

The Rt Hon Jacob Rees-Mogg MP
Secretary of State
Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
1 Victoria St Westminster
London SW1H 0ET

6 September 2022

Dear Secretary of State,

I am writing to you to congratulate you on your appointment at this challenging time, and to propose a potential solution that can curb the consumer cost of the gas crisis. Biogas derived from organic wastes can provide a substantial alternative to gas imports while also generating revenue for the Treasury that could be used to alleviate consumer bills.

Biogas also has the advantage over other renewables of being a despatchable power source – available even when the wind does not blow and the sun does not shine. The existing 700 plants can produce more with the right help, and new plants can be built in two years (or even more quickly with government help). Yet the British Energy Security Strategy published in April failed even to mention biogas or biomethane.

More biogas is as an essential response to the Russian gas crisis, as many of our neighbours are proposing. The EU plans to double biogas output to meet 9% of last year's gas demand. By contrast, in the UK, current government plans would meet less than 1% of our 2021 consumption. The key steps to help are these:

- Accelerate the implementation of the mandate on separate food waste collections across the UK and its transfer to anaerobic digestion to be transformed into biogas and biomethane.
- Support the rapid deployment of biogas and biomethane infrastructure across the UK by applying the same support that turbo-charged wind and solar (contracts for difference) and which would at present gas prices lead to a windfall for the Treasury
- Reduce unnecessary red tape on biogas producers, including time-consuming and onerous planning processes, to enable sharp short-term increases in biogas output.

In addition to the advantages for energy security, biogas also helps us decarbonise. If the organic wastes used to make biogas and biomethane are not managed, they release the potent greenhouse gas methane and cause human health issues. When recycled through anaerobic digestion (AD), these emissions are captured and the organic 'wastes' turned into valuable 'bioresources': a storable, flexible green gas (biogas), bio-CO₂, a rich-in-nutrient bio-fertiliser (digestate). Fully deployed, the AD and biogas industry could also reduce annual greenhouse gas emissions by 6%

I would welcome an early meeting with you to discuss these issues in more detail, and would also be happy to arrange a visit to a biogas plant.

With best wishes

Chris

Chris Huhne
Chair

THE ENERGY BEHIND THE AD REVOLUTION

ANAEROBIC DIGESTION AND BIORESOURCES ASSOCIATION LTD. Sustainable Workspaces, Third Floor, Riverside Building, County Hall, Westminster Bridge Road, London, SE1 7PB

T: (+44)02031760503 **E:** enquiries@adbioresources.org **W:** www.adbioresources.org **Follow us on Twitter:** @adbioresources