Coop Support Programme: Manure and slurry make energy and fertilizer

The climate protection programme promotes the construction of small-scale biogas plants like the one at this farm belonging to organic farmer Andreas Ballif in the Bernese Jura. Foto: Andreas Ballif

The Coop climate protection programme supports agricultural Bio Suisse or Miini Region businesses in the construction and operation of small-scale biogas plants. The biogas plants make it possible to ferment accruing farm waste such as manure and slurry so that energy and heat can be generated in a cogeneration plant. This helps to avoid methane emissions which otherwise occur in the storage and processing of farm manure, and produces renewable energy at the same time. Anyone who is interested can register for this climate protection programme now.

These days the majority of farm manure is traditionally stored on dung heaps or in slurry pits. Bacterial metabolic processes involved in the decomposition of the organic material result in the formation of methane, a greenhouse gas that is 25 times stronger than CO₂. These emissions contribute to global warming.

Through targeted fermentation within a biogas plant, the farm manure is converted into biogas and organic fertilizer (fermentation slurry) by means of microorganisms under anaerobic (oxygen-free) conditions. Subsequent combustion in the downstream cogeneration plant converts the harmful methane gas into CO₂ along with heat and power. The organic origins of the carbon mean the resulting CO₂ is climate-neutral. The energy produced is fed into the grid, while the heat is used in the fermentation process and for heating nearby buildings. The remaining fermentation slurry is high in nutrients and is therefore perfect for use as a fertilizer.

Most biogas plants use not only farm manure, but also other, energy-rich organic waste (co-substrates), which provide more biogas and thus enable the plant to operate more economically. These substrates are becoming ever rarer and can be controversial depending on their origin. The agricultural small biogas plants in this climate protection programme have to use at least 80 percent farm manure and no more than 20 percent co-
substrates.

Due to the low biogas yield, it takes quite a long time to recoup any investment in these sorts of plants. The enterprise allowance from the Coop climate protection programme aims to reduce the obstacle of high initial investment costs for interested farmers. The level of the one-off amount is calculated based on the expected reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and stands at CHF 100.- per tonne of CO₂.

This project contributes to 3 SDGs:

- SDG 7: 145 MWh of electricity are generated annually.
- SDG 12: Use of liquid manure and dung as biogas.
- SDG 13: Around 100 t of CO₂ are saved annually.

Register now!

Are you interested and are you an Bio Suisse or Miini Region supplier to Coop? Check the additional terms of participation in the registration form and send us your completed form today and don’t hesitate to contact us if you have questions!

Contact

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