

**09:00 – 09:30 Coffee & Registration**

**09:30 – 09:45 Welcome & Introduction to ADBA National Conference 2024**

- **Chris Huhne**, Chair, ADBA
- **Charlotte Morton OBE**, Chief Executive, ADBA

**09:45 – 10:15 Turning the Page: A New Vision for AD**

With the election of a new government seeking to deliver clean power by 2030 and a number of other priorities aligned with AD, this marks an incredible opportunity for the sector to work in partnership to realise shared priorities.

In this session, ADBA will outline the case for the AD sector. We will unequivocally resolve any question mark on the ‘why’ for our industry – the only proven dispatchable technology, that can be injected straight into the gas grid. AD is the most obvious transitional technology between an economy built on fossil fuels to one built on hydrogen. AD is the technology that has the potential to deliver a 6% reduction in UK GHG emissions by 2030 and has already delivered over 1% reduction. AD is the technology which will deliver 50% of the UK’s contribution to the Global Methane Pledge, also, by 2030.

We will state the economic rationale and what is the expected market potential, how it can also help the government to deliver green economic growth, its carbon budgets and enhance its levelling-up agenda in creating jobs in disadvantaged, and often rural, communities.

- **Charlotte Morton OBE**, Chief Executive, ADBA
- **Gareth Mottram**, Policy Lead, ADBA

**10:15 – 10:30 Slido / AUDIENCE-LED DISCUSSION: What is the one thing that biogas can do (as part of the future energy mix)**

The future is bright. The future is biogas. But what does that future fuelled by biogas look like? While the role of biogas in the short to medium term is clear, what can, should and might the UK do with its enormous biogas potential as we progress through the 2030s and beyond?

Led and facilitated by **Chris Huhne, Chairman, ADBA**

**10:30 – 11:00 KEYNOTE ADDRESS: Labour Green New Deal – Role for AD and Biogas**

The UK’s new “Mission-Led” Labour Government has already had 100 days in office, but it intends to deliver clean energy by reforming the planning system to speed up grid connection times and decarbonizing the electricity grid by 2030.

Particularly as the new government envisages a big role for hydrogen in the future and have spoken of reforming the planning system to speed-up permitting and grid connection across the whole of

the renewables sphere, in this session, we will hear what the government's vision for the role of biogas in its decade of national renewal to rebuild Britain and deliver net zero is.

Senior representative, **government**

### **11:00 – 11:30 Networking and Refreshments**

### **11:30 – 12:30 Net Zero Critical Infrastructure (I): The Future of the Gas Grid**

Following the NIC's recommendation to decommission the gas grid by 2050, what are the new government's plans for the gas grid and what role does it play in the UK's net zero transition and beyond?

- **James Earl**, Chief Executive, Future Energy Networks
- **Nic Crowe**, Development and Government Affairs Director, Grissan Renewable Energy

### **12:30 – 13:30 Lunch**

## **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

### **13:30 – 14:15 Breakout A: Options for Saving Legacy CHP AD Plants**

SOFAD plants and CHPs, which do not inject directly into the gas grid, do not qualify for the current GGSS support scheme. There is still uncertainty about what will happen with the RFTO scheme beyond 2031. With the ROCs or Feed-in Tariff support due to start coming to an end for a number of these sites, there is a lack of clarity of the fate of these plants – whether they will be decommissioned or not and what happens to the feedstock if they are?

In short, there is a very real prospect that a sizable proportion of the current AD industry just disappears between the end of the 2020s and early 2030s without some thought about what the next steps are both within the industry and within government.

Conversely, if provisions are put in place to stop these plants, it will ease the new Government's mission to decarbonise the power sector 5 years earlier than was previously anticipated.

In this important breakout discussion, we will discuss this existential issue further.

- Chair: **Gareth Mottram**, Policy Lead, ADBA

### **13:30 – 14:15 Breakout B: Workshop - "Tell Ed": Biogas can save you from GHGs!**

"Are you Sid?"..."Boy have I got a message for you..."

This was the immortal monologue to the 1986 'Tell Sid' campaign encouraging people to buy shares in the newly privatized British Gas.

Fast-forward to 2024, and we need to "Tell Ed" [Miliband] that AD has outstanding potential for GHG savings, but this is not always taken into consideration. In terms of rewards for using, and incentives and subsidies for the sector.

Where an LCA is undertaken, it can provide a holistic picture and also illuminates the carbon capture (BECCS) potential that the industry has, and this is very easy to do with biomethane plants.

In this session, we will outline the GHG reductions that are possible with AD and best practice for demonstrating this through a robust LCA approach.

- Facilitated by **Flávio Ascenco**, Senior Technical Lead, ADBA & Andrew Brown, SLR Consulting

### **13:30 – 14:15 Breakout C: New Technology & Innovation in the AD Sector**

New technology and innovation are the essence of our industry. In this session, we will showcase some of the newest cutting-edge technology in the UK market.

- **Dr. Thomas Fudge**, CEO & Founder, WASE

### **Changeover – 15 minutes**

### **14:30 – 15:15 Breakout A: How to effectively run an AD plant**

As the AD industry in the UK grows, it is of crucial importance that individual AD plants exhibit exemplary health, safety and environmental performance – and are recognised for doing so.

In this one-stop shop and alongside some expert guests, ADBA's Technical Services Manager provides a masterclass in how to increase the resilience, optimize the performance and manage the environmental impacts of your AD plant.

This session will also include information on implications of changes to biomethane certificates.

- **Flávio Ascenco**, Senior Technical Lead, ADBA

### **14:30 – 15:15 Breakout B: PANEL: Food Waste: Getting it Right**

As England prepares to roll-out 'Simpler Recycling', it is important to minimise harmful GHG emissions and in promotion of the circular economy that it makes the most of the implementation of this change in policy to set the tone, entrench a culture of food waste recycling in England and re-assert the Waste Hierarchy.

In this session we ask how this might re-invigorate the waste sector in England, and what this might look like under a new Labour government at Westminster? We will also discuss some of the implications for local authorities as they prepare to roll this out in their own jurisdictions and also for the wider AD and agriculture sectors.

- **Cindy Gardener**, Assistant Director (Waste and Street Cleansing), Richmond and Wandsworth Councils & London Regional Representative, LARAC
- **Mark Richmond**, Technical Director, WRM

### **14:30 – 15:15 Breakout C: PANEL DISCUSSION: Post-Election – What does it mean for green gas in the UK?**

This exclusive high-level panel will focus on analysing the address we have heard from [the minister/permanent secretary, etc] in the morning and ultimately what the new government's election may mean for the AD sector in the UK up until 2030 and beyond.

- Chair: **Chris Huhne**, Chair, ADBA

## **15:15– 15:45 Networking & Refreshments**

### **15:45 – 16:30 Net Zero Critical Infrastructure (II): Delivering Rural Economic & Environmental Resilience through AD**

In December 2023, the Environmental Audit Committee urged DEFRA to make food security a central tenant for the use of England's land in its long-anticipated Land Use Framework (LUF) – the largest single piece of policy work in the department this year.

DEFRA said that the LUF would "ensure we meet our net zero and biodiversity targets, and help our farmers adapt to a changing climate, whilst continuing to produce high quality, affordable produce that supports a healthier diet".

With a valorised biofertiliser produced from AD, this is key to delivering both food security and mitigating the impact of nutrient overload on the UK's waterways and soil and thereby also reducing atmospheric pollution.

In this session, we will address firstly why biofertilizer (digestate) arguably represents the biggest risk (and opportunity) to the industry, but we will also outline and discuss how AD can help decarbonize farming operations while also enhancing incomes, delivering food security, protecting the environment and shoring up the rural economy.

- **Dr Jonathan Scurlock**, Chief Adviser Renewable Energy and Climate Change, NFU

### **16:30 – 17:00 Closing Keynote: Clean Energy Mission? Code Name: Mission Biogas.**

In the opening keynote address, we heard about the 'what', the 'when' and the 'why' of the new Government's approach in relation to AD and biogas, we will now hear about the 'how' the new government intends to deliver clean energy by 2030 and what the role for biogas might be.

### **17:00 – 17:30 Making the Case: Outline of ADBA Policy Asks & Closing Remarks**

- **Chris Huhne**, Chair, ADBA