

# I Chem E

## Biomethane and Grid Injection

1st February 2018

**John Baldwin**

CNG Services Ltd

john.baldwin@cngservices.co.uk

[www.cngservices.co.uk](http://www.cngservices.co.uk)

**UK Biomethane Day 2018 - 2nd May 2018**

**UK Biomethane Day 2018**

2nd May 2018 | National Motorcycle Museum | Birmingham

# CNG Services Ltd

- Supports projects to inject biomethane into the gas grid
  - 86 projects by Dec 2017, we have worked on 75
  - 28 staff
- Supports back-up gas generation projects
  - Dash for gas engines underway
- Whisky industry projects
  - Distillery CNG project
  - Islay Biomethane Island Project
  - Speyside Power to Gas Project
- Part owner of CNG Fuels Ltd, a company set up to build national network of Bio-CNG stations on the high pressure grid
  - Leyland CNG Station
  - 84% saving in GHG compared to diesel



Innovation in Natural Gas

# Agenda

1. Introduction (feedstock, benefits and grid Injection)
2. Biomethane in the UK – update/trends/total capacity etc
3. The challenges: technical (gas cleaning, capacity, grid injection) and regulatory (including Gov incentives)
4. Current and emerging technologies (cleaning, upgrading, bio-cng trucks)
5. Case studies
6. Demand for Biomethane
7. Summary

<http://www.cngservices.co.uk/index.php/news/cng-events>

- UK Biomethane Day 2018 - 2nd May 2018
- UK Biomethane Day 2017 - 24th May 2017
- UK Biomethane Day in 2016
- UK Biomethane Day 2015
- Natural Gas Vehicle Day 2014
- UK Biomethane Day 2014
- UK Biomethane Day 2013
- Crewe CNG Filling Station Official Opening
- UK Biomethane Day 2012

# 1. FEEDSTOCK AND BENEFITS

# www.biogaspartner.de

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the website [www.biogaspartner.de/en.html](http://www.biogaspartner.de/en.html). The page features a large image of cows in a field at the top. Below the image is a navigation bar with links: Home, About, Biomethane, Application Fields, Project Map, Acts/Regulations, Players, Downloads, and Social Media. A search bar is located on the left side of the page. A green navigation menu is open, listing various categories such as Value Chain, Logistics, Biogas Production, Biogas Upgrade, Injection, and Sales and Trade. A central section titled "13 Good Reasons" lists benefits of biogas, including climate protection, import dependency reduction, regional development, eco-friendliness, material flow security, natural processes, energy system stabilization, infrastructure utilization, versatility, efficiency, partnerships, and future potential. To the right, there is a "Subscribe newsletter" form with an email address input field, a "Read the Privacy Policy?" checkbox, and a "SUBSCRIBE NOW" button. The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the date as 31/01/2018 and the time as 22:37.

Plattform Biogaspartner: x

www.biogaspartner.de/en.html

Home | About | Biomethane | Application Fields | Project Map | Acts/Regulations | Players | Downloads | Social Media

Search

**Value Chain**

- › Biomass Production
- › Logistics
- › Biogas Production
- › Biogas Upgrade
- › Injection
- › Sales and Trade

**13 Good Reasons**

- › 1. Biomethane protects our climate
- › 2. Biomethane reduces import dependency
- › 3. Biomethane stimulates regional development
- › 4. Biomethane is eco-friendly
- › 5. Biomethane secures material flow at the local level
- › 6. Biomethane comes from natural processes
- › 7. Biomethane stabilizes the energy system
- › 8. Biomethane uses existing infrastructure
- › 9. Biomethane exhibits a versatility of application
- › 10. Biomethane supports efficient combined heat and power systems
- › 11. Biomethane is a highly efficient biofuel
- › 12. Biomethane creates partnerships
- › 13. Biomethane is the intelligent option for the future

Subscribe newsletter

email address

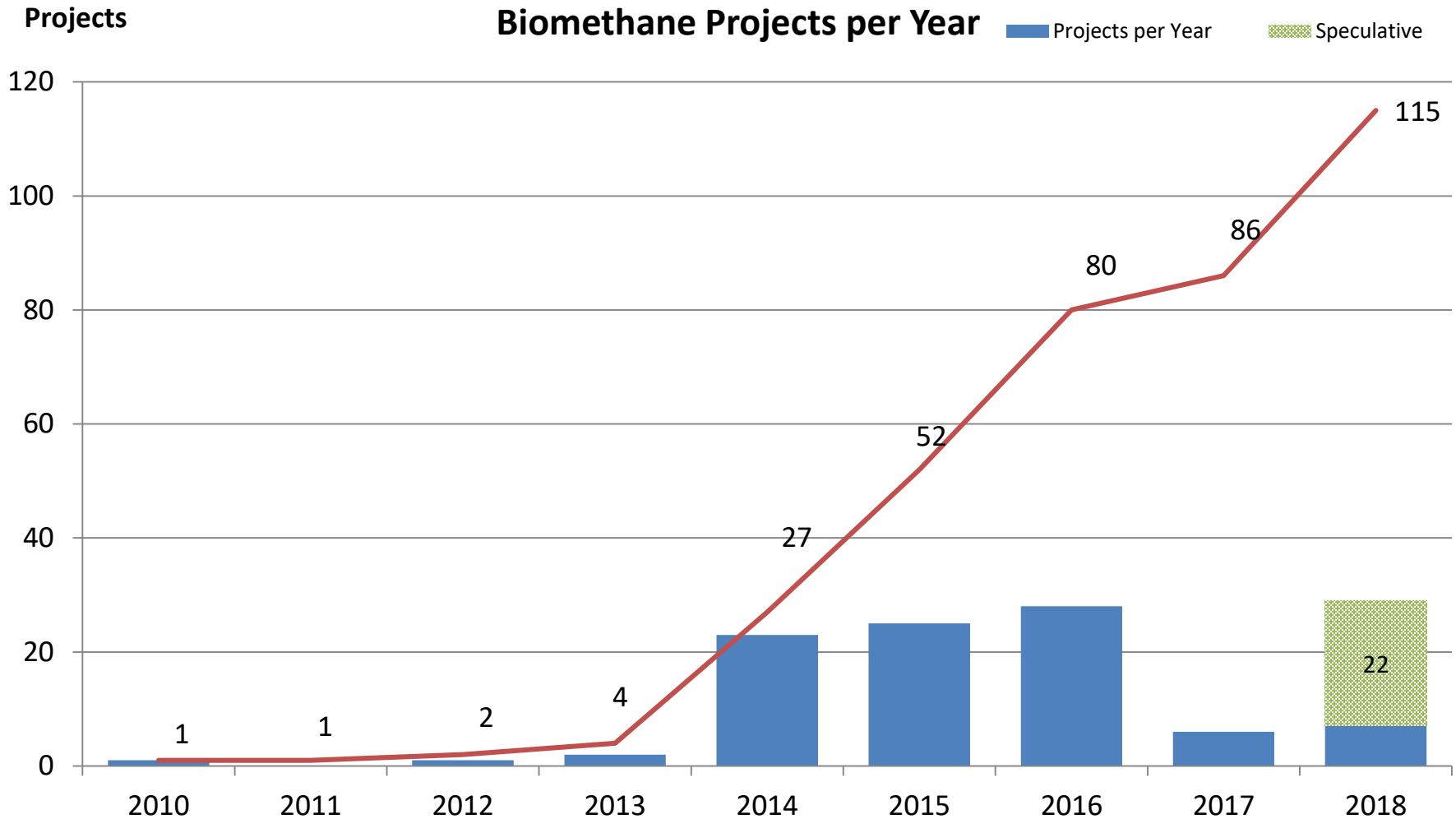
Read the Privacy Policy?

SUBSCRIBE NOW

22:37  
31/01/2018

## **2. BIOMETHANE PROJECT UPDATE 85 PROJECTS BY END DEC 17**

# Biomethane projects per year 2010-2017

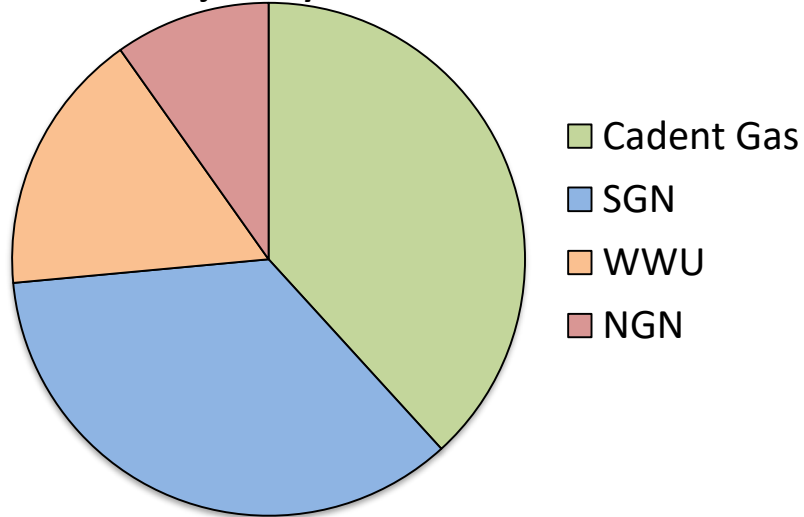


80 projects by 2016 – the election has delayed Project 100 until 2018/9

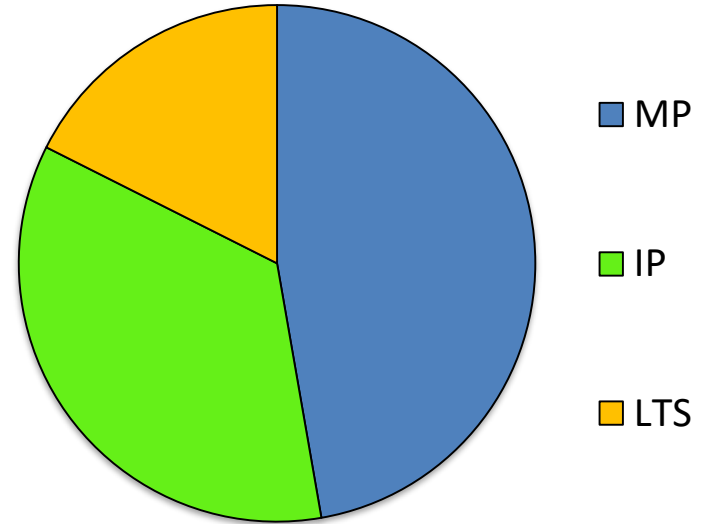


# GDN, LDZ, Pressure, Flow-rate

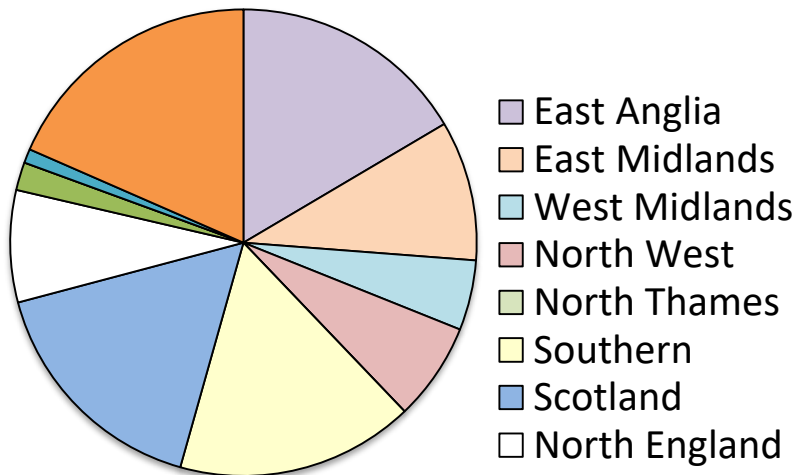
Number of Projects by GDN



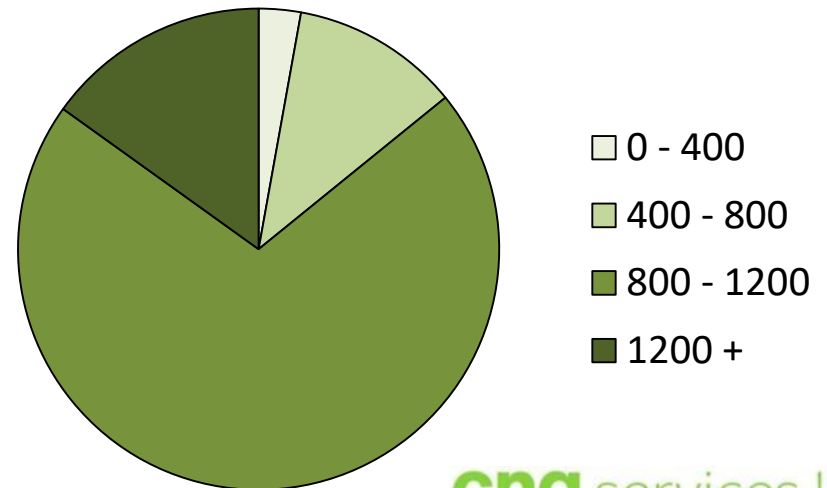
Number of Projects by Pressure Tier



Total Number of Projects by LDZ



% Projects by Biogas Flow Rate



## **3.1 CHALLENGES - THE RHI**

# New RHI

1. New RHI was expected March 2017, delayed due to a drafting error and then the General Election
2. Now expected in Q1 2018
3. Only 2 new projects in 2017
4. Potential for 25 - 30 projects in next 2 years subject to life of RHI
  - Needs to make >50% of biogas from waste
  - Ability to lock in tariff subject to:
    - Planning
    - Connections contract
    - Finance
  - Complete by 31 Dec 2019
    - Request to extend into 2020

# Potential New 2018-19 Projects

- Energy Networks Biomethane working group gave numbers of projects in each GDN area that have signed Connection Agreements:
  - Cadent – 16
  - SGN – 11
  - WWU – 5
  - NGN – 3Total - 35
- Signing a Connection Agreement does not mean the project is certain to go ahead as the cost is refundable
- Key Feasibility issues are:
  - Is there capacity in the grid?
  - Can the 50% biogas from waste target be met?
  - Is planning consent in place?

The market is waiting for the RHI

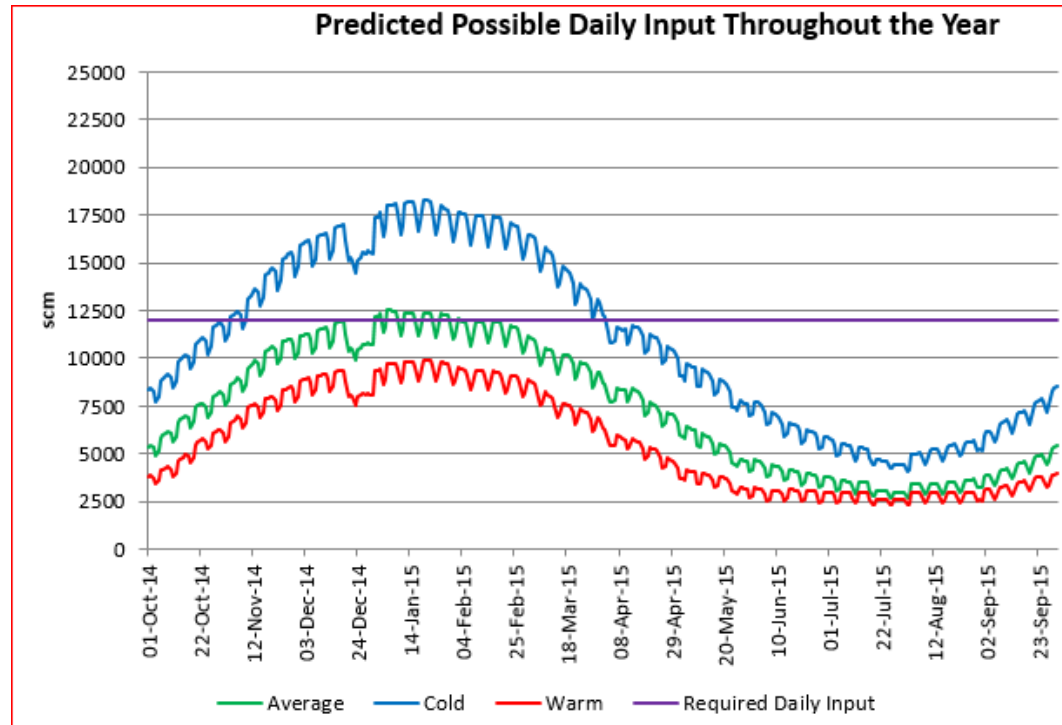
## **3.2 CHALLENGES THE CAPACITY QUESTION**

# New RHI – impact on capacity

1. With new biomethane projects needing to make >50% of biogas from waste, the location of the AD has to be where the waste is
  - This reduces the number of sites and means that grid capacity is critical
2. For >150 years gas has flowed through the grid from high pressure to low pressure.....time to change that
3. The gas pipeline networks are not designed for smaller distributed sources such as biomethane:
  - Very limited metering or knowledge of real flows at sites that feed the IP and MP pipelines (and any metering designed for peak so not accurate at low flow)
  - No concept of a summer “1 in 20” – so the network analysis models still use winter peak which can only give theoretical issues at grid extremities
  - Some ‘guaranteed’ pressures for I&C customers prevent lowering of pressure to accept injection of biomethane
4. Finally, there is no financial incentive on GDNs in relation to biomethane

Capacity is the key issue facing the industry

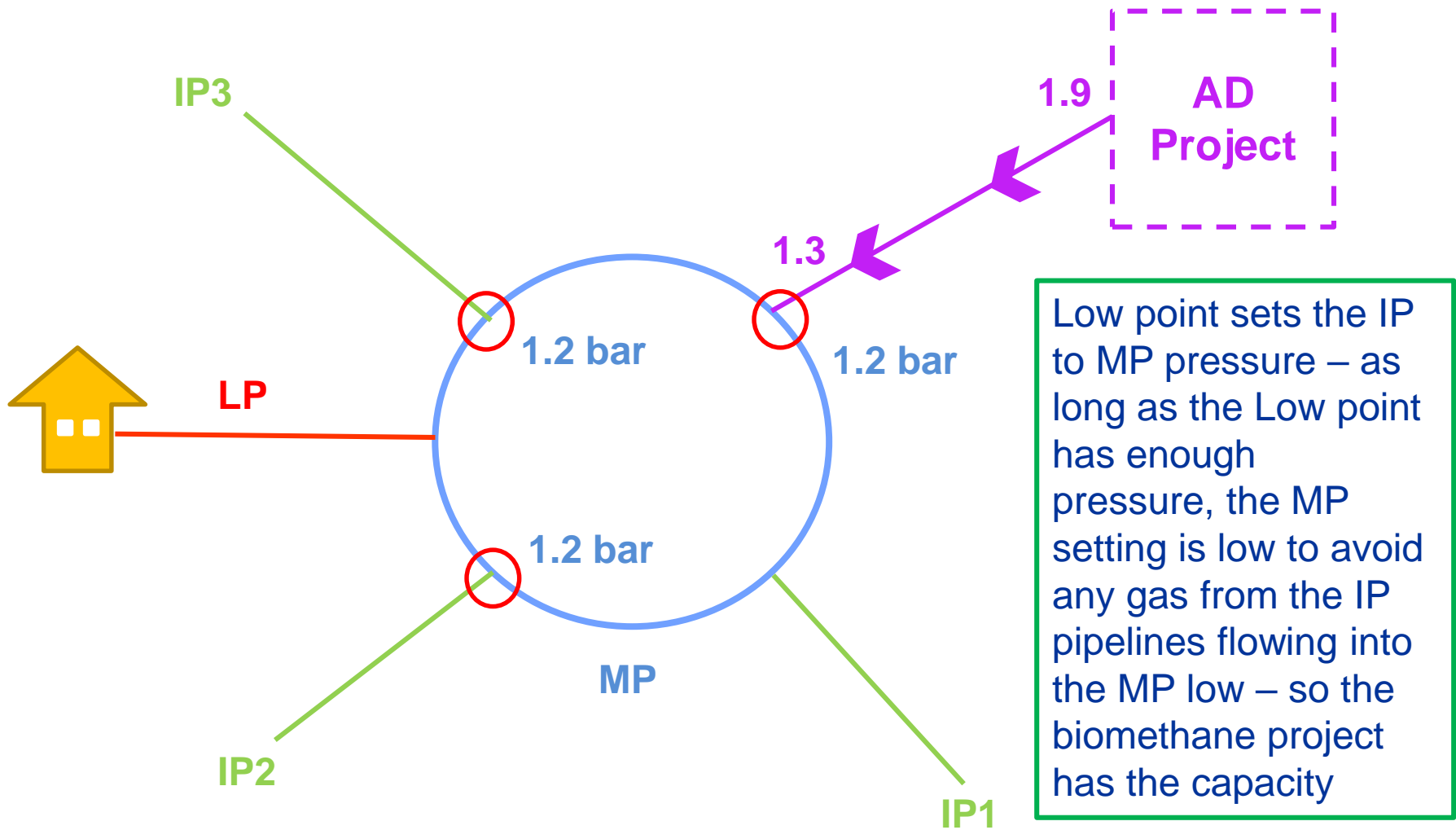
# GDN Capacity Reports



Above is a typical graph showing a typical project where there is not enough capacity in summer due to insufficient demand in the network

We must solve this problem...next slides show developments

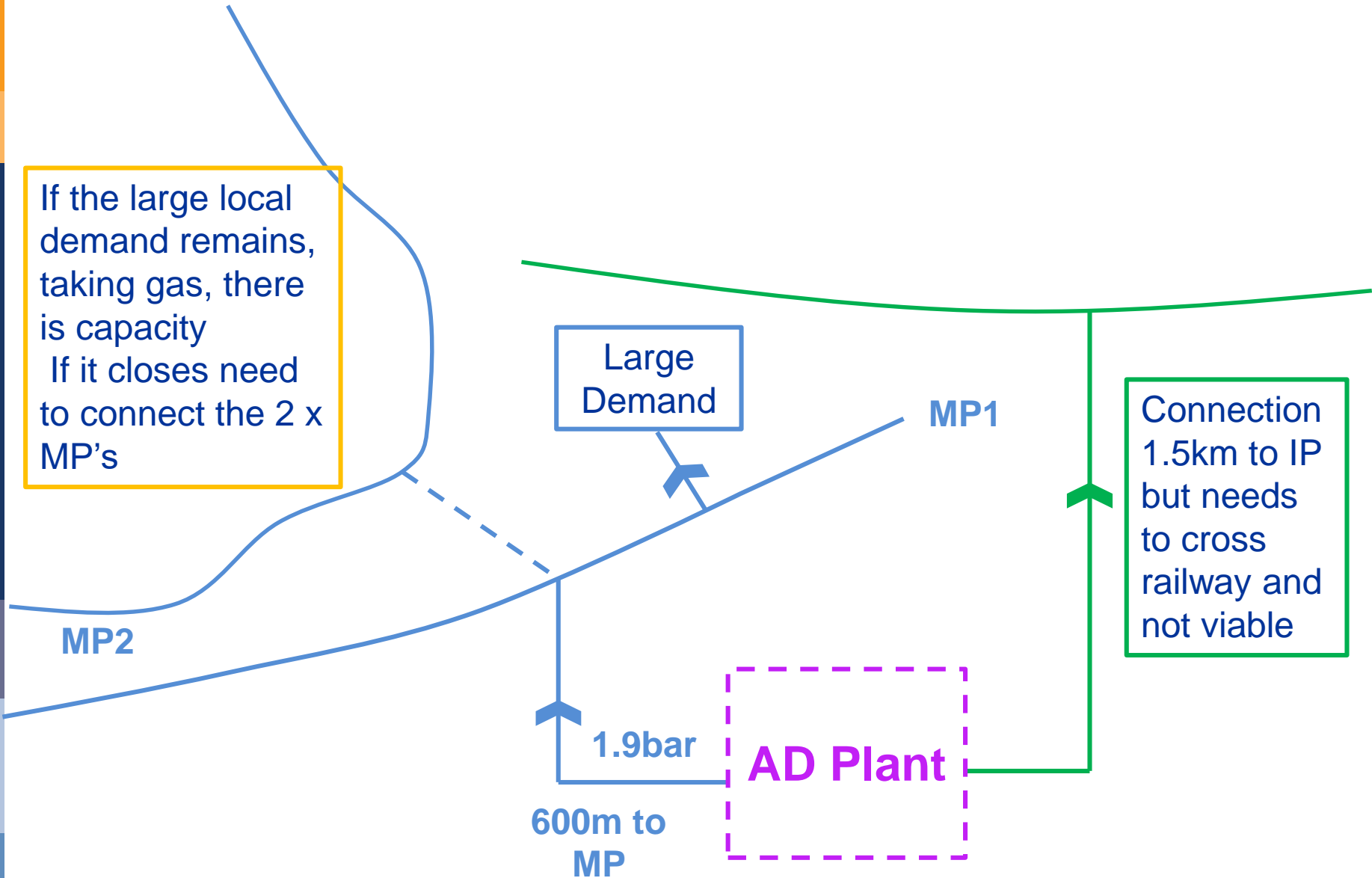
# Project 1 – Biomethane into MP with Regulator Adjustment



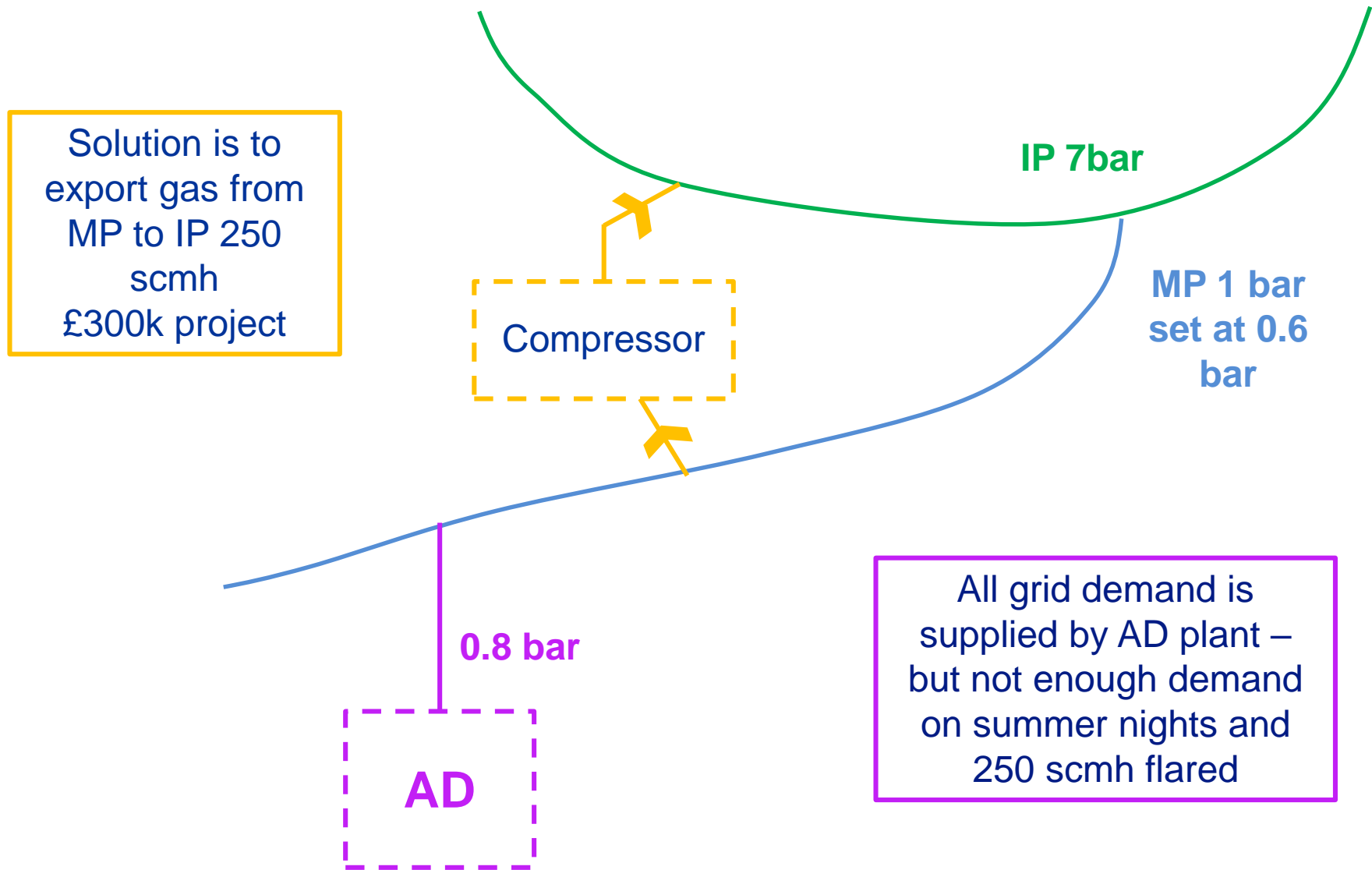


# Project 2 – Capacity provided by Local Factory

If the large local demand remains, taking gas, there is capacity  
If it closes need to connect the 2 x MP's



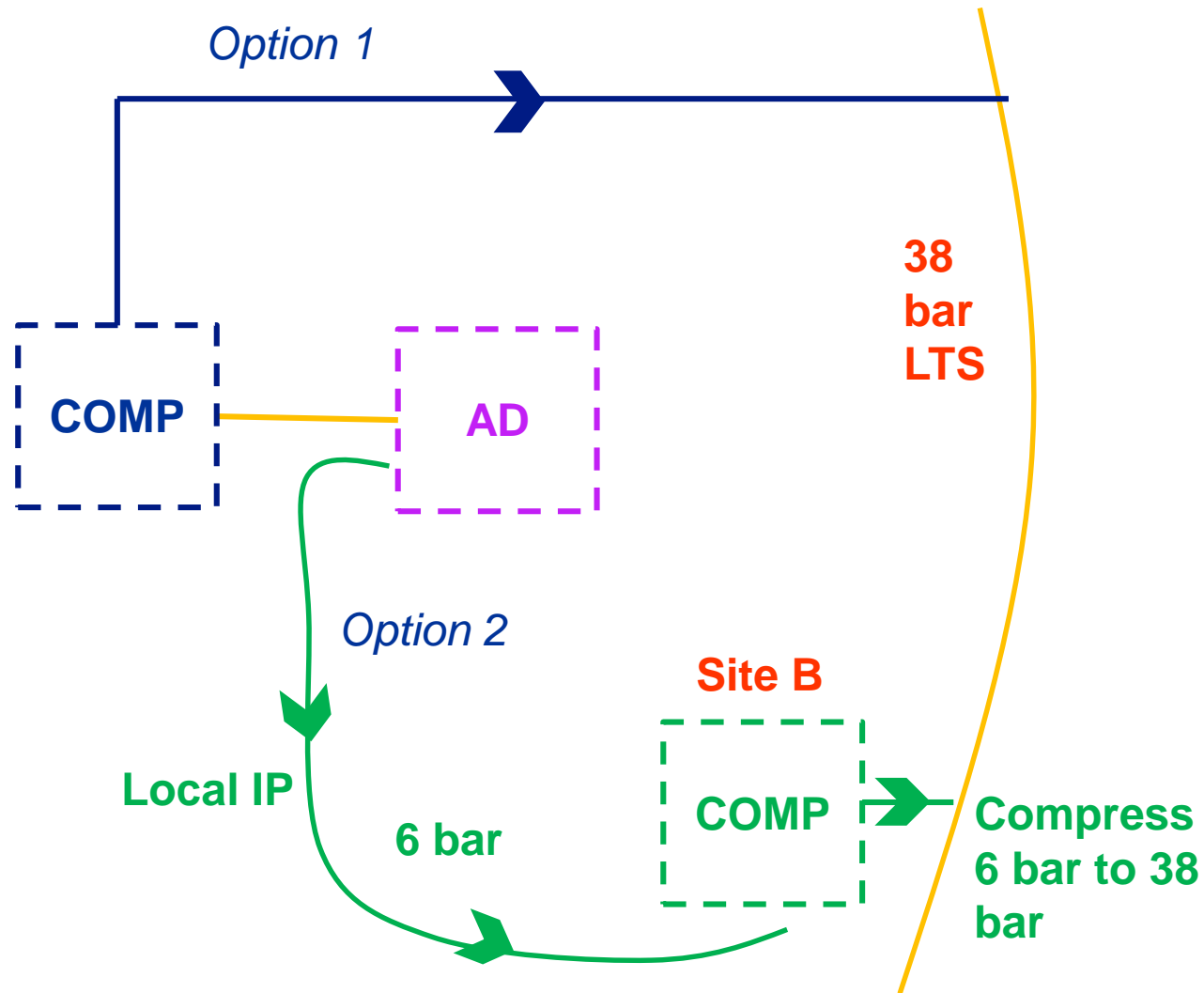
# Project 3 – MP to IP Compression



# Project 4 – IP and within Grid Comp

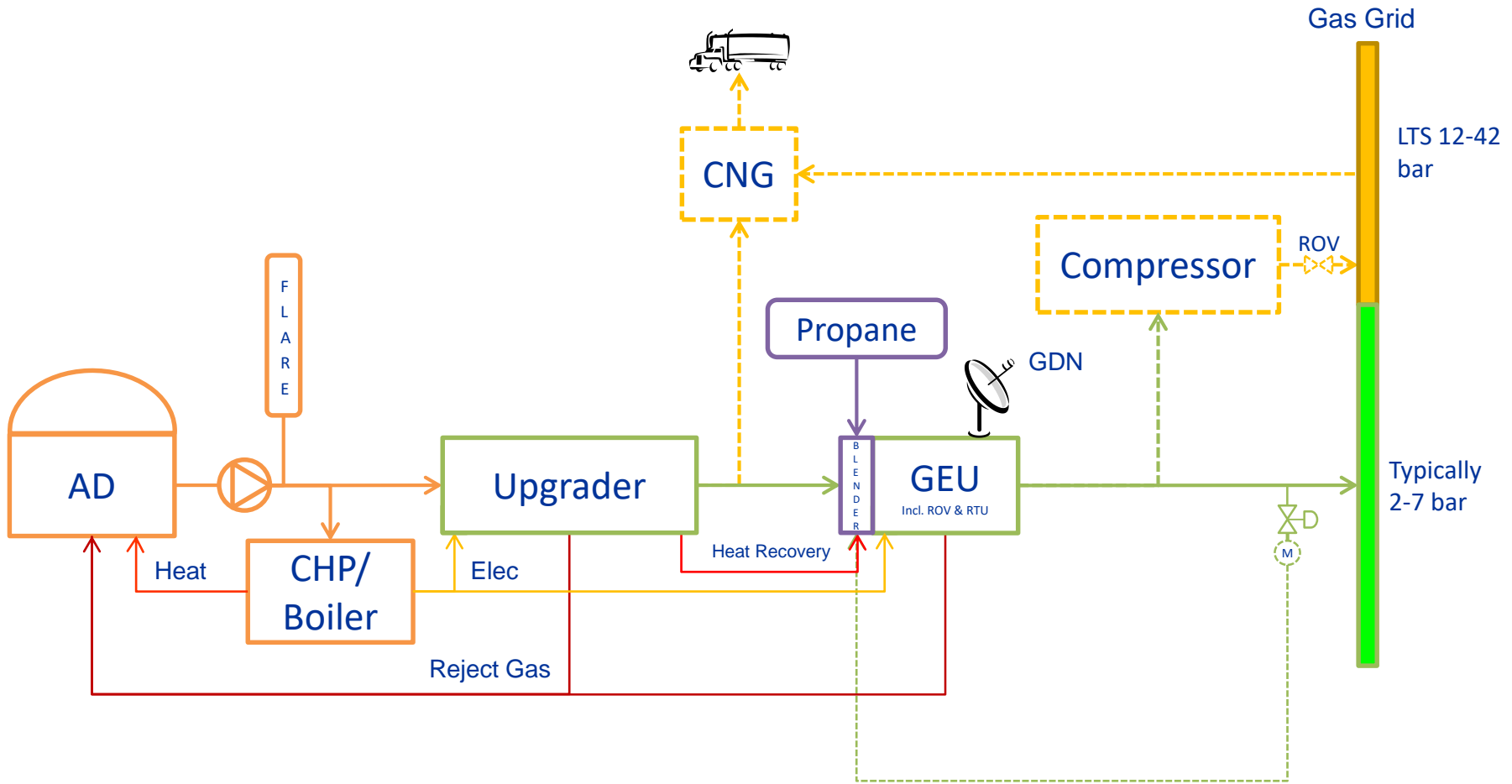
*Option 1*  
Compress all gas into LTS  
£2.5 million capex, high opex, 365 day compression

*Option 2*  
Inject into local IP  
GDN compresses from IP to LTS at site B  
£1 million capex  
Low opex as <1,000 hours



# 4. DESIGN OF BIOMETHANE PLANTS

# Overall Concept



## Options

- CHP or Boiler – CHP less attractive now <499 kW FIT removed
- CNG – either before propane or from high pressure grid

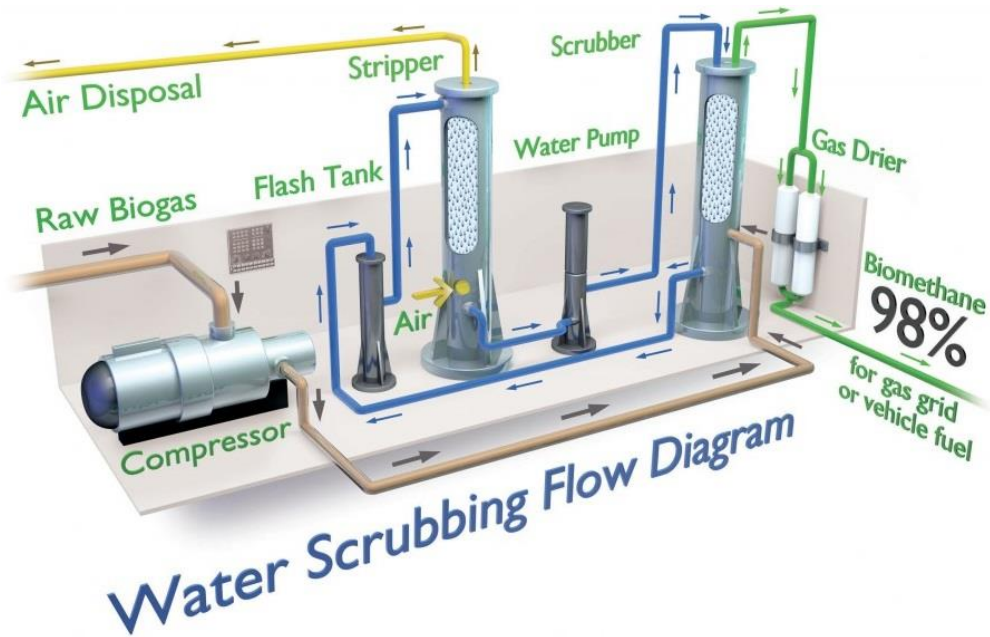
# Overall Concept



# CO<sub>2</sub> REMOVAL TECHNOLOGY



# Water Wash



- 99% of biomethane goes into grid
- <1% methane slip
- 14 - 16m high towers
- Plant also removes H<sub>2</sub>S and Siloxanes
- 2 suppliers active in UK
- Proven and low risk



# Water Wash

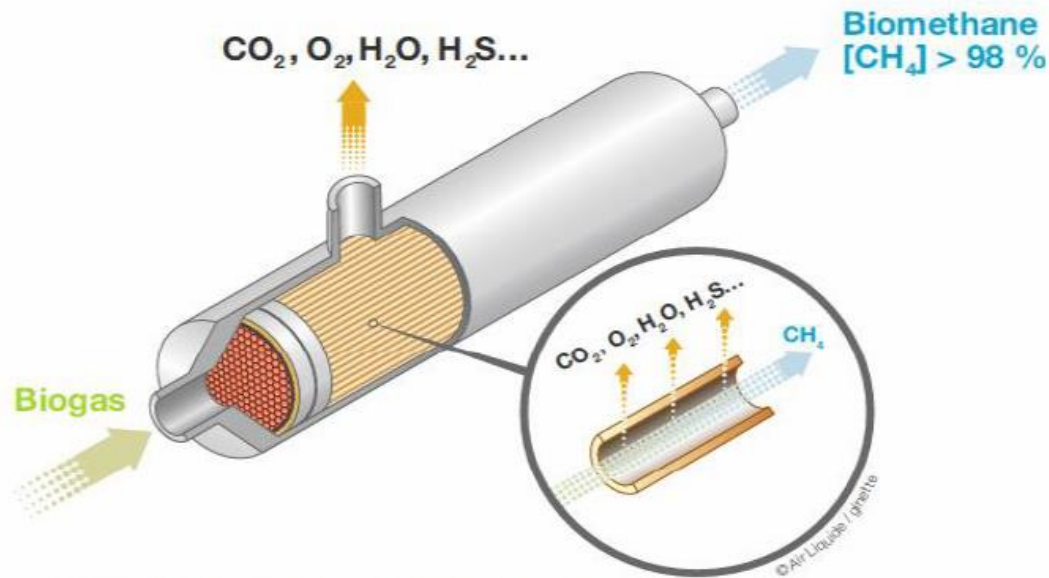
## Advantages

- Simple, proven technology with many plants in operation
- No pre-treatment for H<sub>2</sub>S
- 2 suppliers with many UK & international projects

## Disadvantages

- CH<sub>4</sub> emissions to air
  - Higher than Chemical Wash and membrane
  - <1% methane slip
- Tall towers for CO<sub>2</sub> removal
  - 12-18 metres
- Water supply and disposal

# Membrane Separation



## Relative permeation rate



- 3 variants now in UK
  - Two stage with CO<sub>2</sub> liquefaction
  - Three stage with <0.5% CH<sub>4</sub> vented
- Well suited to plants with <1,500 m<sup>3</sup>/hr biogas flow rate
- Benefits from lower profile for planning

# Membrane Separation

## Advantages

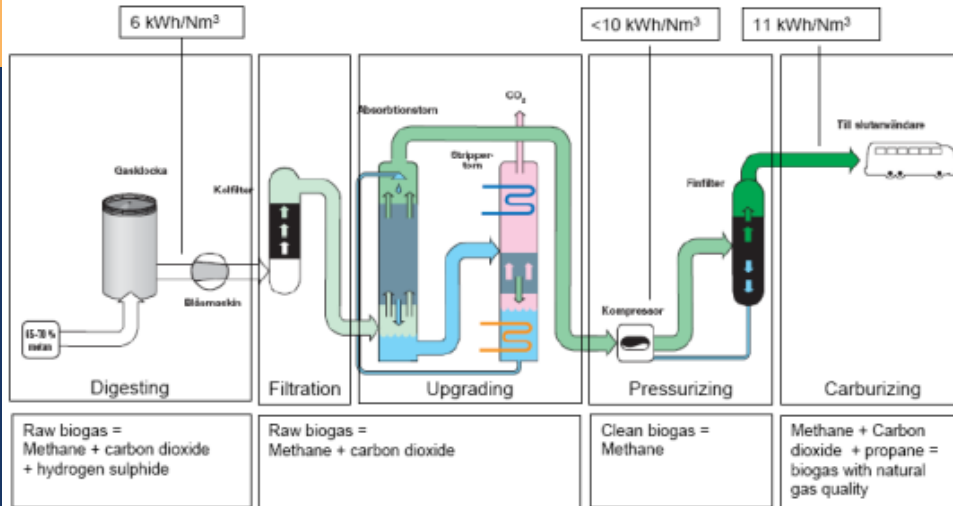
- Compact
  - No need for large towers
- Food grade liquid CO<sub>2</sub> produced (Haffmans plant)
- Low methane slip
  - <0.5%
- Simple plant - modular
- Good turndown
- 6 suppliers can compete
  - 3 different types of system

## Disadvantages

- Higher electricity costs
- Biomethane quality
  - CO<sub>2</sub> removal
  - May have up to 1% CH<sub>4</sub> in off-gas
- Higher H<sub>2</sub>S & contaminant removal costs
  - All done upfront
- Membrane life 5-10 years
  - Expensive item, though prices should come down

# Chemical Absorption

## CO<sub>2</sub> - absorption (LP Cooab)



- 99.8% of biomethane to grid, <0.2% methane vented
- Needs significant heat to raise steam to recover chemicals and hence good fit if excess heat available from biogas CHP
- Less electricity required
- Requires less propane as less CO<sub>2</sub> remains
- 1 supplier in UK

# Chemical Absorption

## Advantages

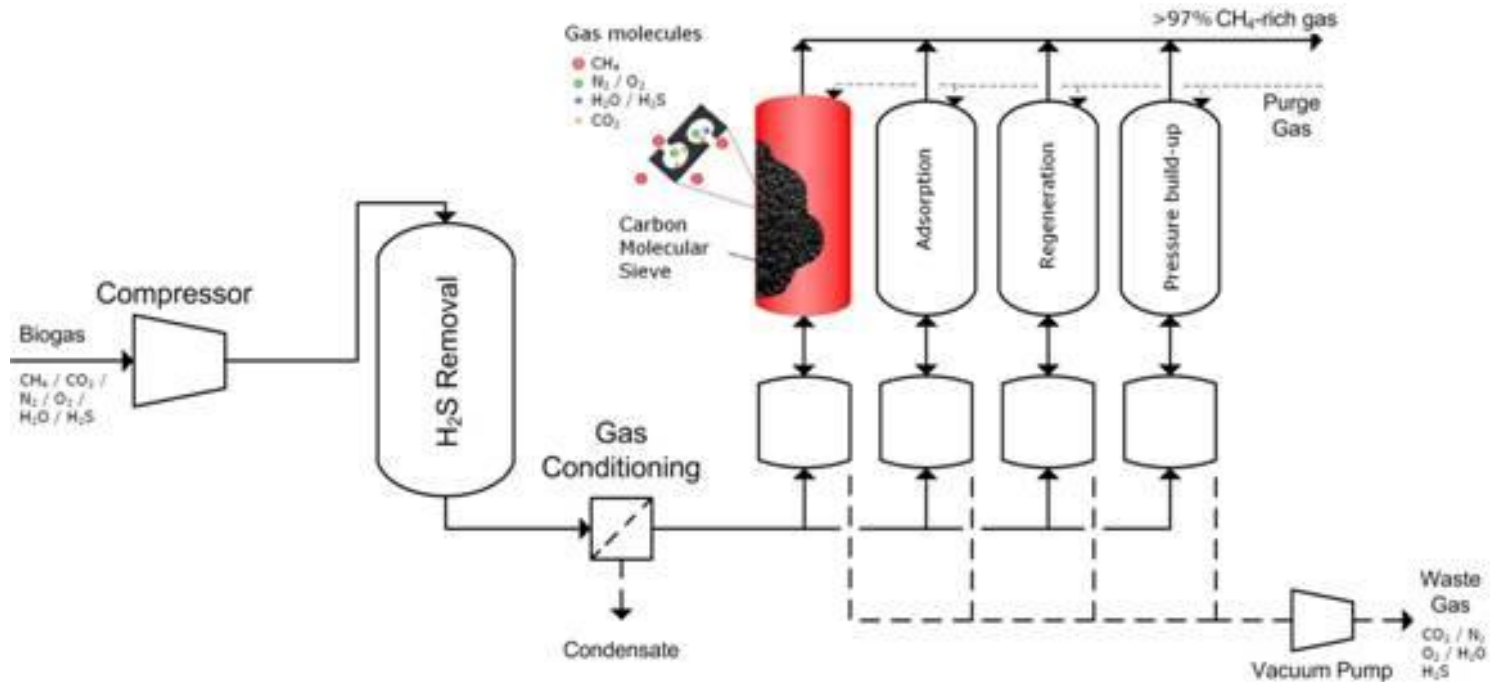
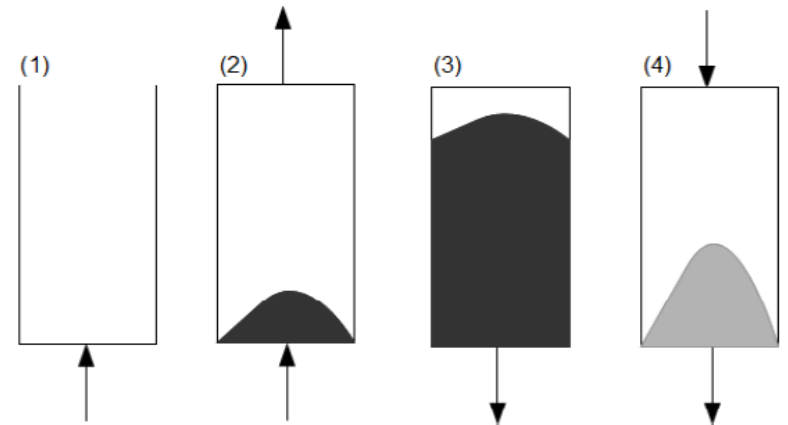
- Good quality Biomethane
- Low Methane slip
  - 0.2% lost
- Low electricity consumption
- Lower propane needed
- Good turndown

## Disadvantages

- Heat energy needed to regenerate chemicals
- Tall towers for CO<sub>2</sub> removal
  - 12-18 metres
- Amine supply and disposal
- Low Oxygen concentration needed

# Pressure Swing Adsorption

- Key issue is off-gas
- New multi stage system reduces methane slip
- 1 supplier in UK
- N<sub>2</sub> and VOC removal possible



# Pressure Swing Adsorption

## Advantages

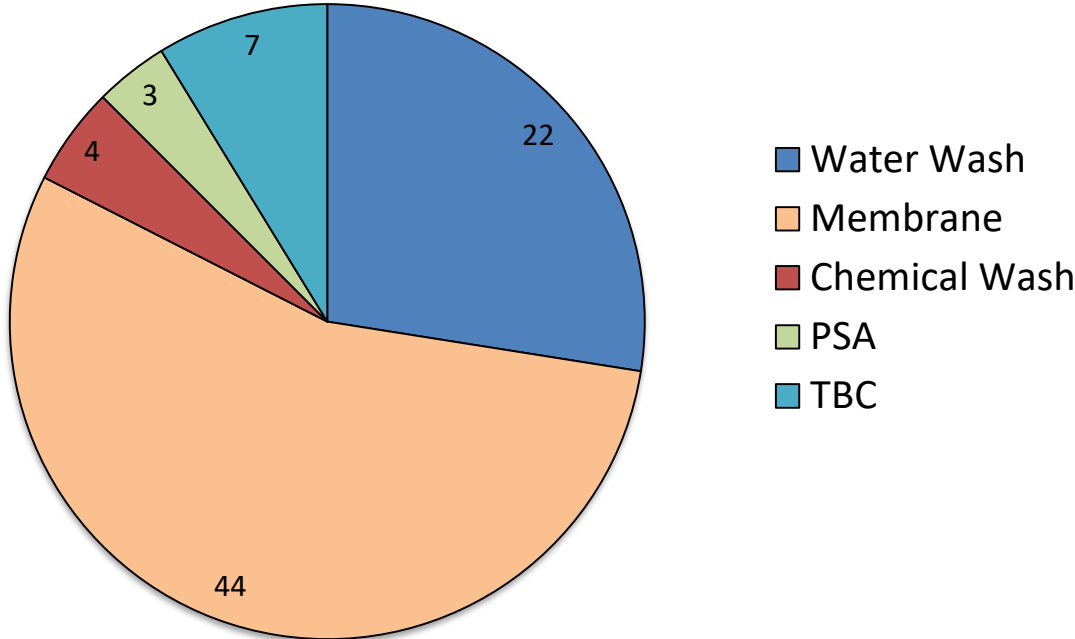
- Compact
  - No need for large towers
- Lower operating pressure and therefore electricity demand
- Good turndown
- Can remove contaminants and  $N_2$ 
  - Separate beds

## Disadvantages

- Methane Slip
  - New system will reduce this
- Biomethane quality
  - $CO_2$  removal – May have up to 1%  $CH_4$  in off-gas
- Batch process
  - High wear on valves and seals
  - Buffer vessel needed

# Proportion of CO2 Removal Technologies in UK

Technology used



Technology	Number of Projects	%
Water Wash	22	28%
Membrane	44	55%
Chemical Wash	4	5%
PSA	3	4%
TBC	7	9%
<b>Total Projects</b>	<b>80</b>	

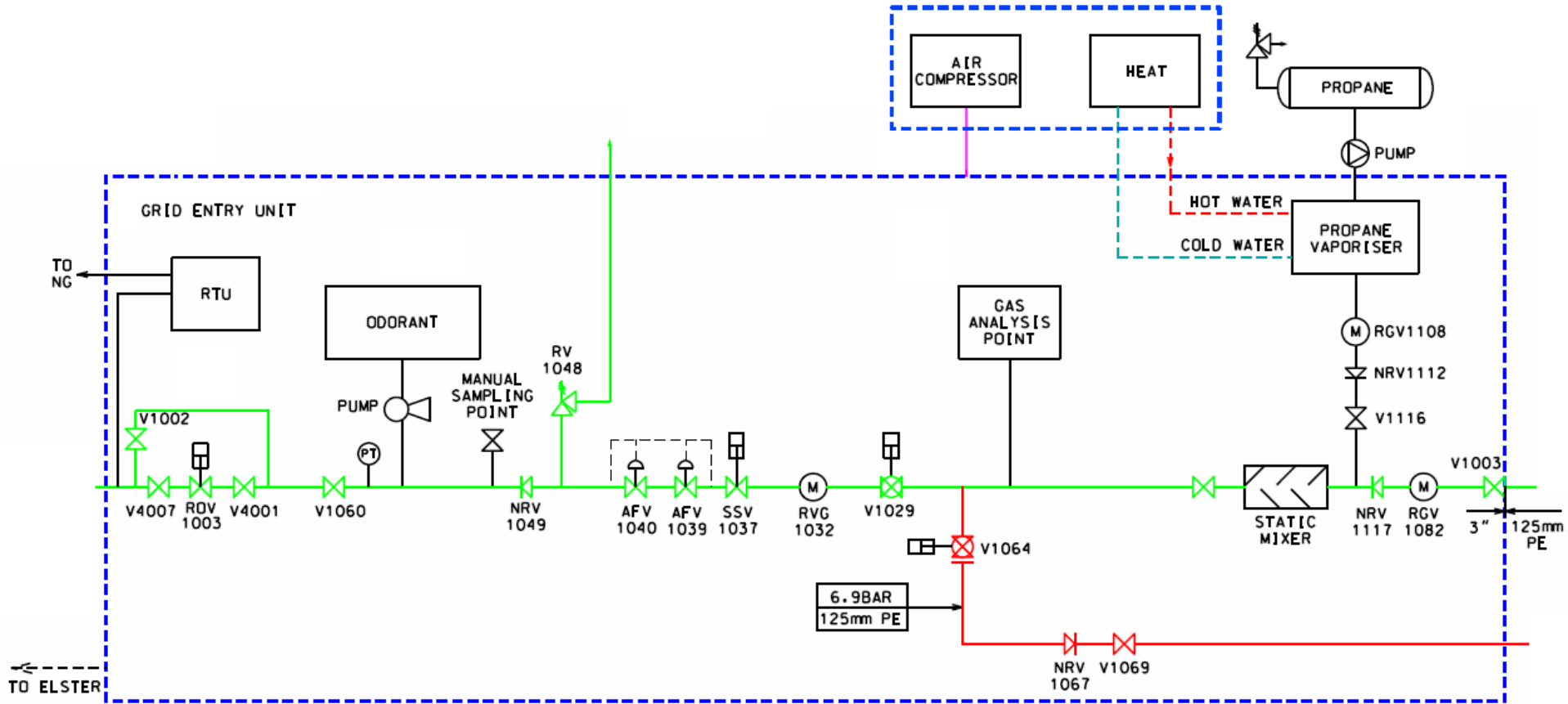


# GRID INJECTION FACILITIES

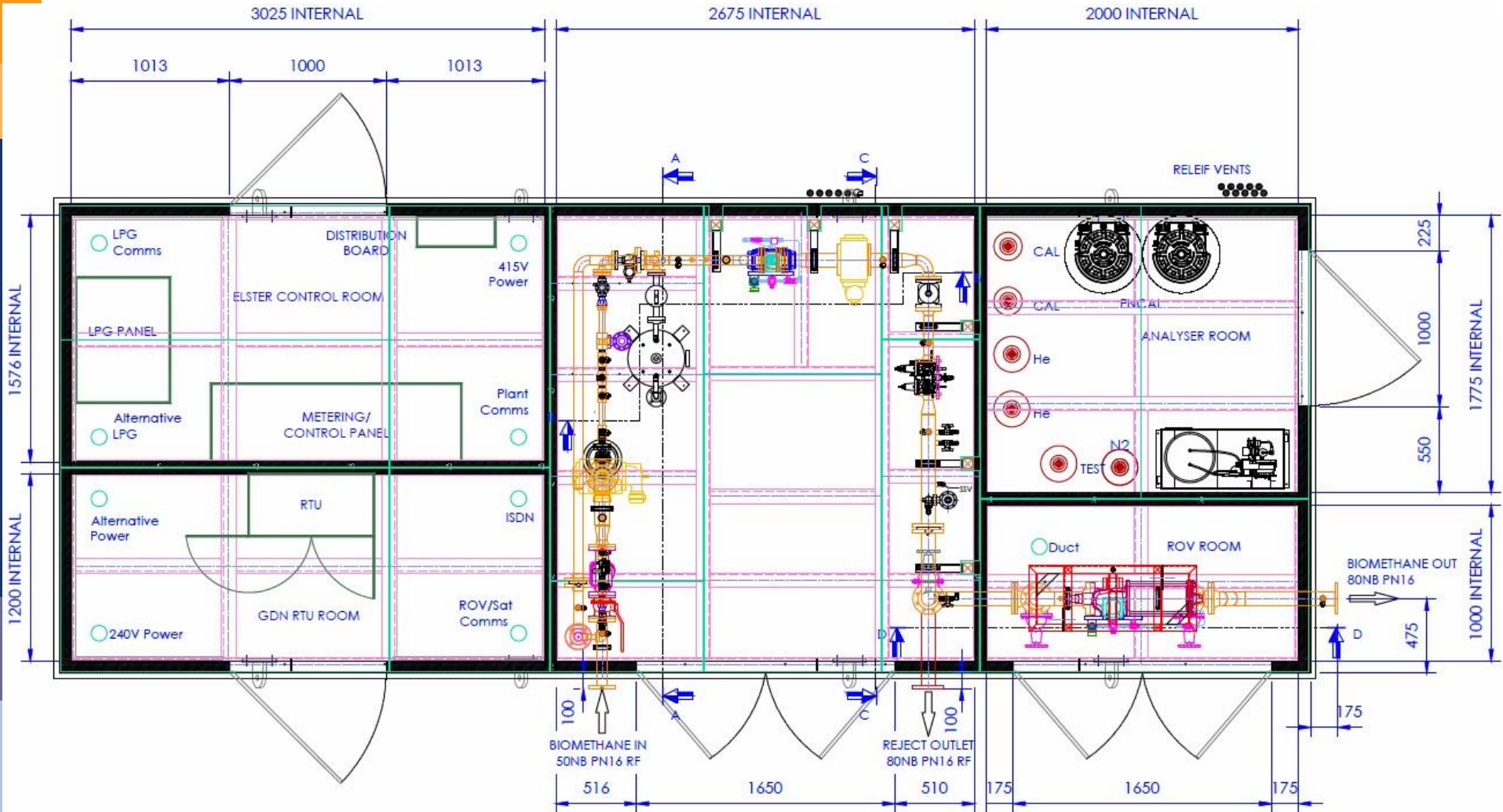
# Grid Entry Unit

- Measure biomethane quality and ensures compliance
- Adds propane and odour
- Communicates with GDN
- Biomethane flow as follows:
  - Propane injection and blending
  - GS(M)R sampling
  - Fiscal Metering
  - Pressure reduction
  - Odorant injection
- Design now a one box solution – accepted by all GDNs
  - Reduces complexity

# GEU PFD



# 1 Box GEU



# Propane Enrichment



Propane storage tanks



Propane mixing unit

- The Gross Calorific Value (GCV) in the GB gas grid is 38.8 – 39.5 MJ/m<sup>3</sup>
- The typical biomethane GCV is 37 MJ/m<sup>3</sup> (98% CH<sub>4</sub> with 2% CO<sub>2</sub>/N<sub>2</sub>/O<sub>2</sub>)
- Propane likely to be highest operating cost for biomethane project
- LTS and IP can offer blending in some areas

# Propane Injection

- Two options for propane injection
  - Vaporiser – this uses hot water to heat the propane prior to injection and blending in biomethane stream
  - Liquid injection system which heats the biomethane and uses the latent heat to vaporise the propane after injection into the biomethane stream
- GEU will house propane system
  - Preferred system highlighted in tender specification



# Propane Storage

- Three possible options for propane storage
  - Above ground – simplest installation
  - Buried or mounded – halves separation zone required
  - Part buried and part mounded
- 24 Tonnes storage max
  - If above this need COMAH regulations and planning permission and a water deluge system
  - 2x12 tonne more readily available but single tank can be used
- Free of Charge Installation possible
  - Cost paid over 5 years as part of consumption

# Propane Storage





# National Gas Distribution System



- Existing Pipeline
  - ..... Non-NTS Pipeline
  - Interconnector
  - ▲ Terminal
  - ▲ LNG Storage
  - Salt Cavity Storage
  - Depleted Field Storage
  - Compressor
  - Regulator
  - Proposed Regulator
  - LDZ Offtakes
- Local Distribution Zones**
- SC Scotland
  - NO North
  - NW North West
  - NE North East
  - EM East Midlands
  - WM West Midlands
  - WN & WS Wales
  - EA Eastern
  - NT North Thames
  - SE South East
  - SO South
  - SW South West
- Distribution Networks**
- National Grid
  - Scotia Gas Networks
  - Wales and West Utilities
  - Northern Gas Networks
- 38.9 Calorific Value

# GAS QUALITY & GSMR

# Biomethane Quality

- Most important with Food Waste feedstock
  - Good Feedstock – produces good quality biogas – around 60% CH<sub>4</sub>
  - Reduces waste to landfill & harmful emissions
- High Contaminants
  - H<sub>2</sub>S levels
  - VOCs – Limonenes mask odour
  - Will damage upgrade plant
  - Not acceptable in grid
  - Spoons and Plastic Bags
- Higher contaminant removal cost
  - More pre-treatment steps incl. pasteurisation
  - Activated carbon for H<sub>2</sub>S and VOC removal
  - Can use other low cost options



More upfront equipment and engineering

# GS(M)R Gas Specification

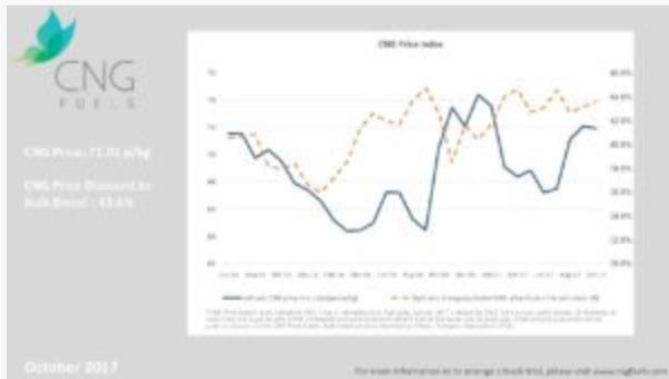
Parameter	Biomethane quality
Temperature	1- 38 °C
Pressure	Dependent on grid (2, 7, 19 or 38barg)
<b>Odour</b>	<b>No uncharacteristic or masking of odour</b>
<b>Hydrogen sulphide</b>	<b>&lt;= 5mg/Sm<sup>3</sup></b>
Hydrogen	< 0.1 % vol
Carbon Dioxide	≤ 2.5% vol
Oxygen	≤ 1.0% vol
Nitrogen	balance
Hydrocarbon dew temperature	≤ - 2°C at up to 85 barg
Water dew temperature	≤ - 10 °C at up to 10 barg
Incomplete combustion factor (ICF)	≤ 0.48
Sooting index (SI)	≤ 0.6
Wobbe Number (WN)	47.2 – 51.41 MJ/Sm <sup>3</sup>
Gross CV	36.9 – 42.3 MJ/Sm <sup>3</sup>
<b>GSMR Contaminants</b>	<b>No significant solids or liquids</b>
<b>Total sulphur</b>	<b>≤ 30 mg/Sm<sup>3</sup></b>
<b>Organo Halides</b>	<b>≤ 1.5 mg/Sm<sup>3</sup></b>
<b>Hydrogen chloride</b>	<b>≤ 1.5 mg/Sm<sup>3</sup></b>
<b>Hydrogen fluoride</b>	<b>≤ 5 mg/Sm<sup>3</sup></b>
<b>Ammonia</b>	<b>≤ 20 mg/Sm<sup>3</sup></b>
<b>Xylenes (all isomers)</b>	<b>&lt;=100 mg/Sm<sup>3</sup></b>
<b>Arsenic</b>	<b>≤ 0.1 mg/Sm<sup>3</sup></b>
Radioactivity	≤ 5 Bq/g
<b>Siloxanes</b>	<b>&lt;= 5 mg Si/Sm<sup>3</sup> ** expected</b>

<https://www.cngfuels.com/about-cng-fuels/>

## CUSTOMER PRICING- OCTOBER 2017

CNG price inc. fuel duty- **71.91p**

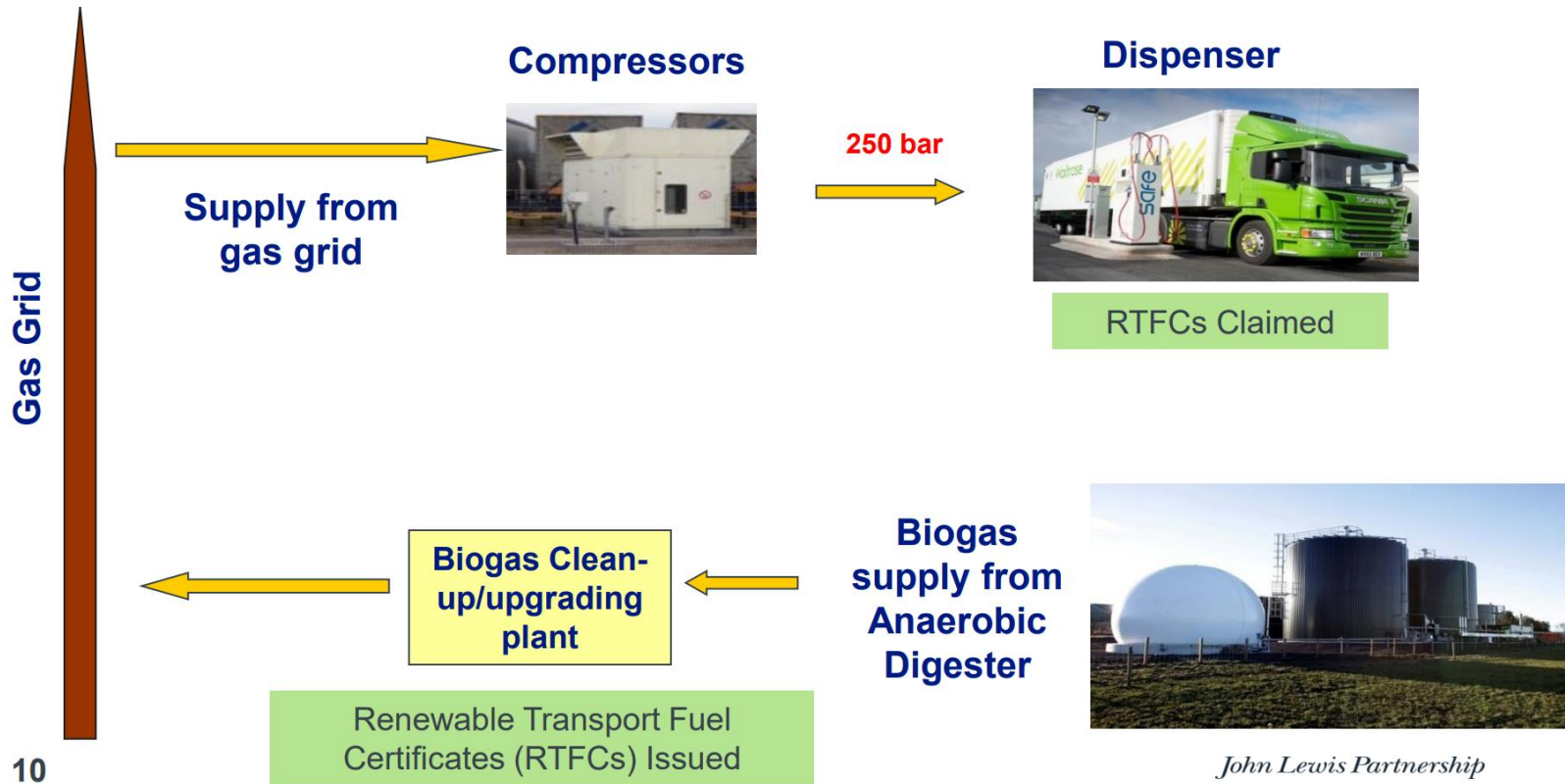
Discount to bulk diesel- **43.6%**



# BIO-CNG TRUCKS

CNG Fuels develops, owns and operates Bio-CNG distribution infrastructure including refuelling stations, trailers and vehicles. We are rolling out a UK wide network of reliable and convenient refuelling facilities to service customer's vehicle fleets and their off-grid energy needs. Our Bio-CNG is biomethane 100% sourced from food waste, independently verified and approved by the Department for Transport's Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO)

# Compressed Biomethane



This is transformational using the LTS grid to make CNG



## Dedicated Gas - Challenges

- Availability of trucks
- Availability of fuelling stations
- Fuel duty uncertainty – now fixed to 2024
- Biomethane reporting – now recognised
- Range – now 500 miles achievable



## Outcomes

- 83% reduction in WTW CO<sub>2</sub>
- 35% reduction in fuel cost (payback at 360,000 km)
- 50% (approx.) reduction in noise
- Good driver reaction

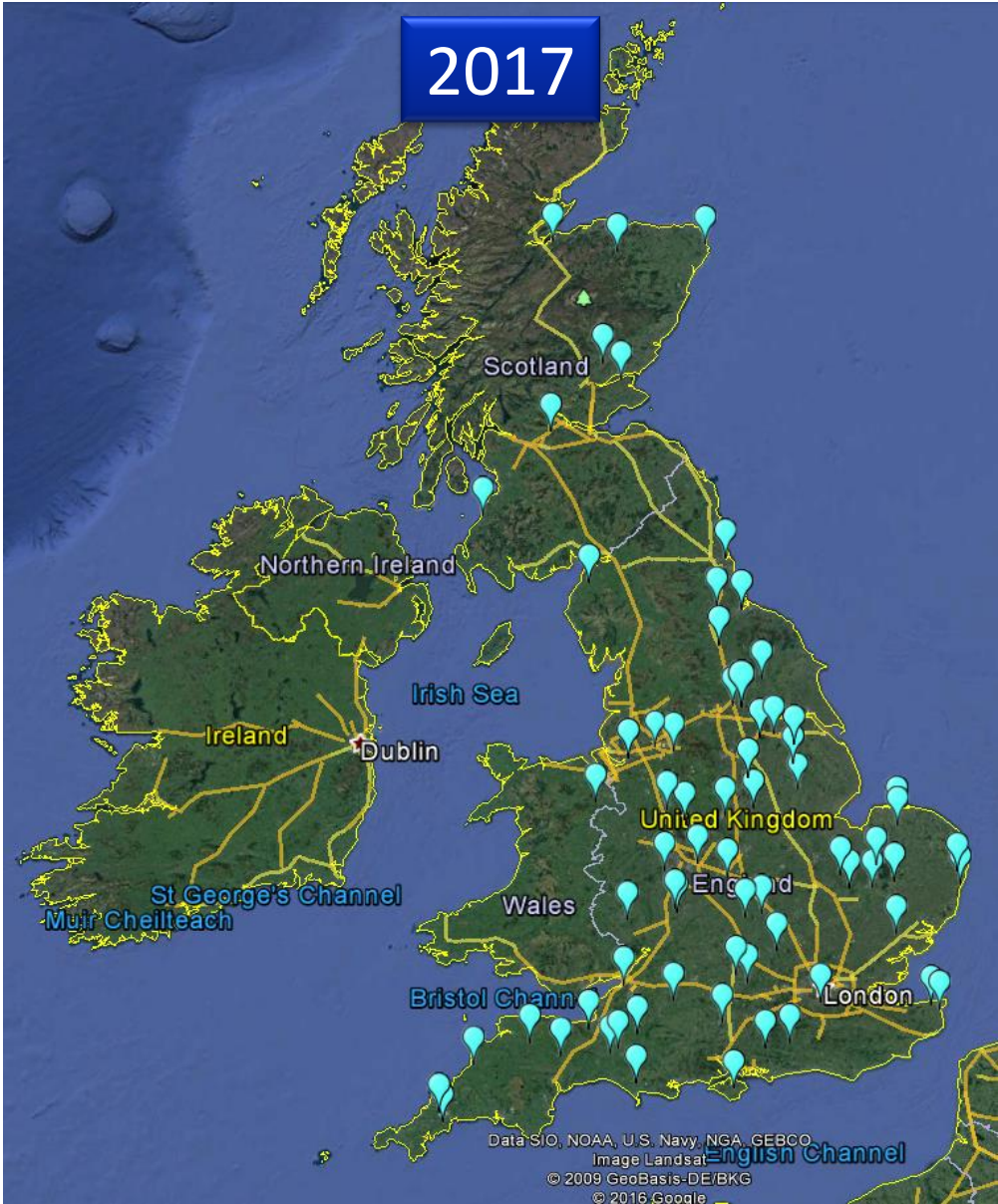
53 dedicated gas trucks



# 5. CASE STUDIES



# UK Biomethane Projects 2012-17



# Saria Dagenham

1. One of (if not the largest) Europe's largest food waste to biomethane project
2. Injects gas into Cadent 7 bar pipeline



# Severn Trent Water

1. Their first biomethane project was at Minworth in 2014, with 4 new plants completed in 2016 – 17
  - All injecting biomethane into Cadent pipelines
2. Biogas Energy Centre with the option of biomethane injection and CHP to suit circumstances – eg in summer, less heat required and solar electricity, so biomethane attractive etc
3. Maybe CBM to follow in 2018 at sites with high vehicle use?



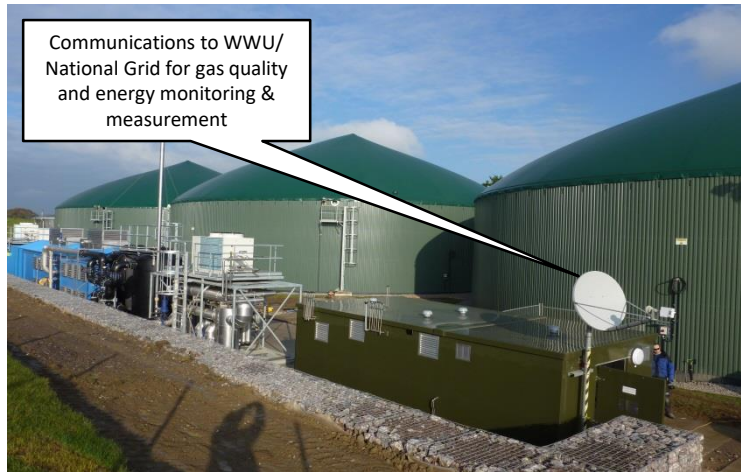
Severn Trent invests £15m in biomethane plants – Energy Live News – Energy Made Easy







# Wyke Farms Ltd



- Waste from making cheese
- Cattle waste
- Membrane

Flow of biogas – 1,500 m<sup>3</sup>/hr  
First gas to grid – Dec 2014



# Raynham



- Agricultural Feedstock
- Membrane with CO<sub>2</sub> recovery
- 19 bar LTS grid
- Hexel One Pipeline

Flow of biogas – 1,000 m<sup>3</sup>/hr  
First gas to grid – June 2015

## 6. DEMAND FOR BIOMETHANE

# 1. Gas Central Heating

1. RHI designed to support heating and it has been successful – around 4 TWh/annum
2. Typical house uses 12,000 kWh/annum so that's 120,000 houses
3. But there a lot of alternatives for domestic heating:
  - Insulation to reduce demand
  - Ground, water and air source heat pumps
  - Electric storage heating
  - CHP/District heating

There is a risk that too much focus on heating reduces investment in other options



## 2. Back-up Power Generation

1. At present there is a huge boom in low load factor gas engine power stations, typically 20MW
2. Designed to run only when wind/solar etc needs support
3. 200 – 1,500 hours a year
  - No staff, scheduled to run by computer
4. Biomethane that has been stored and is delivered via the gas grid is a good option to fuel these plants as there is no other fuel apart from natural gas
  - Diesel not allowed as does not meet air quality standards

Developers of back-up generation are interested in Biomethane

### 3. CHP in London

1. Most new London offices have a basement gas engine CHP plant which produces heating, cooling and electricity for the building
  - There is a gas pipeline in every street in London
2. Eg New Bloomberg HQ
  - Scores very high on sustainability due mainly to on site gas generation
3. The fuel for the CHP can only be natural gas in London and so could use biomethane
  - Already some buildings buy Green Gas Certs
4. There is a great option in London of using the Thames and Water Source Heat Pumps with District Heating

Gas CHP and Biomethane is an easy option – would it be better to encourage water source heat pumps?

## 4. London Buses



1. There is no Biomethane bus in London, with a small number of EVs and H2 buses
  - Nottingham and Bristol have joined Reading with biomethane buses
2. There are 1,500 diesel hybrid buses which do not meet the ULEZ requirements and will be banned or modified
3. New ASA ruling says that diesel hybrid vehicles are not clean which means they may have to be repainted
  - Better use of money would be biomethane buses
4. London has a great gas grid and could have biomethane buses using biomethane from the new Saria plant in Dagenham

Biomethane buses meet air quality and GHG targets and encourage recycling of food waste – much more honest paint job possible

They can also save money which is important – use savings to insulate houses

## 5. Trucks

1. Biomethane as truck fuel has many advantages
  - 84% saving in GHG
  - Very low NOX and PM10
  - 50% reduction in noise
2. Using the £10 billion Local Transmission System represents a great option for UK
  - for around £300 million can have enough CNG stations for 75% of big trucks

See Justin Laney slides for a view on alternatives to CBM from the LTS

## 7. SUMMARY

# Summary

1. Biomethane Market set for growth in 2018-19
2. Uncertainty from 2020 onwards, key issues:
  - GDN actions to overcome capacity issues
  - Biomethane as a truck fuel gives huge GHG savings and has great fit with UK gas grid, need to confirm details of RTFC/RHI interaction
  - Bio-SNG
  - H2 injected into the gas grid
  - Possible move to larger projects (once capacity issues sorted) which allow economies of scale
3. There is significant demand for biomethane, vehicle use a compelling one because of limited alternatives and the ability to help create more supply

Almost 90 projects in 4 years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and market looks set to continue at the 20 – 25 projects a year rate