

Biomass-to-Energy Monitor

22 / 2011



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1 Projects

Canada / New BTE project Glenevis

Firebox Energy Systems Ltd. plans to construct a 30 MW biomass power plant on the Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation Reserve close to Glenevis, Alberta. Construction of the USD 60 million "John W. Murray Biomass plant" is scheduled to start in early 2012. When successfully completed, the company intends to develop another 270 MW biomass project at the same area.

17. October 2011, www.dcnonl.com

Canada / New BTE plant in Vanderhoof

The Nechako Lumber sawmill in Vanderhoof, British Columbia, will be equipped with a new biomass energy plant. A high efficient generator will create electrical energy from the mill's bark-burning thermal system. Turboden will deliver the electricity generating system, which will produce 1.8 MW.

12. October 2011, www.vancouver.sun.com

China / Four new BTE projects in Luoyang

Four biomass-to-energy projects are currently being planned and constructed in Luoyang, Henan province. The construction of two of them has almost been completed. The total installed capacity of the four plants will be 90 MW and they are expected to incinerate 720,000 tons of straw per year.

17. October 2011, www.xnyfd.com

China / 20 new BTE plants in Hubei

20 new biomass power plants are currently being planned in Hubei province. If everything goes according to plan, they will increase the province's installed capacity by 572 MW within the next two years. Hubei province can produce about 28.5 million tons of straws every year. At present, there are five operational biomass power plants with an installed capacity of 121 MW.

17. October 2011, www.xnyfd.com

China / BTE plant planned in Yongshun county

A 30 MW biomass power plant is currently being planned in Yongshun county, Hunan province. Wuhan Kaidi Holding Investment Co., Ltd. will be in charge of the project. The plant will use forestry waste materials to generate electricity.

14. October 2011, www.xnyfd.com

Germany / Vattenfall successfully tested co-firing in Berlin

Vattenfall said it is more than content with the biomass co-firing test at its coal-fired power plant in Berlin Reuter-West. Co-firing was tested for three months. The company could replace up to 50 per cent of the coal with biomass. Vattenfall now calls upon the government to also support co-firing of biomass in plants with an installed capacity of over 20 MW, which are exempted from subsidies so far.

19. October 2011, [Euwid Neue Energien 23.2011](http://Euwid.Neue.Energien.23.2011)

Germany / Conversion of WTE plant in Landshut proceeds

The planned conversion of the waste incineration plant in Landshut, Bavaria, into a biomass power plant proceeds. The utility of Landshut and local biomass manufacturer Högl Kompost- und Recycling-GmbH signed a contract for the biomass supply. Landshut has already signed contracts with three other local biomass manufacturers, Ostermaier GmbH, MWH Mittermeier and Rotherhof Umwelt OHG. It is expected that the biomass demand could amount to up to 60,000 tons per year (see also newsletter 2011-20). The biomass plant will go on line in December 2011.

18. October 2011, www.stadtwerke-landshut.de

Germany / Kelheim BTE plant went on line

Construction works at the CHP plant in Kelheim, Bavaria, have been completed and the facility went operational. The plant is fired with wood chips and generates 0.6 MW of electricity as well as 8 MW of heat with an ORC module. The investment sum amounts to EUR 8 million (see also newsletter 2010-07).

13. October 2011, www.idowa.de

**Germany / BTE project
planned in Bad Mergentheim**

The municipal utility of Tauberfranken plans to construct a biomass CHP plant in Bad Mergentheim, Baden-Württemberg. When having secured the last necessary approvals, the company will start the tendering process for the construction of the plant. The facility is planned to start providing district heat by the end of 2012. The company has already secured heat purchase precontracts for more than 12.5 million kWh. In the final development stage, which is scheduled for 2020, the facility will generate 34.6 million kWh of heat and 6 million kWh of power.

12. October 2011, www.fnweb.de

**Germany / RWE plans
biomass co-firing in new
lignite-fired plant**

RWE Power submitted plans to the Cologne district government for a new lignite-fired power plant in Niederaußem, North Rhine-Westphalia. The company wants to decommission four older 300 MW units and to construct a new 1,100 MW bloc called BoAplus. BoAplus will be fuelled with lignite and is also able to co-fire biomass. The investment sum amounts to EUR 1.5 billion. Approval process is expected to last two to three years, RWE said. Construction should then take another three to four years.

07. October 2011, www.klimaretter.info

**Germany / Terrasys BTE
prototype plant**

In autumn 2012, Görlitz-based Autark institute for energy research and energy consulting will start to construct the second TERRASYS prototype biomass power plant. It will be able to generate power, heat, cold and drinking water from biomass and waste and especially will be developed for the use in newly industrialised and developing countries. The facility should be constructed close to the university of Zittau/Görlitz, Saxony, which is a project partner. The first prototype plant is located in Oberhausen, North Rhine-Westphalia. The German economics ministry subsidises the project for three years.

07. October 2011, www.djnewsletters.de

Philippines / German investment in San Carlos project

A group of German investors will invest USD 60 million in the San Carlos BioPower Inc. BTE plant. The 18 MW facility will be constructed in the San Carlos City ecozone. The group of 18 investors, which are members of the investment management team of the Thomas Lloyd Group, also intend to invest in two other 18 MW biomass plants located in the Cadiz and Bago areas where enough agricultural biomass residues are available. Each plant would need about 160,000 tons of input. The source does not give any more details of the projects (see also newsletter 2011-18).

18. October 2011, www.visayandailystar.com

UK / New BTE plant in Bedfordshire

Covanta Energy plans to develop a 65 MW biomass power plant in Bedfordshire. The UK's Infrastructure Planning Commission has already approved the project. The article does not give any further information on the project.

13. October 2011, www.reuters.com

UK / New BTE project in Roosecote

British utility Centrica plans to have a new biomass power plant in Roosecote up in and running by 2016. The BTE project would generate 18 MW of power and be located in Cumbria on a site of a gas-fired power station that will be shut down by the middle of this decade. The plant will be fuelled with wood fibres. Construction works could start in 2013 and would last about 36 months. The company will submit a planning application to the Infrastructure Planning Commission in summer 2012.

12. October 2011, www.reuters.com

UK / Helius adheres to Southampton BTE project

Helius Energy wants to raise a GBP 6,5 million fund to gain planning consent for its planned 100 MW biomass power plant at the Southampton Docks. The company is currently developing revised plans to reduce the visual impact of the plant (see also newsletter 2011-16). Some of the new funding will also be used to secure financing for Helius' similar sized project in Avonmouth, which already achieved planning consent (see also newsletter 2011-03).

11. Oktober 2011, www.thisishampshire.net

UK / Lateral Power to operate planned Anglesey BTE plant

Lateral Power was announced to be the operator of the planned BTE plant in Anglesey, which was proposed by Anglesey Aluminium Metal. The plant will have a capacity of 299 MW and be fuelled with wood. Environmentalists are against the project as up to 80 per cent of the needed wood will be imported (see also newsletter 2011-20).

06. October 2011, www.walesonline.co.uk

USA / Loan for BTE project in South Boston

The Northern Virginia Power Cooperative (NVPC) received USD 90 million from the USDA Rural Utilities Service as funding for the construction of the BTE project in South Boston, Virginia. NVPC and its development partner NOVI Energy develop a 50 MW biomass power plant. The loan is part of president Obama's American Jobs Act, as the plant would initialise 300 to 400 jobs during construction and 40 permanent jobs (see also newsletter 2010-07).

17. October 2011, www.biomassmagazine.com

USA / Placer county focuses on new site for planned BTE plant

Two months after Placer county's preferred site for the construction of a 2 MW biomass plant at Kings Beach on Lake Tahoe's north shore was rejected, the Californian county starts actively focusing on the location Cabin Creek as a potential site. The next step is to prepare an environmental document and to apply for a conditional use permit (see also newsletter 2011-16).

17. October 2011, www.sierrasun.com

USA / Gemma Power contracted to build BTE project

Argan Inc.'s subsidiary Gemma Power Systems was contracted by the East Texas Electric Cooperative to design and build the planned 50 MW biomass facility near Woodville, Texas. The contract is worth USD 165 million. The plant will be fuelled with wood chips and other wood materials, provided by NAPCO, a nearby chipping mill, articulated in a 25 year agreement. Completion of the facility is expected by December 2014 (see also newsletter 2011-07).

17. October 2011, www.finanzen.net

USA / Cement plant to switch to biofuels in Brooksville

Cemex, operator of a cement plant in Brooksville, Florida, and Central Power & Lime, which operates a 125 MW coal-fired power plant on the site of the cement plant, intend to switch to biofuels. The plant could be fuelled with peanut hulls and wood chips. Central Power & Lime will convert the system to run on biomass. The plant would generate up to 70 to 80 MW of power that are planned to be sold to utilities.

16. October 2011, www.tampabay.com

USA / BTE project in Vancouver still uncertain

After the Vancouver BTE project, developed by Clark county, Washington, and power utility Schneider Electric, was rejected due to town zoning issues another hearing committee now determined that the project does meet the city zoning code. However, the plan's future is still unsettled because the city council placed a six-month moratorium on the downtown project. This prevents the project developers to continue planning and would give the city enough time to change the zoning code (see also newsletter 2011-16).

14. October 2011, www.biomassmagazine.com

USA / Lakeview BTE project put on hold

Due to lack of a power purchase agreement, Iberdrola Renewables put its plans to construct a biomass power plant in Lakeview, Oregon, on hold. The planned facility was expected to generate 26.8 MW of power and would have been fuelled with forestry biomass. The facility was supposed to be commissioned by the end of 2012 (see also newsletter 2010-06).

13. October 2011, www.biomassmagazine.com

USA / Gainesville BTE plant opened

The Gainesville Renewable Energy Center (GREC) biomass plant, Florida, was opened on 11 October. Once operational the plant will produce 100 MW of power. Construction works have started in March and commissioning is scheduled for late 2013 (see also newsletter 2011-03).

11. October 2011, www.biomassmagazine.com

USA / California: MID pays USD 1.2 million to settle lawsuit

The Modesto Irrigation District (MID), California, paid USD 1.2 million to settle a lawsuit from Valley Bio Energy. The company planned to build a biomass power facility in the MID, but the plant was rejected. The payment of USD 1.2 million covers a major part of the USD 2 million that have already been invested in the project. The district said it pays this amount to avoid further litigation. The plant would have generated 30 MW of power and would have been fuelled with nut and fruit trees removed from orchards, along with pruned limbs and clean wood from construction sites.

10. October 2011, www.modbee.com

USA / Planned biomass plants in Scottsburg and Milltown will be not realised

Liberty Green Renewables LLC set out three years ago to build two wood-burning biomass power plants in Scottsburg and Milltown, Indiana. Now, however, due to high regulatory emissions standards, the company has notified Indiana environmental regulators that it intends to drop its plans. Liberty Green proposed to invest USD 100 million in 32 MW power stations, which would have burned logging and milling waste.

12. October 2011, www.courier-journal.com

USA / Ground-breaking for Berlin BTE plant

A ground-breaking ceremony was held for the 70 MW Burgess BioPower Project in Berlin, New Hampshire, on 13 October. The USD 275 million project is expected to be operational in 2013 (see also newsletter 2011-20).

05. October 2011, www.conwaydailysun.com

USA / BTE project in Port St. Joe moves forward

Rentech can move forward with the BTE plant in Port St. Joe, Florida. Commissioners approved a development order for the Northwest Florida Renewable Energy Center. The development order also prohibits Rentech to use *Arundo donax* as fuel. The project will have a capacity of 55 MW and will be fuelled with woody biomass and forest residues. The investment sum amounts to USD 220 million (see also newsletter 2011-15).

05. October 2011, www.newsherald.com

2 Plants

Austria / BTE plant operator Cycleenergy Ybbstal bankrupt

BTE plant operator Cycleenergy Ybbstal GmbH and its subsidiary Cycleenergy Waidhofen filed for bankruptcy. Cycleenergy Ybbstal GmbH operates two biomass power plants in Aschbach, Amstetten, and Waidhofen/Ybbs. The company said it cannot work any longer as the economic framework for BTE plants has been getting worse throughout the last years in Austria. According to debtors, the liabilities amount to EUR 9 million, while the assets are EUR 1.3 million.

14. October 2011, www.wirtschaftsblatt.at

Germany / Operator of Pforzheim CHP plant in deficit

In 2010, Heizkraftwerk Pforzheim GmbH, which operates the CHP plant in Pforzheim, Baden-Württemberg, generated a deficit of EUR 2.6 million and hence had more losses (EUR 2 million) than expected. With EUR 27.1 million, the revenue is EUR 6.4 million lower than in 2009. Dropped income from power and heat production could be compensated by less fuel input. The CHP plant runs on hard coal, natural gas and biomass. Compared to 2009, the biomass input decreased by 5.9 per cent.

12. October 2011, [EUWID Neue Energien](#), 22.2011

Thailand / Power plants shut down due to floodings

The Electricity Generation Authority of Thailand has closed four power plants with a combined capacity of 1,210 MW due to the current floodings: two gas-fired power plants, one hydropower plant and a 20 MW BTE facility in Phichit. The closures are expected to reduce the electricity supply through the national grid by 3.9 per cent.

19. October 2011, www.bangkokpost.com

**USA / Ownership change
benefits Snowflake BTE plant**

The Snowflake BTE plant, Arizona, has a new owner. After former owner White Mountain Power went bankrupt, Snowflake Power LLC, a subsidiary of Phoenix-based Najafi Cos., acquired the 24 MW facility. This change also brought back a former client of the plant: Salt River Project (SRP), one of Arizona's largest energy suppliers, will buy 13 MW of power from the Snowflake plant. SRP already bought electricity in the past, but terminated the contract after what officials said were problems with continuous power operations and getting electricity from the plant. The Snowflake plant burns wood and paper waste.

12. October 2011, www.bizjournals.com

3 Company News

Germany / New joint venture on biomass market

The Raiffeisen Waren-Zentrale Rhein-Main (RWZ) and WER Holding jointly founded WEB - Wärme, Energie und Biomasse GmbH. The main focus of the joint venture is to strengthen the trading positions of both companies. The joint venture deals with fuels and biomass for heat, cold and electricity production. The expertise of the RWZ includes procurement of goods, storage, logistics and biomass trade. The WER Holding will operate among others with buying biomass for the biomass power plants of the city of Dinslaken, North Rhine-Westphalia.

12. October 2011, EUWID Neue Energien , 22.2011

USA / Enviva to deliver fuel to Dominion's projects

Enviva LP, a manufacturer of biomass fuel, has signed a contract with Dominion Virginia power to supply biomass to two of Dominion's new power plants in Virginia. Dominion already announced plans to convert its three 63 MW coal-fired power plants in Altavista, Hopewell and Southampton to 50 MW BTE plants in April 2011. Enviva will supply the plants in Southampton and Hopewell (see also newsletter 2011-08).

19. October 2011, www.prnewswire.com

USA / renewed contract for Steag in Whitefield

With a new five year contract, Steag Energy Services LLC, a subsidiary of Germany-based energy supplier Steag, will continue to carry out the catalyser management at the biomass CHP plant in Whitefield, New Hampshire. The power plant has an annual capacity of 235,000 tons. In addition to the plant in Whitefield, Steag has also been operating a regeneration facility for the reprocessing of catalysers in Kings Mountain, North Carolina, since 2007.

06. October 2011, EUWID Neue Energien , 21.2011

4 Policy & Others

China/ The Twelfth Five-Year Plan started public participation

The Twelfth Five-Year Plan started public participation. According to the article, the installed biomass to energy capacity is scheduled to reach 13,000 MW from 2011 to 2015. When the plan is implemented, 500 to 700 biomass power plants will be planned in the following 5 years.

26. September 2011, www.xnyfd.com

Germany / Study: power generation from RE to increase

According to a study by the Leipzig Institute for Energy, the power generation capacity from renewable energies will increase to 65.43 GW in 2012, which represents a growth by 11 per cent regarding 2011. Electricity generation from biomass will rise from 4.87 GW to 5.02 GW, which is due to the fact that in 2011 more plants will be newly commissioned than in 2010. The total capacity of all biomass power plants is expected to amount to 1,868 MW by the end of 2012.

19. October 2011, EUWID Neue Energien 23.2011

Germany / Optimised catalysers for gasifying biomass developed

Together, the German companies H.C. Starck GmbH and Cutec Institut GmbH, Austrian company Repotec, the biomass power plant in Güssing, Austria, and the university of Vienna, have developed several catalysers that are able to optimise gasifying solid biomass. The catalysers, which were developed in laboratory and pilot plant scale, would increase the efficiency and economy of a plant. The project was funded by the "Förderprogramm Nachwachsende Rohstoffe" by the German agricultural ministry. The final report is accessible in the Internet at: <http://www.fnr-server.de/ftp/pdf/berichte/22018307.pdf>.

12. October 2011, EUWID Neue Energien , 22.2011

Germany / dena demands support of co-firing

Supported by Vattenfall, a study of the German Energy Agency (dena) (called "Co-firing of biomass in coal-fired power plants") discusses the CO₂ reduction possibilities by co-firing biomass in coal-fired power plants. According to the study, 50 per cent of the coal could be replaced, and 30 million tons of CO₂ could be saved. In order to make co-firing cost-effective, dena demands a subsidy of 3.6 cents/kWh. You can download the survey at http://www.dena.de/fileadmin/user_upload/Download/Pressemitteilungen/2011/Endbericht_Biomassenutzung_in_Kohlekraftwerken_final.pdf.

07. October 2011, www.tga-fachplaner.de

Germany / RWE demands EEG to be amended

Electricity company RWE demands to abolish the limitation of fundings for biomass power plants with a maximum capacity of 20 MW in the Renewable Energy Act (Erneuerbare-Energien-Gesetz, EEG). According to the article as of 2013, electricity companies have to buy certificates for their CO₂-emissions. Furthermore, after the recently agreed withdrawal from nuclear energy, the large power companies intend to switch to biomass as fuel. Opponents claim that the wood market would not be able to bear the demand of large-scale power plants.

06. October 2011, www.klimaretter.info

Philippines / Feed-in tariffs expected to increase

The recently introduced feed-in tariffs (FITs) are expected to increase within the next three years. The commissioning of 760 MW of renewable energies could be funded with the FITs. By 2013, the FIT subsidies will go up to P 3.12 billion with the commissioning of additional RE capacities from biomass technologies. The total amount of feed-in-tariff allowance (FIT-All) will then go up to P 0.0842 per kWh (see also newsletter 2011-11).

09. October 2011, www.mb.com.ph

UK / Biomass Power 2011 Conference in London

The Biomass Power 2011 Conference will take place from 25 to 27 October in London. For more information visit <http://biomasspower.agraevents.com/>

11. October 2011, [EUWID Recycling und Entsorgung 39.2011](#)

USA / Maryland to purchase power from poultry litter

Within the framework of the new renewable energy promotion "Clean Bay Project", Maryland is seeking proposals for power plants that generate electricity from animal waste, such as poultry litter or livestock manure. To be eligible, plants must have a capacity of up to 10 MW, be connected directly to the regional electricity grid, and be able to start supplying electricity to the state by December 2015.

16. October 2011, www.delmarvanow.com

USA / Combustion Portal online

Together with the National Center of Manufacturing Science the US-Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has developed an information portal on incineration plants. The "Combustion Portal" circularises governmental regulations on boilers, incinerations and other thermal processing plants. You can visit the site at: www.combustionportal.org

12. October 2011, www.recyclingmagazin.de

General Information

The *Biomass-to-Energy Monitor* is compiled and issued by ecoprolog GmbH. If you have any queries, suggestions or proposals, please feel free to contact us at any time.

Responsible for the monitor:



ecoprolog GmbH
Krefelder Straße 18
DE-50670 Cologne / Germany

Mark Döing (Chief executive officer)
Marcel Siebertz (Editorial Manager)
Tel.: +49 (221) 788 03 88 14
Fax: +49 (221) 788 03 88 10
Email: bte-monitor@ecoprolog.com
Homepage: www.ecoprolog.com

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