

Press release September 2019

Agri biogas and AD focus for Energy and Rural Business Show 2019.

Opportunity to reduce carbon emissions and boost farm incomes.

Opportunities for farmers in Anaerobic Digestion (AD) and biogas will be outlined at the Energy and Rural Business show Ireland, in Kilkenny on 23 October. Expert speakers and businesses will showcase practical ways that farmers can make additional income and benefit the environment by supplying medium to large scale AD plants or commissioning their own facilities.

PJ McCarthy , Chairman of the Renewable Gas Forum Ireland (RGFI) and Seán Finan CEO of the Irish Bioenergy Association (IrBEA), are among the speakers who will outline plans to deploy up to 25 medium to large scale biogas plants by 2030.

“Farmers have an opportunity to diversify income, improve soil conditioning on their farms, reduce carbon emissions and boost biodiversity by getting involved in the AD and biogas sector,” says PJ McCarthy, Chairman of the Renewable Gas Forum Ireland (RGFI).

“The RGFI focus is to develop an indigenous, sustainable and scale able renewable gas industry in Ireland. We are advocating at national and EU level for appropriate market conditions to meet our objective – which is to ensure that by 2030 Ireland meets up to 20% of all its energy needs from renewable gas , biomethane and bioLPG.

The new Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) reforms see AD as a means of achieving the decarbonisation of farming and to improve water, air, and soil quality as well as biodiversity . AD has been widely adopted in Europe -specifically the UK, France, Germany and Scandinavia as well as in the US where Governments are supporting industry and agriculture to develop this sector. There are 600 AD plants in the UK and nearly 9000 in Germany, which are typically operated by farmers, and utilise rotation, catch crops and additional crops like grass, maize, beet, and manure into a green gas constituting of roughly 50% methane and 50% CO2 .

Energy and Rural Business Show

While biomethane is not yet supported by Irish Government policy, Ireland is considered the EU member state with potential to have the highest biogas production in Europe. RGFI is committed to achieving Government support for a scalable biomethane economy in Ireland “, said Mr McCarthy.

Among the real opportunities for farmers the RGFI Chairman outlined are :

- A scalable AD sector will reduce GHG emissions associated with farming and contribute significantly to decarbonizing agriculture and meeting our carbon reduction target of 30% by 2030.
- AD can provide additional income to farmers by providing an alternative outlet for grass and farm residues, complimenting existing farm practices.
- It closes the loop on the previously linear processes around nutrient recycling challenges in a sustainable and circular manner – offering improved soil conditions from the use of biofertilizer

The show is free to attend and tickets can be booked today at <http://www.energyandruralbusiness.co.uk/welcome-ireland>.

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Notes to editor

Energy & Rural Business Show Ireland comes from the creators of Energy Now Expo Ireland which will celebrate three years of success in October 2019.

The event takes place at the Hub at Cillin Hill, Kilkenny on 23 and 24 October 2019 takes place on and has two major areas to explore: ‘Energy Now Expo’ and ‘Rural Business Expo’. It’s the show for forward thinking farmers looking to maximise the potential of their land in a sustainable way and will showcase opportunities for farms of the future.

RGFI

RGFI is a not for profit industry forum representing all sectors of the renewable gas industry from producers through to end users. Its members include processors (Dairygold Co-op) and large energy users (including Danone, Diageo, and Wyeth Nutritionals) as well as Gas Networks Ireland and Calor.

RGFI is certified by the EU to provide renewable gas certification and trading market arrangements

Energy and Rural Business Show

More details on biogas opportunities visit <https://www.irbea.org/farmbiogas/>

Website: <http://www.energyandruralbusiness.co.uk/welcome-ireland>

Twitter handle: [@EnergyRuralBizz](https://twitter.com/EnergyRuralBizz)

Facebook page: [@energyruralbusinessshow](https://www.facebook.com/energyruralbusinessshow)