

## ADBA Exhibition and UK Dissemination Seminar



Andy Bull of SWEA and Michael Butterfield of Llangattock Green Valleys delivered a seminar at the ADBA Exhibition held at the National Exhibition Centre (NEC) in early July. Andy spoke about the principles contained in the Biogas Regions Communications Guide - the importance of talking with neighbours, regulators and local politicians before, during and post planning/construction. Michael went on to talk about the specific project at the Glanusk Estate near Crickhowell, south Wales. This project, which is the subject of one of the Biogas Regions "decision-preparing studies", is proceeding as a joint venture between the estate and the local community interest company (Llangattock Green Valleys). The 1 MW AD scheme lies at the heart of a much wider ambition to render Llangattock carbon negative. The 40-50 people that attended could not fail but be impressed by the sheer breadth of Michael's vision. Sandra Esteves from the University of Glamorgan also gave presentations in both the exhibition seminar slots and the main ADBA conference.



SWEA and the Wales Centre of Excellence for AD (University of Glamorgan) combined forces to man a Biogas Regions stand. Tim Patterson and Richard Dinsdale from the University and Andy Bull and Simone Lowthe-Thomas from SWEA were kept pretty busy for most of the two days. Sandra Esteves was often busy elsewhere in the conference/exhibition. There were lots

of really useful conversations. Some of the potential developers that have had contact with Biogas Regions were invited to the exhibition, and had a very valuable time quizzing some of the 74 people manning exhibitions. There were around 1,300 visitors to the conference and exhibition - not all of them visited our stand of course, but it felt as if they had as we wended our very weary way home.

We were distributing the **Biogas Regions** brochure - **An Introduction to Biogas and Anaerobic Digestion, A Guide for England and Wales**. It was very well received and I know that several people and organisations use it for the purpose for which it was designed - a guide for those that are interested particularly because they are dealing with a planning application or a plant is proposed close their home. It is still available as download from the SWEA Biogas Regions web page and I have printed copies if anyone wants some. Thanks again to the Advisory Group members that contributed lots of advice in turning the early drafts into a really useful document.



## The Final Dissemination Seminar (EU -wide)

The final dissemination seminar for the project as a whole took place in Brussels at the very end of June. It happened in association with the AEBIOM conference and was organised by our partner FEDARENE. The event went very smoothly and we believe that we impressed those that attended with the very tangible results arising from the project across the seven promoting regions. It is hard to believe it now but those that attended the event had to cope with hot weather outside and even higher temperatures inside the venue.



Andy Bull and partners from Italy and Austria during the panel session at the European dissemination seminar

## From Biogas regions to Bio-methane Regions?

As reported in newsletter 8, the Biogas regions project partners decided that they would very much like to take the good work of the last couple of years and continue it for few more. An application was submitted to the current round of the Intelligent Energy for Europe programme (the closing date was June 24<sup>th</sup>). SWEA took on the role of co-ordinator and so Andy had to put in long hours/days getting the bid together. There are 15 partners in this consortium, with us having lost Spanish and Polish partners but gained others from Sweden, Denmark, Hungary and Croatia. The Technical University of Vienna and the University of Glamorgan have also joined along with a second French partner (this time from Brittany). It is by no means certain that the bid will succeed but we very much hope that it will. The results of the bids are announced just before Christmas, with successful bids almost always entering a period of negotiation before usually commencing in April or May. If the Bio-methane Regions project is approved, the kick-off meeting would be in south Wales.

## Supporting AD in Wales under ENNEREG



SWEA has now commenced work on a new Intelligent Energy for Europe project known as ENNEREG. It is promoting the concept of Regions 2020 - regions of Europe that are demonstrating good practice as they

strive to hit the 20% renewable energy and 20% reduction in energy use by 2020 EU target. Wales is one of the 12 pioneer regions. One of the sustainable energy projects that is to be rolled over the next few months involves working with the public to encourage engagement with the collection of source-segregated food-waste. We are working on the very simple hypothesis that if the public better understand the terrific advantages of AD then they will be more likely to participate in separating their food waste.

## Thank You and (hopefully only temporarily) Good-bye

The project ends on the 31st October but the web page - [www.SWEA.co.uk/proj\\_biogas](http://www.SWEA.co.uk/proj_biogas) - will remain in place with downloadable material available. The Advisory Group last met in the Spring and won't be re-convened unless Bio-methane Regions happens. SWEA has learnt a lot from the project and particularly from the partners - both trans-national and domestic. It's been really good to get to know some of you a little bit. Thank you to all of those that have participated and contributed in any way. I believe that the project has made a difference but it wouldn't have without your input and enthusiasm for this fantastic technology.

## The Renewable Heat Incentive

The Biogas Regions project draws to a close at the end of October, just when we have all been promised an announcement from the Government about the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI). Tempting as it is to wait and squeeze in the last newsletter into the last few days of the project, this is not really practical. I think that we'll just have to leave it that SWEA, like all of you presumably, is hoping for a scheme that overcomes the rather disappointing Feed-in Tariff rates for AD by really incentivising the utilisation of heat from CHP engines, and offers a rate of return for bio-methane that reflects the costs of its production.

## Great Porthamel—Continued

There is no progress to report on the long-running saga of the proposed AD plant near Talgarth - we are still awaiting a date for the High Court. So there we have it! The planning application was submitted almost concurrently with the kicking-off of the Biogas Regions project 3 years ago - and it still hasn't received the go-ahead. It would have been nice to be able to report a conclusion in the final newsletter!



*The sole responsibility for the content of this document lies with the authors. It does not represent the opinion of the European Communities. The European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.*

### For further information contact:-

**Andy Bull, Senior Project Manager  
SWEA (Wales Office)  
Entrance A, Royal Welsh Showground  
Builth Wells LD2 3NJ**

**01982 551006  
andy@swea.co.uk**