



An Effective and Efficient Biogas Chain

>> Focus on energy and climate change

The Minister of Economic Affairs is inviting businesses to submit proposals for pilot and demonstration projects. Subsidies are available for innovation projects which:

- *substantially improve the cost-effectiveness of the renewable gas production chain;*
- *remove technical barriers for feeding renewable gas into the gas grid or for delivery of this gas to filling stations.*

Budget

A maximum budget of 7 million euros is available, including 3 million euros for pilots and 4 million euros for demonstration projects. Pilots will always concern experimental research, possibly supported by industrial research.

Pilots

The subsidy for a pilot project will amount to 25 percent of the subsidisable costs, with a 10 percent increase for medium sized businesses and 20 percent for small businesses. Parties may qualify for a higher percentage by collaborating on a project. For the industrial research, subsidies may amount to 50 percent; increases dependent on business size, knowledge transfer and collaboration (with other businesses, knowledge institutes, water boards and international parties) excluded. The maximum subsidy is 750,000 euros per pilot.

Demonstration Projects

For demonstration projects the subsidy amounts to 40 percent of the additional costs, with a 10 percent increase for medium sized businesses and 20 percent for small businesses. The maximum subsidy is 1 million euros per demonstration project.

Background

Achieving a sustainable energy supply is a spearhead of this government. Replacing fossil gas by renewable gas can contribute to this goal: 46 percent of our primary energy consumption is natural gas. The fermentation of biomass is a major first step in this greening of our energy. The parties from the energy transition have expressed the wish that in ten years time 10 percent of the natural gas will be replaced by renewable gas. Biomass fermentation has an estimated contribution of a third to a half to this goal. The remaining part will come from biomass gasification.

Goals

Although fermentation of biomass is already being used on a fairly large scale, its cost-effectiveness and productivity need to be greatly enhanced to enable further growth. There are also technical questions about the effects of feeding-in renewable gas and delivering it to filling stations. This scheme subsidises pilots and demonstration projects which deal with those bottleneck issues and solve them in an innovative way, the result being the accelerated production and use of renewable gas. Projects should be aimed at the entire production chain or at crucial steps in the chain: collection and input of biomass, pretreatment, fermentation, cleaning and biogas upgrading, processing digestate, and feeding into the gas grid or delivery to filling stations. Wanted are technological innovations, innovations in organisation and collaboration across industries (social innovation), or projects which are innovative both technically and socially.



Policy Frame

The government target of 20 percent renewable energy by 2020 is stated in the work program 'Clean and Efficient. Since reaching this target demands radical changes, the cabinet ordered the formulation of the 'Energy Innovation Agenda'. The Effective and Efficient Biogas Chain subsidy is part of this agenda's 'New Gas' theme. The subsidy has been published as part of the 'Energy and Innovation Subsidy Scheme'. The division NL Energy and Climate is executing the scheme.

Project Requirements

- The applicant must be a company. For cooperation projects the lead applicant of the application must be established in the Netherlands.
- The project must meet the assessment criteria and should contribute sufficiently to the goals of the scheme.

Energy Innovation Agenda

The subsidy scheme Effectieve en Efficiënte Vergistingsketen (Effective and Efficient Biogas Chain) is part of the Innovatieagenda Energie (Energy Innovation Agenda). The Innovatieagenda Energie contributes to the realisation of the aims as stated in Schoon en Zuinig (Clean and Efficient) the governments's work programme for stimulating renewable energy, improving energy efficiency, and reducing the discharge of greenhouse gases.

- The project may not be aimed at the production or cultivation of biomass, nor at the technology for converting renewable gas into power or heat.
- The maximum duration of the project is three years.

Assessment Criteria

Proposed projects will be judged on: their economic perspective, their contribution to achieving a sustainable energy supply in the Netherlands, improving the greenhouse gas balance, technical or social innovation, cooperation and knowledge transfer.

Submitting a Proposal

You will describe your project plan on the preliminary application form. This form should be lodged with NL Agency in Utrecht, no later than 5 p.m., 28 April 2010. The Advisory Committee will judge your proposal. Early in June, you will receive an advice from NL Agency. A positive advice means that, in principle, your idea fits the scheme. A positive advice wil also describe how you may highlight your project proposal. After this, you may submit a request for subsidy.. The deadline for this is 2 September 2010 (5 p.m.). More information about the scheme is to be found on: www.agentschapnl.nl/energietransitie/innovatieagenda_energie. An instruction leaflet can also be downloaded from this site.

Contact

More information? Please contact Mr. R. Wismeijer, telephone number +31 (0)88 602 24 70, or send an e-mail to vergisting@agentschapnl.nl