



# ACTIVITY AND IMPACT REPORT

**DELIVERING GROWTH, INFLUENCE AND  
INVESTMENT FOR THE BIOGAS SECTOR**

JULY 2025 – JULY 2026

[adbioresources.org](http://adbioresources.org)

## FOREWORD FROM THE ADBA CHAIR



Stepping back to look at our progress as a sector over the last year, there are several big wins and some outstanding questions that need to be resolved – and quickly. The wins included the extension of the Green

Gas Support Scheme by a further two years, announced by Minister of State Lord Alan Whitehead at the ADBA national conference in December. It was an important down payment from policymakers after a long period when investors were beginning to feel frustrated. This extension was the starting gun for several projects to sign up with Ofgem to such an extent that the budget was officially exhausted in June. So, our first big challenge is to get the budget envelope expanded as soon as possible so that the growth in the sector can continue.

I am optimistic that we are making real progress with policymakers precisely because of the strength of our arguments. The National Energy Systems Operator (NESO) is crucial, as NESO projections are the building blocks of all the work done by Ofgem and DESNZ. In the last year, NESO produced its first annual Future Energy Scenarios that separately modelled biomethane, showing the benefits of having a storable, dispatchable resource in meeting both demand peaks on dark and cold winter evenings and backing up when solar and wind are not producing. The only NESO scenario that meets net zero required a big increase in biomethane.

Moreover, NESO has yet to account for another major advantage of biomethane that became increasingly evident over the past year, thanks in part to ADBA's report published in December. Namely, producing biomethane from raw biogas is the most cost-effective way to separate biogenic carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). This CO<sub>2</sub> stream is inexpensive to capture because it is far more concentrated than the CO<sub>2</sub> found in flue gases or the atmosphere. Our ADBA modelling showed that a big expansion of biomethane would double negative emissions as this CO<sub>2</sub> stream could be captured and stored, and that also leads to big savings in the energy transition as hard to replace technologies can continue. Once you take both the system benefits and the CO<sub>2</sub> capture into account, the cost of electricity produced from biomethane is cheaper than either solar or wind despite their dramatic cost reductions.

There is another big shift: biomethane is crucial for energy security as the closure of the Strait of Hormuz showed. Europe has replaced one unreliable gas supplier – Russia – with another one – the USA. So, the focus will increasingly be on what we can generate at home. ADBA produced a plan showing how rapidly we could ramp up output and create British jobs. Indeed, we need to get going if we are not to

be left in the dust by countries like France where the sector is growing by more than 20 per cent a year. In Denmark, biomethane is meeting more than 40 per cent of gas grid demand. Biomethane is a substantial solution with the potential to produce 120TWh in Britain and create a sector that would exceed the output of planned nuclear energy.

Biomethane therefore appeals both to those who care passionately about climate change and net zero, and to those who see that European countries have no independence without energy security and sovereignty. That is a big breakthrough, and ADBA quite rightly maintains contacts across the political spectrum from the Greens through Reform and all points in between (including the Welsh and Scottish Nationalists). Add the benefits to jobs and local growth and you have an increasingly compelling offering whatever the political colour of your spectacles.

There is another development worth tracking closely, which is the seemingly inexhaustible demand for power for data centres. This has been turbocharged by AI, where datacentres are needed near population centres to provide the computing power for new AI uses. But it is not confined to AI: data centres were growing at an underlying 20 per cent a year because of business-to-business demand regardless of AI, and that continues. Yet the long lead times for electricity grid connections – fifteen years and counting sometimes – mean that microgrids where electricity generation is powered by gas are increasingly attractive. And developers are aware – both in the USA and here – that power solutions must be proofed against a change of political regime: biomethane can step up as a drop-in fossil gas substitute. Moreover, biomethane powered microgrids are cheaper in Britain than buying grid electricity (even if you could get a connection).

Challenges remain as our outstanding ADBA policy and public affairs team is addressing: I mentioned the GGSS budget, but we also are still waiting for the UK to recognise biomethane as a renewable under the Emissions Trading Scheme, and policymakers are also flunking the need for incentives to convert and continue old CHP plants that are reaching the end of their support. Our arguments, though, are strong and we have increasingly powerful allies: the gas networks ably marshalled by the Green Gas Task Force and their trade body Future Energy Networks are bringing important firepower to the debate, as is the influential trade union GMB. As we wait for yet another British prime minister and government to bed down, prolonging yet more uncertainty, I am nevertheless optimistic because of the strength of our technology and our opportunity.

**Chris Huhne, ADBA Chair**

## POLICY & ADVOCACY: SHAPING THE MESSAGE

Over the past 12 months, ADBA has strengthened the sector's position at the heart of UK energy and food security and industrial decarbonisation policy. Through sustained engagement with ministers, regulators, parliamentarians and industry stakeholders, ADBA has secured significant policy progress while continuing to champion the long-term growth of biogas and biomethane.



## LANDMARK PUBLICATIONS



At the 2025 National Conference, ADBA launched **The World's Cheapest Cleaner**, demonstrating that biomethane production coupled with carbon capture represents the UK's lowest-cost greenhouse gas removal pathway, dramatically cutting the cost of the transition to net zero for all industrial sectors.

The report found carbon removals from biogas upgrading can be delivered for approximately £54–123 per tonne of CO<sub>2</sub> and meet 17–22% of projected UK greenhouse gas removal demand by 2050. Deployment can begin immediately using proven technologies without requiring significant further innovation.

### The Green Gas Manifesto

ADBA published its **Scottish Election Manifesto**, distributed pre- and post-election to most prospective and all newly elected MSPs respectively. This set out a framework for Scotland to capitalise on its biogas opportunity.



The publication of the UK Government's **Clean Flexibility Roadmap** in 2025 marked a significant policy milestone for the biomethane sector by formally recognising biomethane as a contributor to a flexible, low-carbon electricity system.

Through industry strategies, regulatory submissions and collaborative initiatives, network companies highlighted biomethane's ability to decarbonise the existing gas network, improve energy security and provide a cost-effective source of renewable gas using established infrastructure.

### Establishing Biomethane as Critical Energy Infrastructure

The publication in 2024 of ADBA's **The Role of Green Gas in Delivering Net Zero** and ongoing engagement with key infrastructure groups resulted in **biomethane being recognised as critical energy infrastructure**.



NESO revised its **Future Energy Scenarios** report of 2024 in July 2025 to recognise biomethane as a critical and cost-effective component of the UK's future energy system.

The report identified that at least **64TWh of biomethane will be required by 2050** and that the only pathway

meeting both Clean Power 2030 and Nationally Determined Contribution commitments was the scenario deploying the highest levels of biomethane.



## MINISTERIAL & GOVERNMENT ENGAGEMENT

ADBA maintained regular engagement with ministers and senior officials across the UK and devolved administrations. Highlights included:

- Multiple meetings with Energy Minister **Lord Alan Whitehead**. (1)
- Ongoing participation in **DESNZ** discussions on future biomethane policy and ETS reform.
- Engagement with **Toby Perkins MP** (2), Chair of the Environmental Audit Select Committee
- Meetings with **Ofgem, NESO, DEFRA, DESNZ, DBT** and **Scottish Government**.
- A roundtable dinner with **Lord Whitehead, UK gas networks** and major biomethane developers.
- Securing commitments relating to planning reform and recognition of biomethane as critical national infrastructure.

### Site Visits and Parliamentary Outreach

ADBA organised and facilitated numerous ministerial and parliamentary site visits, including:

- Northern Ireland Economy Minister **Dr Caoimhe Archibald**'s visit to Stream BioEnergy's Tully Biogas Plant (3).
- Scotland Cabinet Secretary for Climate Action and Energy, **Gillian Martin MSP** (6) visit to BrewDog's Ellon biogas plant, Aberdeen.
- Chair of the UK Environmental Audit Committee **Toby Perkins MP** visit to Puragen Engineering in his constituency of Chesterfield.
- MP for Lowestoft **Jess Asato** (4) visit to Ellough AD plant in Beccles, East Suffolk.
- Opposition Assistant Whip (Commons) and Conservative MP for Gordon and Buchan **Harriet Cross** (5) visit to Sinclair Agricultural & Recycling Services on-farm AD plant in Ellon, Aberdeen.

### Parliamentary Evidence

ADBA Chair **Chris Huhne** (7) gave evidence to the Environmental Audit Committee's inquiry into the Seventh Carbon Budget, ensuring the sector's contribution to decarbonisation was represented at the highest level of parliamentary scrutiny.



## ADBA REGULARLY ENGAGES WITH...

- DESNZ (quarterly) • His Majesty's Treasury • DEFRA • DAERA • Department for Transport
- Department for Economy (Northern Ireland) • Scottish Government's Energy and Climate Change Directorate
- Ofgem (quarterly) • Ofwat • National Energy System Operator (NESO) • Environment Agency (quarterly)
- Health & Safety Executive • Climate Change Committee • Network Customer Forum • Biowaste Regulatory Forum
- Regulated Business Forum • WRAP • AD Quality Protocol Group • NFU • Scottish Whisky Association • Cadent Gas
- Wales & West Utilities • SGN • Northern Gas Networks • Renewable Energies Association
- Renewable Transport Fuel Association • Future Energy Networks
- Universities, including Cranfield, Harper Adams, Imperial College, Teesside and Coventry

## 24 POLICY CONSULTATION RESPONSES

- Voluntary Carbon and Nature Markets: Raising Integrity (DESNZ)
- Biodiversity Net-Gain for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (DEFRA)
- The Northern Ireland Nutrient Action Plan 2025-2029
- Modernising Environmental Permitting for Industry (DEFRA)
- Development of a Code of Practice for Household Recycling in Scotland (Scottish Government stakeholder survey)
- RHI (Closure of Non-Domestic Scheme) Bill (Northern Ireland)
- Changes to Inflation Indexation in the Renewables Obligation Scheme (DESNZ)
- Changes to Inflation Indexation in the Feed-in-Tariff Scheme (DESNZ)
- Environment Agency Charge Proposals for Decarbonisation Readiness
- Call for Evidence: Non-Waste Anaerobic Digestion over 100 tonnes per day: Permit technical requirements (SEPA)
- Draft Circular Economy Strategy (Scottish Government)
- Changes to Energy Infrastructure Planning Application Fees (DESNZ)
- Exploring the Role of Alternative Clean Heating Solutions (DESNZ)
- Gas System in Transition Security of Supply (DESNZ)
- Common Biomass Sustainability Framework (DESNZ)
- National Planning Policy Framework: Proposed Reforms and Other Changes to the Planning System (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government)
- SAF Mandate: Crop-Derived Sustainable Aviation Fuel (DfT)
- New HGV CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions Regulatory Framework for the UK (DfT)
- Consultation on the Regulatory Framework for Sludge Applied to Agriculture (DEFRA)
- Green Paper Shaping the Future of Water Governance in Wales (Welsh Government)
- Carbon Capture, Usage and Storage (CCUS): Non-pipeline Transport (DESNZ)
- Rethinking Our Resources: Northern Ireland Resources and Waste Management Strategy (DAERA)
- UK Emissions Trading Scheme: Regulating Cross-Boundary CCS Pipelines (DESNZ)
- UK Fertilisers Regulatory Reform (DEFRA)

## CAMPAIGNING FOR SECTOR GROWTH

### Securing the Future of the Green Gas Support Scheme

One of ADBA's most significant achievements of the past year was securing government commitment to extend the Green Gas Support Scheme (GGSS) commissioning deadline by two years, to 31 March 2030.

The announcement was made by Energy Minister Lord Alan Whitehead at the ADBA National Conference in December 2025 and provides vital policy certainty for investors, developers and the wider supply chain.

*With demand outstripping available support, ADBA is calling for the GGSS pot to be enlarged.*

### The UK ETS Campaign

ADBA led the sector's flagship campaign to correct the UK Emissions Trading Scheme anomaly that currently treats grid-injected biomethane as fossil gas.



An open letter to Secretary of State Ed Miliband, co-authored by ADBA Chair **Chris Huhne** and Chief Executive **Charlotte Morton OBE**, secured support from more than 90 organisations across the biogas sector,

including all UK and Northern Ireland gas distribution networks and the GMB union.

The campaign highlighted that failure to resolve the issue could place approximately £8 billion of private sector investment at risk.

Following the intervention:

- DESNZ confirmed ongoing work with the UK ETS Authority.
- Government acknowledged biomethane as a practical and cost-effective decarbonisation solution.
- A future consultation on biomethane policy and market support was confirmed.

### Ongoing campaigns

ADBA continues to represent members' interests on several critical issues, including:

- Digestate regulation and market development.
- The impending CHP support "cliff edge".
- Simpler Recycling implementation and food waste collection reforms.
- Fertiliser policy and agricultural resilience.
- Energy security concerns arising from geopolitical instability and global gas market disruption.

## TECHNICAL SUPPORT & TRAINING

# 465

### OPERATOR ENGAGEMENTS

ADBA's technical team answered 465 enquiries, offering technical guidance and support to operator and developer members. The team is 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.

## OPERATOR TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

- **Biomethane Grid Injection** (x4 across the year)
- **LDAR and Methane Slippage Compliance and Awareness**
- **DSEAR**
- **Feedstock** (x3 across the year)
- **Fundamentals of Project Finance** (x2 across the year)
- **Health & Safety Awareness in AD** (x2 across the year)
- **Electrical Awareness Training**
- **COMAH Understanding and Awareness**

## SUPPORTING BEST PRACTICE

### The Anaerobic Digestion Certification Scheme

(ADCS UK) is the industry's benchmark for operational excellence, recognising plants that demonstrate efficiency, professionalism and best practice. Certification helps operators improve performance, optimise plant operations and enhance commercial returns.

Updated annually to reflect the latest industry developments, regulatory requirements and emerging best practice, the Scheme now comprises 11 modules, including a dedicated Biomethane module and new Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) guidance and methodology.

ADCS is designed for the full range of UK biogas facilities, including agricultural, food waste, industrial, municipal and wastewater treatment plants. Supported by ADBA's Operational Guide Notes and a new staged audit process, the Scheme enables operators to progress towards full accreditation at a pace that suits their business.

***An independent analysis of ADCS-certified plants showed they consistently outperformed comparable non-certified plants, with increased output and returns that more than offset the cost of certification.***

Find out more: [www.adcertificationscheme.co.uk](http://www.adcertificationscheme.co.uk) or  
contact Thibaut Raharofalimanana at  
[thibaut.raharofalimanana@adbioresources.org](mailto:thibaut.raharofalimanana@adbioresources.org)



### 8 ADCS Certified Plants

- Biocapital Granville Ecopark • Biocapital Energen Biogas
- Biocapital Barkip Biogas • Biocapital Emerald Biogas
- Biocapital Earnside Energy • Biocapital East London Biogas
- Vale Green Energy Rotherdale
- Vale Green Energy Springhill



## AMPLIFYING THE MESSAGE

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### MEDIA ARTICLES

#### Influencing national policy and government debate

ADBA's advocacy generated significant coverage around key policy interventions, including the **GHG Protocol** consultation, **Gas Security during the Iran crisis**, and letters to Prime Minister **Keir Starmer**, Secretary of State at Defra **Emma Reynolds** and Secretary of State at DESNZ **Ed Miliband**, ensuring the sector's priorities featured prominently in discussions on energy security, biofertilisers and decarbonisation. These campaigns achieved some of the year's largest media reach, with the GHG Protocol announcement alone potentially reaching **133 million** people.

#### Positioning biogas as a solution to the energy crisis

ADBA rapidly responded to international events by promoting biomethane as part of the UK's energy security solution. This included widespread media coverage of its **Gas Security** campaign, with a high-profile **GasWorld** podcast featuring Chris Huhne and letters from the ADBA Chair published in **the Guardian** and **FT** reinforcing ADBA's role as a trusted industry commentator.



#### Driving engagement through major reports and campaigns

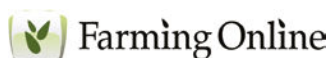
Research-led campaigns generated strong media interest, including the **World's Cheapest Cleaner Report**, while policy announcements such as the **Green Gas Support Scheme (GGSS) extension** reinforced the sector's importance in delivering net zero.

#### Raising the profile of the sector through events and site visits

High-profile site visits, including **Gillian Martin's visit to BrewDog's AD plant** and **Toby Perkins' visit to Puragen**, together with sustained promotion of **ADBA's Scottish and Northern Ireland Conferences** and annual **National Conference**, demonstrated the real-world value of anaerobic digestion and secured a lot of coverage in local and regional media alongside national trade press.



### UK OUTLETS THAT COVERED ADBA NEWS INCLUDE:



## EVENTS: NETWORKING & KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

### Bringing the Sector Together

Throughout 2025–26, ADBA events connected policymakers, operators, technology providers and investors, helping to shape the future of the biogas sector.

## THE WORLD BIOGAS EXPO 2026 THE WORLD BIOGAS SUMMIT 2026 8-9 JULY, NEC Birmingham, UK

Organised by **ADBA** WORLD BIOGAS ASSOCIATION

The World Biogas Expo - held in collaboration with the World Biogas Association and co-located World Biogas Summit at the NEC, Birmingham on 8-9 July - continued to strengthen its position as the world's leading trade event for anaerobic digestion and biogas, attracting:

- **3,300+ delegates**
- **86 countries represented**
- **150 exhibitors**
- **90+ expert speakers**
- **100,000+ website visits ahead of the event**

*"This Expo is essential for all businesses involved in biogas and its associated technologies."*

**Tim Christie, SIAD Group**



*"The World Biogas Expo is the best event in the industry for all things AD and Biogas related."*

**Laura Grimwade, Omex**

### Strengthening the UK Industry

Across our UK conference programme, ADBA welcomed **over 600 delegates** to national and regional events, providing practical insight, policy updates and networking opportunities tailored to local priorities.

## ADBA | NATIONAL CONFERENCE | 10 DEC 2025 LONDON

|                  |                 |                   |
|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| <b>Delegates</b> | <b>Speakers</b> | <b>Exhibitors</b> |
| <b>260</b>       | <b>55</b>       | <b>15</b>         |

## ADBA | NORTHERN IRELAND CONFERENCE | 23 SEP 2025 BELFAST

|                  |                 |                   |
|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| <b>Delegates</b> | <b>Speakers</b> | <b>Exhibitors</b> |
| <b>181</b>       | <b>12</b>       | <b>22</b>         |

## ADBA | SCOTTISH CONFERENCE | 4 MARCH 2026 EDINBURGH

|                  |                 |                   |
|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| <b>Delegates</b> | <b>Speakers</b> | <b>Exhibitors</b> |
| <b>161</b>       | <b>12</b>       | <b>12</b>         |

Delegate feedback highlighted the value of these events in keeping the sector informed, connected and prepared for future opportunities.

*"This is the place to get the inside track on what's happening in the industry."*

**SGS**

*"Very insightful and open engagement made for a worthwhile investment in attending."*

**Eliquo Hydrok**

### Engaging Our Members

Our biannual Members' Meetings continued to provide a forum for direct engagement, networking and discussion of emerging policy and industry issues.

- **Autumn 2025 – Alltech, Stamford: 45 members**
- **Spring 2026 – Agrii, Essex: 42 members**

These meetings ensure members remain closely connected to ADBA's policy work while sharing operational experience and best practice.

The Autumn and Spring invitation only Finance Forums were both hosted in the City of London.

## FORTHCOMING DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

 **ADBA** | **NORTHERN IRELAND CONFERENCE** | 22 SEP 2026  
BELFAST

 **ADBA**

**Autumn Members Meeting**, hosted by **EMS**, **13 October, 2026**

 **ADBA**

**Autum Finance Forum**, hosted by **Osborne Clarke**, **20 October, 2026**

 **ADBA** | **NATIONAL CONFERENCE** | 10 DEC 2026  
LONDON

**THE WORLD BIOGAS EXPO 2027**  
Hosted by  
 **ADBA**  **WORLD BIOGAS ASSOCIATION** **30 JUNE - 1 JULY | NEC | BIRMINGHAM, UK**

## **ADBA TRAINING & LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

**LDAR and Methane Slippage Compliance and Awareness**, **1 September 2026**

**Plant Optimisation**, **8 September 2026**

**Electrical Safety Awareness**, **10 September 2026**

**DSEAR**, **16 September 2026**

**Biomethane Grid Injection**, **30 September 2026**

**DSEAR**, **7 October 2026**

**Competency Management System**, **11 November 2026**

**+ More to be announced For further information and registration,**

**visit [adbioresources.org/events/#training](https://adbioresources.org/events/#training)**

## KEEP IN TOUCH

If you would like to speak to us about your membership, drop a line to [membership@adbioresources.org](mailto:membership@adbioresources.org)

If you have a policy or technical query, drop a line to [polycysupport@adbioresources.org](mailto:polycysupport@adbioresources.org)

Or call +44 (0) 20 3176 4415



Anaerobic Digestion and  
Bioresources Association

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THE AD REVOLUTION**

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