

Promotion of biogas in Västra Götaland, Sweden Site visit for the LoCaRe project, 29th to 30th November 2011.

LoCaRe and Region Västra Götaland have the pleasure to invite you to a study visit on the topic of “Promotion of biogas”. We will take you on a “grand tour” of Västra Götaland, starting in our second largest city, Borås, moving on to Falköping in the agricultural heart of our region and finishing in the bustling City of Göteborg, the transport hub of Sweden.

Background

Region Västra Götaland has adopted a three year programme, “Biogas West”, in which biogas stakeholders in Västra Götaland are offered a platform for their exchange of experiences, knowledge and collaboration to promote production and use of biogas (bio methane). In this way Biogas West shall contribute to strengthening Västra Götaland as one of the country's leading biogas regions.

There is a strong political will in Västra Götaland to invest in biogas as a “climate smart” vehicle fuel. Biogas is a renewable fuel, which can solve waste problems and simultaneously contribute to a secure provision of energy as well as independence from fossil energy. Biogas development is also expected to increase local and regional employment, as Swedish industry and technology exports will benefit.

The planning objective of Biogas West is 2.4 terawatt hours (TWh) produced and used biogas in Västra Götaland by the year 2020. An active process is important for increasing the production of biogas by municipalities and farmers.

Biogas as vehicle fuel

The use of biogas as vehicle fuel is a priority in the programme, as the transport sector is where there is greatest need to find renewable alternatives. When biogas replaces petrol and diesel as vehicle fuel, it has the largest climate and environmental benefit.

Coordination of vehicle procurement by local and regional authorities as well as public transport run on biogas are measures which accelerate the attainment of objectives. The share of buses running on vehicle gas is increasing. In some municipalities local buses already run on 100 per cent locally produced biogas. From 2001 to 2010 the number of gas vehicles in Västra Götaland increased from approximately 800 to 8 500, the number of filling stations from 7 to 49.

Rural development

Not only has the climate benefited from biogas development. Investments in production, distribution and utilization create job opportunities regionally and locally. There is extensive agriculture in Västra Götaland and large access to substrates (raw material for biogas). At municipal level the biogas development contributes to the prosperity of rural areas. Job opportunities are created both for vehicle manufacturers, energy companies, farmers, engineers and researchers.

The Biogas West programme board is open for all biogas stakeholders in Västra Götaland who want to participate and contribute to fulfilment of the programme's objectives.

The chain of biogas development



- Researchers & scientists
- Producers of raw material
- Producers of bio methane
- Those who upgrade biogas to vehicle fuel
- Those who supply the filling stations
- Those who manufacture the gas cars