



WORKING FOR YOU

ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT

JULY 2023 – JULY 2024



FOREWORD FROM ADBA CHAIR



The last year brought important wins for the AD and biogas industry in the UK. While the International Energy Agency (IEA)'s World Energy Outlook increased growth projections for the biogas industry to a range of 8% to 22% per year until 2030, following the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the total installed biogas capacity in the UK grew by 17.3%.

The UK sector's impressive growth, towards the top end of the IEA's range, means that we are on track to overtake the nuclear sector in terms of energy output during the 2030s. Moreover, biomethane can be easily stored, providing a "big green battery" to back up energy use in the winter when there is no solar at peak hours, and sometimes little wind either.

Most importantly, wins on policy hold out the hope of greater growth in the coming years. The long-awaited publication of the Government response to the consultation on *Consistency in Recycling in England* confirmed new requirements for local authorities in England to provide weekly food waste collections for households and businesses by end of March 2026 and March 2025 respectively. Adding to the reasons for optimism, Government reiterated AD is the preferred recycling technology for food waste. ADBA has stepped up its engagement with Local Authorities to ensure the new stream of food waste comes online as quickly as possible to address feedstocks competition.

The extension of the Green Gas Support Scheme (GGSS) to 31st March 2028 allayed industry's concerns of a hiatus between the GGSS and post-GGSS support, but we continue to press for support without artificial end dates which hamper investment. In addition, the publication of the critical call for evidence on the *Future Policy Framework for Biomethane Production* signalled that Government has taken on board ADBA's calls for a more holistic approach to support mechanisms to grow the sector.

Ahead of the general election, ADBA met with key Labour figures, such as Kerry McCarthy, now minister at the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) and Daniel Zeichner, now minister at Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra). We presented ADBA's 10-point Roadmap, which calls for targeted Government support



to address current barriers to growth and details how AD can address issues ranging from energy security and clean waterways to achieving net zero and providing diversified income streams for farmers. Ultimately, the roadmap calls for a new target of a 1,000 new biogas plants across the UK, including in rural and deprived areas, by 2030. We have requested follow up meetings with the newly appointed ministers and sent letters to all new Secretaries of State, Ministers of State and Junior Ministers of all AD's key departments: DESNZ, Defra and Department for Transport (DfT).

We need the new Government to demonstrate greater ambition for the sector than the previous administration to ensure we do not lag behind the biogas market in the EU. In the EU, biogas grew by 37% last year following the European Commission's ambitious target to achieve a ten-fold increase in production by 2030. In engaging with the new Government, we will focus on both quick wins and more ambitious policy asks to secure renewed momentum for the UK sector. We will also aim to create a narrative for the key role of biogas in a net zero world as an always available dispatchable resource, most needed when power demand is high (for example winter evenings) but intermittent output from wind and solar is low or negligible. The message is simple: there is no net zero without biogas.

Chris Huhne, ADBA Chair

ADBA Regularly Engages With

- DESNZ (quarterly)
- His Majesty's Treasury
- Defra
- DAERA
- Department for Transport
- Ofgem (quarterly)
- Ofwat
- Environment Agency
- Health & Safety Executive
- Climate Change Committee
- Network Customer Forum
- Biowaste Regulatory Forum
- Regulated Business Forum
- WRAP
- AD Quality Protocol Group



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Member Enquiries Addressed

Covering regulation, subsidies, CHPs, plant optimisation, insurance, finance, health and safety, feedstock, digestate, innovation, business development for selling products, plant development, and more.



TECHNICAL SUPPORT



400+



Operator Engagements

- We answered over 400 technical enquiries, offering **technical guidance and support**.
- We were in regular first-hand communications with stakeholders such as regulatory bodies the **Health and Safety Executive** and **Environment Agency** to ensure the most effective contact and technical updates are available to members.
- ADBA issued **Operational Guidance Notes** on compliance topics to assist the progress and growth of the sector and provide members with the correct guidance to protect their business. We also issued **Biogenic CO₂ from AD**, ADBA's 4th Biogas Insight.



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Government Consultations ADBA Engaged in

- Non-Pipeline Transport and Cross-Border CO₂ Networks
- Integrating Greenhouse Gas Removals in the UK Emissions Trading Scheme
- Developing Biomethane Production in Northern Ireland
- Green Gas Support Scheme: Annual Tariff Review 2024
- Scottish Draft Bioenergy Policy Statement
- Future Policy Framework for Biomethane Production
- Circular Economy and Waste Route Map to 2030
- Consultation on Exemptions and Statutory Guidance for Simpler Recycling in England
- Call for Evidence on Infrastructure for Zero-emission Heavy Goods Vehicles and Coaches

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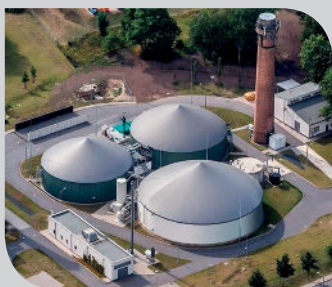


**ANAEROBIC
DIGESTION
CERTIFICATION
SCHEME**



ADCS Certified Plants

- Granville Ecopark
- Malaby Biogas
- Holsworthy Biogas
- Bishops Cleeve
- Horseway Energy
- Rotherdale Farm
- Energen Biogas
- Emerald Biogas
- Barkip Biogas



The ADCS Certification scheme has been revised and updated to better support the industry, considering best practices and available technologies globally. The scheme now has 11 modules with a dedicated module to Biomethane and Life Cycle Assessment. The scheme is now available to different sectors related to the biogas industry, such as industrial and municipal organic waste, wastewater treatment, agricultural plants and others. ADBA's Operational Guide Notes will support operators to achieve the Scheme. The ADCS has a new audit mechanism to enable participation for all Biogas Plants in the UK on a flightpath to full accreditation.

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ADBA Training and Learning & Development Sessions

- **Temperatures and Biology** (14 May 2024)
- **Plant Optimisation** (2 May 2024)
- **Biogas, Biomethane and Grid Injection** (16 April 2024)
- **Health & Safety Essentials for AD** (20 March 2024)
- **Biogas, Biomethane and Grid Injection** (14 March 2024)
- **Biogas, Biomethane and Grid Injection** (20 February 2024)
- **Electrical Safety Awareness** (23 January 2024)
- **DSEAR** (5 December 2023)
- **Electrical Panel Entry** (23 November 2023)
- **Electrical Safety** (16 November 2023)
- **Health & Safety** (26 October 2023)
- **Clamp Management and Compliance** (17 October 2023)
- **Biogas, Biomethane and Grid Injection** (26 September 2023)
- **COMAH and Permitting** (11 July 2023)
- **Digestate Upgrading** (11 July 2023)

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Government / Political Stakeholder Engagements

- In October 2023, ADBA attended the **Labour Party Conference** and the **Green Party Conference** to form new connections for the biogas sector ahead of the General Election
- In December 2023, ADBA unveiled **ADBA's 10-point roadmap** at the ADBA National Conference. The roadmap covers 10 critical steps that the UK Government should undertake with the objective of building 1,000 new biogas plants across the UK, including in rural and deprived areas, by 2030.
- At the National Conference, ADBA also launched its **AD Interactive Election Map** detailing the location and capacity of every AD Plant in the UK and colour-coded constituencies according to how likely they were to 'swing' at the election. The map supported our lobbying in the run-up to the election and will be invaluable in securing site visits for the newly elected MPs
- In March 2024, Chris Huhne, ADBA Chair, spoke at **Low Carbon Agriculture Show** to highlight the potential of AD to decarbonise agriculture
- In March 2024, Flávio Ascenco, ADBA Technical Support Manager, spoke at the **National Food Waste Conference** about AD as the optimal technology to recycle unavoidable food waste
- Ahead of General Election, ADBA engaged early with key Labour figures, such as **Kerry McCarthy**, Shadow Minister for Climate, **Daniel Zeichner**, Shadow Minister for Farming, and **Ruth Jones**, Shadow Minister for Waste, to highlight the sector's potential. In meetings with Kerry McCarthy and Daniel Zeichner, Chris Huhne, ADBA's Chair, and Giulia Ceccarelli, Head of External Affairs, presented ADBA's 10-point roadmap. These meetings were essential to secure support from the new Government and its decision-makers.
- Giulia Ceccarelli, Head of External Affairs, spoke about biogas' key role to diversify energy supply in the Scottish Highlands at the Energy Summit organised by Highland MSP **Edward Mountain** in Strathpeffer, Scotland on 7 June
- ADBA worked with BioteCH4 on hosting a site visit for the then Labour General Election candidate for Gainsborough **Jess McGuire** at BioteCH4's Hemswell plant on 11th June. Head of External Affairs Giulia Ceccarelli introduced the biogas industry to Jess and what it can do for the UK.
- ADBA has congratulated and requested meetings with all the new Secretary of States and Ministers of key Government department (DESNZ, Defra, DfT)



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ADBA Stakeholder Working Groups

- **Carbon Intensity of Biogas** – developing a methodology to boost the value of biogas in the voluntary and compulsory carbon markets
- **Food Waste** – developing the industry response to the roll out of separate food waste collections and how to reduce plastic contamination
- **Small On-farm AD** – To develop a core set of policy asks to remove the barriers to the uptake of small on-farm AD
- **Sustainable Bioenergy Crops** – developing a universally accepted definition and updating guidance
- **Wastewater** – To create an open dialogue between water companies and the wider AD industry as Ofwat seeks to develop the sector

ADBA Networking Events



- The 14th annual trade show hosted by ADBA (latterly in collaboration with the World Biogas Association (WBA), and co-located World Biogas Summit) took place at the NEC, Birmingham on 10-11 July. With a focus on delivery, the **World Biogas Expo 2024** attracted over 3,000 registered delegates, 150 exhibitors and 60 expert speakers.
- The flagship event included sessions in the **Engine Room Theatre**, dedicated to AD plant optimisation and innovation and new markets for outputs, a **Farmers Breakfast** and **Local Authorities Lunch**.
- ADBA's bi-yearly **Members Meetings** were hosted at **Ashfords LLP** (Autumn) in Bristol and **Cranfield University** (Spring), Bedford, attracting 83 and 98 members and stakeholders respectively. The invitation only **Finance Forums** were both hosted in London, at **Osbornes LLP** and the UK HQ of global consultancy **GHD**.
- The **ADBA Northern Ireland Conference** was staged at the **ICC Belfast** on 7 September 2023, attracting 200 delegates and 20 exhibitors. The **ADBA Scotland Conference** was held at the **P&J Arena, Aberdeen**, on 23 May 2024, attracting 150 delegates and 11 exhibitors. The **ADBA National Conference** at **One Great George Street, London**, on 6 December 2023 attracted over 250 stakeholders and 11 exhibitors.



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Third-party Events ADBA Participated in

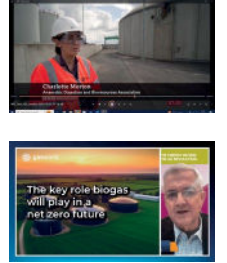
- **Net Zero Week 2024** (6 July)
- **Low Carbon Agriculture Show 2024** (6 March 2024)
- **Decarbonising Transport Week** (4-8 March 2024)
- **Bio360 – Nantes, France** (24-25 January 2024)
- **Energy Security & Green Infrastructure Week 2023** (6-10 November 2023)
- **ECOMONDO The Green Technology Expo** (7 November 2023)
- **Green Infrastructure Week 2023** (6 November 2023)
- **RWM/Let's Recycle Live** (13 September 2023)
- **Net Zero Week 2023** (9 July 2024)

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Articles Generated by ADBA Activity Across the Media

ADBA Chief Executive being interviewed on BBC Breakfast, filmed at BioCapital's Dagenham plant; letters published in *Daily Telegraph* and *Independent*; and ADBA Chair Chris Huhne appearing as a resident guest on **gasworld's** energy podcasts.



Keynote Speakers at ADBA Events Have Included:

Lord Callanan, Under-Secretary of State at DESNZ, Minister for Energy Efficiency and Green Finance (Nat Con); **Gillian Martin MSP**, Minister for Climate Action, Scottish Government, **Maurice Golden MSP**, Convener, Cross-Party Group on Circular Economy, the Scottish Parliament (Scot Con); **Jonathan McFerran**, Deputy Director of Green Growth and Climate Action Delivery, Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA), Northern Ireland Executive (NI Con); and **George Eustice**, former Secretary of State at Defra (Expo).

2,520

Subscribers To ADBA's Weekly Member-Only E-Newsletter

Up by ~10% year on year, the publication is the go-to source for updates and expert advice on policy and regulation, lobbying and campaigning and calls to participate in consultations. It provides members and industry news and updates on all ADBA activities, as well as opportunities to place job and other advertising.

FORTHCOMING DIARY DATES



- **ADBA Northern Ireland Conference 2024**
4 September
- **ADBA Autumn Members' Meeting 2024**
University of Bath, October
- **ADBA National Conference**
11 December, One Great George Street

Training

- **ADBA Biomethane Grid Injection with Iain Ward**
17 September
- **ADBA Training Feedstock** (half day) – 14 November

NB: ADBA's full programme of training and learning & development days will be released imminently.

AD & Bioresources News

The next edition of the ADBA magazine will be published on 29 September.

UK Outlets That Covered ADBA News Include:



KEEP IN TOUCH



If you'd like to speak to us about your membership, contact **Mark Galbraith** (Business Development Director at ADBA) mark.galbraith@adbioresources.org +44 (0) 20 3176 4415 or **Nigel Joseph** (Memberships, Commercial & Marketing at ADBA) nigel.joseph@adbioresources.org +44 (0) 20 4518 8952



Anaerobic Digestion and Bioresources Association

THE ENERGY BEHIND THE AD REVOLUTION

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