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Feedback from: Bioenergia ry - the Bioenergy Association of Finland

Feedback reference

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The Bioenergy Association of Finland

User type

Business association

Organisation

Bioenergia ry - the Bioenergy Association of Finland

Organisation size

Micro (1 to 9 employees)

Transparency register number174042620514-51 (<http://ec.europa.eu/transparencyregister/public/consultation/displaylobbyist.do?id=174042620514-51&locale=en>)**Country of origin**

Finland

Initiative[EU methane strategy \(/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12504-EU-methane-strategy\)](/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12504-EU-methane-strategy)

The Bioenergy Association of Finland welcomes the initiative to reduce methane emissions and supports joint efforts to decrease GHG emissions in general.

The Commission is working on an integrated strategy covering the areas of energy, waste and agriculture to tackle the emission of methane and finding synergies between sectors, such as production of biogas. Another very important synergy is increasing recycling of nutrients and improving the quality of nutrients. This offers the advantage of less GHG emissions (by using biogas instead of fossil energy) and replacement of fertilizers produced by fossil energy (by using recycled nutrients).

Agricultural emissions of methane are the result of natural microbial processes and it is not possible to eliminate the methane emissions in total. It is also a challenge to monitor and verify the greenhouse gases in the agricultural sector.

Most of the potential methane feedstock would be available via waste handling steps by digestion, syngas through gasification or pyrolysis of biomass resulting in biogas.

However, it is also possible to reduce the greenhouse gas impact from agriculture through efficient farm management which promotes soil carbon sequestration and especially using manure for biogas production. Manure is a natural source of methane and can - when properly processed - generate heat, power and even be used as transport fuel.

In Finland there are few methane emissions left in the waste- and energy sector. This should not lead to a disproportionately large burden in the agricultural sector. Efforts are needed from the Commission to support investing in biogas production and recycling of nutrients. Sustainability and climate goals should lead to a competitive advantage – not reduce production.

It is also important to detect and reduce methane emissions in producing and handling biogas.

The production of biogas including landfill gas is in Finland about 1 TWh/a. Landfill gas is systematically collected from all old landfills. An expert group announced (based on Natural Research Institute reports) early this year that the theoretical potential of biomass for biogas in Finland is 16 TWh. According to a comprehensive group organization connected to agriculture, relevant industry and handling of waste, it is possible to grow the production of biogas to 4 TWh, mostly by manure until 2030, if sufficient incentives are in place.

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