in this diversified renewable push, fortifying energy security.

Extending this vision to international markets, where Ukraine is emerging as a rising player in renewable gas production and export. Recent discussions, including a high-level roundtable with Ukrainian Deputy Minister Taras Vysotskyi and German representatives, highlight biomethane as a promising new frontier for energy partnership between the two nations. Leveraging its vast agricultural base, Ukraine exported over 11.2 million cubic metres of domestically produced biomethane in 2025 alone. With significant untapped potential to scale up supply to the European market, particularly Germany, which is actively seeking reliable, green alternatives to bolster its energy transition and reduce fossil fuel reliance. This cross-border collaboration exemplifies mutual gains: Ukraine secures export markets and rural economic growth, while Europe gains a diversified, low-carbon gas source amid ongoing geopolitical pressures.

Read on for the latest news

## Policy

### Govts urged to accelerate renewables shift amid renewed energy risks



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The Global Renewables Alliance (GRA) today issued a statement launching a five-point Renewables Action Plan, calling on governments to urgently accelerate renewable energy deployment in response to renewed global energy price shocks. The statement is endorsed by GRA's six member associations representing the global renewable energy industry: Global Wind Energy Council, Global Solar Council, Green Hydrogen Organisation, Long Duration Energy Storage Council, International Hydropower Association and International Geothermal Association.

The alliance warns that the latest crisis in the Middle East once again exposes the fragility of a fossil fuel dependent global energy system, urging governments to "treat the oil and gas price shocks reverberating through the world economy as a pivotal turning point and urgently accelerate the transition to renewable energy."

Renewable energy is the fastest and most cost competitive solution to long-term energy security, resilience and prosperity. Fast-tracking the deployment of wind, solar, hydro, geothermal and storage projects will protect countries from price volatility and energy market failure.

[Click here for more information](#)

### PM should back British biomethane in energy crisis

The Anaerobic Digestion and Bioresources Association (ADBA), representing the UK biogas industry, has today written to Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer urging him to lift barriers to home-grown biomethane production to shield the country from the impacts of the Iran energy crisis.

The letter, also shared with Energy Secretary of State Ed Milliband and DESNZ Ministers Lord Whitehead and Michael Shanks), sets out how the UK government could increase its production of biomethane by almost a third by next Winter just by removing regulatory barriers. This would ensure that Britain reduces its reliance on imports to meet its domestic energy demand. According to ADBA, the sector alone could replace the entire volume of gas imported from Qatar in 2024.

Former Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, Chris Huhne, now Chair of ADBA, says: "As the war in Iran and the Middle East continues to place pressure on global energy markets, the UK faces the prospect of devastating gas prices, potential disruption to international supply and a blow to the economic recovery."

"The British biogas sector can and should help shield the country from this crisis, but government action is needed to remove the production caps and regulatory barriers that currently artificially constrain output."

[Click here for more information.](#)

### "Unharmonised EU legislation holding back crop-based biogas and biomass potential"

A lack of coordination between EU energy and agricultural legislation is creating market distortions that undermine the climate benefits of crop-based biogas substrates, according to partners in the Accel AgroBiogas project.

The issue was highlighted at a recent online policy workshop bringing together expertise from across the biogas value chain to discuss barriers and opportunities for integrating sequential crops, crop residues, and ley grass into sustainable biogas production.

Key themes included the ongoing revision of the EU's Renewable Energy Directive and the recently updated EU Bioeconomy Strategy.

Central to the discussion was the absence of standardised carbon accounting methods in EU legislation. Under the current regulatory framework, verifying improvements in soil carbon content is highly problematic, with field measurements described as often difficult, costly or practically impossible to carry out.

[Click here for more information.](#)

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## Contribution of biogases to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

Biogas is already a significant contributor to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and plays a crucial role in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Often upgraded to biomethane, biogas shares the same physical properties and heating value as natural gas, enabling it to directly replace fossil fuels in sectors such as electricity generation, transportation, and industrial processes.

Biogas can enhance agricultural productivity by improving crop yields while replacing fossil-based alternatives. In rural communities, it can transform women's roles in society, promote gender equality, and strengthen water management systems by increasing resilience and reducing water stress...

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## Markets

### Ukrainian biomethane could become a new area of energy partnership with Germany



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Exports of Ukrainian biomethane to Germany could become one of the most promising areas of energy cooperation between the two countries. This was discussed during the roundtable "Biomethane Exports to Germany: Target Market Segments and Open Issues," which brought together Deputy Minister of Economy, Environment and Agriculture of Ukraine Taras Vysotskyi, representatives of the governments of Ukraine and Germany, energy market experts, and international organizations.

According to the Deputy Minister, Ukraine has significant potential to become one of the key suppliers of biomethane to the European market. This potential is based on the country's strong agricultural sector, which provides raw materials for biomethane production from agricultural waste and by-products. The issue is not only about developing a new energy sector but also about creating added value for agriculture, attracting investment, and opening new opportunities for rural areas.

[Click here for more information.](#)

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## Biogas

### Company appeal Tipperary County Council planning permission refusal

The decision by Tipperary County Council to refuse planning permission for a bio-methane plant near Holycross has been appealed to An Coimisiún Pleanála.

Roadstone's plan to transform the Killough quarry site sparked strong resistance from the community, with 217 people submitting their concerns to the council.

The company explained that its oxygen-free waste-processing machine could reduce pollution and lower the plant's environmental footprint.

[Click here for more information.](#)

### Biomethane developers file 38 applications for new or expanded UK plants in first cost sharing assessment window

Thirty-eight applications have been lodged to build new or expand existing UK biomethane plants, representing one of the most substantial surges yet in new UK capacity of this renewable energy. Cadent, the UK's largest gas distribution network, is now assessing these applications against its new 'clustering' approach.

The applications span Cadent's UK area of operations, with 17 in the East of England, 13 in East Midlands, five in West Midlands and three in the North West.

This is the first set of projects to come forward under Cadent's Ofgem-supported cost-sharing model, designed to reduce financial barriers by enabling developers in constrained areas to cluster and share reinforcement costs.

[Click here for more information.](#)

### RNG Coalition: 2025 Yielded Record-High Annual Facility Growth for RNG

RNG COALITION today highlights data indicating the North American RNG industry achieved historic growth in 2025, with 130 new operational facilities added to the North American RNG portfolio. This marks a second consecutive annual record-high for facility growth, after a then-record 114 facilities were added in 2024.

Strong results in the sector have come despite considerable uncertainty in the macro energy economy, as RNG's bipartisan appeal and straightforward economic benefits continue to outweigh the impacts of policy uncertainty and financial headwinds.

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### Biomethane injection into gas grid passes 1.5bn cubic metres milestone

The biomethane sector has reached a major milestone after more than 1.5 billion cubic metres of renewable gas were injected into Cadent's pipeline network since 2013.

Cadent, the UK's largest gas distribution network, said the volume delivered so far is equivalent to heating around 1.5 million homes for a year, or every household in Leicestershire for five years.

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## Anaerobic digestion capacity must expand as food waste collections increase



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Experts are warning that the UK must urgently invest in anaerobic digestion capacity as food waste volumes continue to rise.

Around 36 million tonnes of organic waste are currently sent to anaerobic digestion plants each year. The amount is expected to grow further as weekly household food waste collections are introduced across England.

The increase follows the rollout of Defra's Simpler Recycling reforms for businesses with ten or more employees. Since March last year, these organisations have been required to separate dry recyclables and arrange separate food waste collections.

[Click here for more information](#)

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## Green Gas industry body launches manifesto to support sector ahead of Scottish Parliamentary Elections

At its Scottish Conference in Edinburgh yesterday, the Anaerobic Digestion and Bioresources Association (ADBA) presented its Green Gas Manifesto designed to steer Scotland's future policy towards reaping the benefits of investing into biogas technology in the country.

Entitled 'Powering Prosperity: Scotland's Biogas Opportunity', the manifesto highlights how anaerobic digestion (AD) and biogas are uniquely positioned among renewable technologies to:

- provide dispatchable, controllable energy that supports grid stability and energy security,
- deliver one of the highest carbon savings ratio of any low carbon technology available,
- enable deep decarbonisation of hard-to-electrify heat, transport and industry sectors,
- produce a biofertiliser – digestate – that restores soil health, reduces fertiliser imports and cuts emissions from agriculture, and,
- support economic growth and job creation.

[Click here for more information](#).

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## Time to turn your food waste into clean energy – Collections starting in City of Lincoln, North Kesteven and West Lindsey

The first food waste collection for households in North Kesteven, City of Lincoln and West Lindsey are under two weeks away, and residents are being encouraged to start using their food waste caddies.

Collections begin week commencing 30 March 2026.

Households are being encouraged to start filling their kitchen caddies one week before their first scheduled collection with any unwanted or inedible food waste, before transferring the contents into their outdoor caddy ready for collection day.

[Click here for more information](#).

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## Energy from Waste

### Capacity at Lincolnshire energy-generating waste site to increase after plans approved

Members of Lincolnshire County Council's planning and regulation committee approved the proposal to increase the capacity at the Lincolnshire Energy Waste Facility, Paving Way, North Hykeham by 20,000 tonnes – from 170,000 tonnes to 190,000 tonnes per year.

Councillors heard that the additional capacity is expected to generate an extra 12,000 megawatt hours of energy per year – enough to power between 3,000 and 4,000 homes per year.

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### SIVALOR renews its trust in SUEZ to make its Energy-from-Waste plant a European benchmark in environmental, energy and industrial performance

SIVALOR brings together three urban communities (Pays de Gex, Haut Bugey and Annemasse Les Voirons), six intermunicipal communities (Terre Valserhône, Genevois, Usses et Rhône, Pays Rochois, Vallée Verte, Arve et Salève), and 146 municipalities in Ain and Haute-Savoie departments. Its mission is to recover energy from household waste across a territory of more than 434,000 inhabitants and to raise public awareness about more responsible waste management.

[Click here for more information.](#)

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## Biomass

### Drax launches new Biomass Tracker to boost transparency across biomass supply chain

Drax has today launched its Biomass Tracker, a new digital tool that provides greater visibility into the journey our woody biomass takes through the company's global supply chain.

The interactive tool shows the countries and states where Drax sources its biomass, the types of fibre used in Drax's own woody biomass, how it is transported, and the carbon associated with each stage of its journey to Drax Power Station or to third-party customers. It also includes data on independent sustainability certifications, helping to strengthen accountability across the sector.

[Click here for more information.](#)

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### Direct Storage of Biomass Coalition Launches to Advance Carbon Removal Pathway

The Carbon Business Council announced the launch of the Direct Storage of Biomass (DSB) Coalition, a new industry working group bringing together leading companies to advance understanding, credibility, and responsible deployment of direct biomass storage as a carbon dioxide removal (CDR) pathway.

Direct storage of biomass (DSB), also referred to as terrestrial storage of biomass, involves durably storing organic material such as waste wood from forests, agricultural residues like corn stover, biochar, or other plant and biological matter. Storing these organic residues allow the carbon previously absorbed by the biomass to be durably locked out of the active carbon cycle. The biomass can be safely buried, stored deep underground in sealed reservoirs, wells or other containers. When designed and governed effectively, DSB can deliver durable atmospheric carbon removal while leveraging existing forestry, agricultural, and biomass-handling infrastructure.

[Click here for more information.](#)

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## Carbon Capture

### Peak District carbon capture plans hit opposition

Residents are campaigning against plans for a major £28.6m de-carbonisation project in the Peak District.

The proposed Peak Cluster project will capture harmful carbon dioxide from three cement and lime plants and transfer it by pipeline to a storage facility under the Irish Sea.

Campaigners have said they want to stop the plans because they are worried about the damage that will be done when the pipe is built between the Peak District and the north west coast.

But Peak Cluster has said it will work with experts to minimise the environmental impact and when operational, the project will prevent three million tonnes of carbon dioxide going into the atmosphere every year.

[Click here for more information.](#)

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### Saipem and Capsol partner on industrial-scale CO2 capture solutions

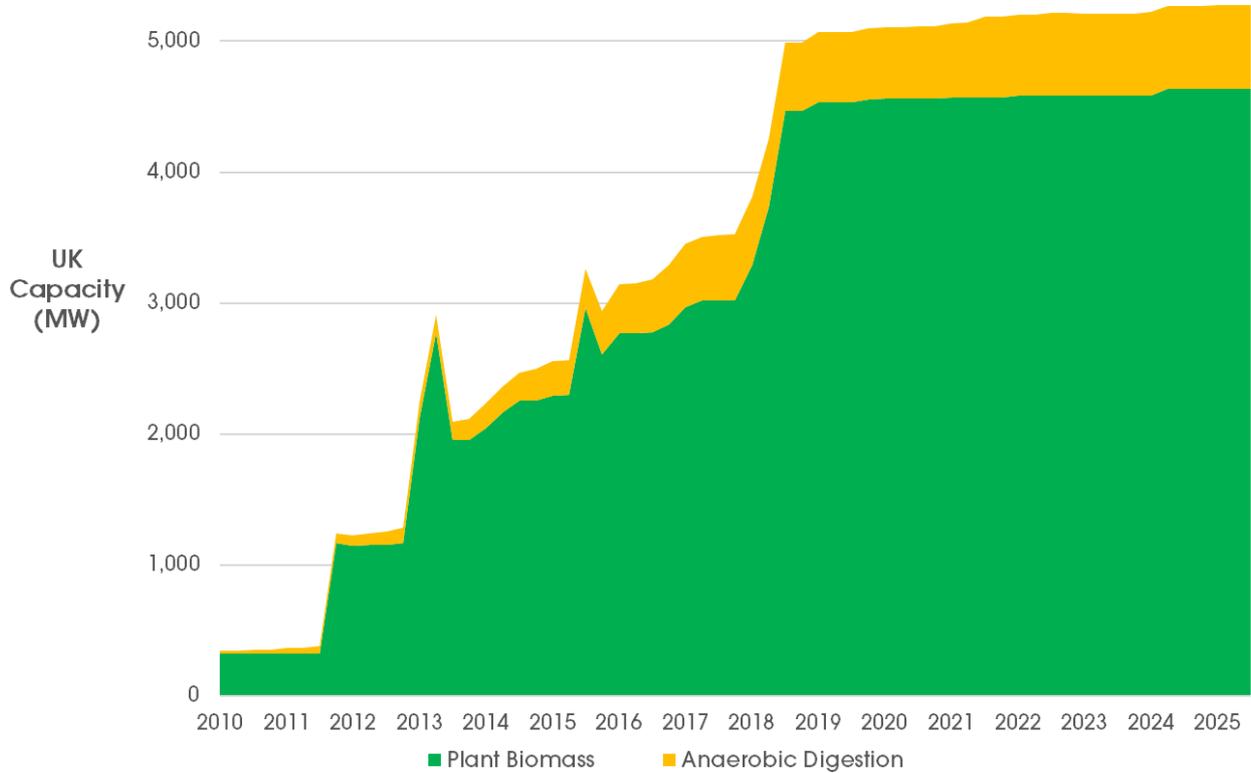
Capsol Technologies ASA is a carbon capture technology provider with a goal of accelerating the transition to a net zero future. The technology combines inherent heat recovery and generation in a stand-alone unit based on a proven and safe solvent. Capsol's technology is licensed either directly to customers or through industrial partners globally. Key segments include cement, biomass, energy-from-waste and gas turbines. Capsol Technologies is listed on Euronext Oslo Børs (ticker: CAPSL).

[Click here for more information.](#)

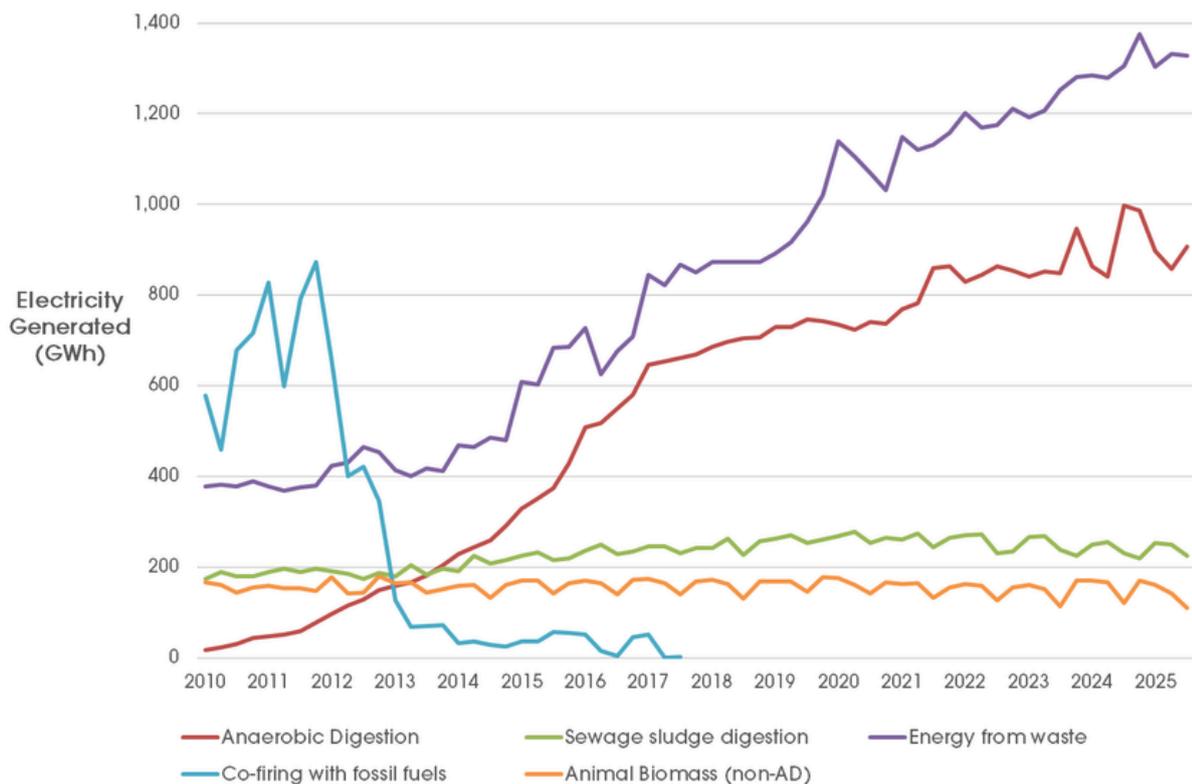
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## Deployed biopower capacity

Quarterly information on installed electricity generation capacity from plant biomass and AD (Office for National Statistics)



Quarterly information on UK renewable electricity generated from various bioenergy resources (Office for National Statistics)



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