

IEA Task 36: Integrating energy recovery into solid waste management.

Third Meeting of Triennium 2013-2015, Karlsruhe, March 10-12

Minutes of meeting

Present

Pat Howes	UK – Task Leader	Niranjan Patel	UK – Assistant Task Leader
Helmut Seifert	Germany	Kathryn Warren	UK – Assistant Task Leader
Jürgen Vehlow	Germany	Elisabeth Poncelet	France
Giovanni Ciceri	Italy	Keith Riley	UK – Invited observer
Inge Johannson	Sweden		

Apologies

Michael Becidan – Norway

Summary of Actions

No.	Who?	Action	Done?
1	PH/KW	Produce summary report of the meeting, and to upload speaker presentations to website.	✓
Exco Update			
2	PH	PH to speak with Art at next ExCo meeting in May about the Task's role in end of term conference in Berlin, and report back at next meeting	
3	KW	KW to upload colour supplement in which Task 36 featured to website	✓
4	IJ	To forward contact details of CEWEP to arrange meeting in October to coincide with ExCo meeting	
5	EP	To forward contact details of FEAD to arrange meeting in October to coincide with ExCo meeting	
Topic Reports			
6	IJ	To circulate a questionnaire for information for the case studies for small scale EfW plants	
7	GC	To confirm if Italy has a suitable small scale EfW for a case study	
8	EP	To liaise with IJ on a French case study for the small scale EfW report	
9	KR, EP, JV	To discuss gasification topic report	
10	EP	To circulate ADEME report on gasification	
Country updates			
11	KW	To add country update presentations to members area of website	
International conferences			
12	KW, PH	To prepare summary of potential conferences to be considered for Task attendance	
Next meeting			

13	KW, PH	To confirm dates and begin planning for UK meeting in Autumn.	
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Introductions

- Absences from this meeting:
 - Michael Becidan gave his apologies as was unable to attend due to work commitments
- Keith Riley (BH Energy group/Vismundi) attended as an invited observer.

ExCo Update

- End of term conference is being held in Berlin. It will be in a similar format to the Vienna conference and likely to be in October/November 2015.
- Feedback on Vienna from EP was that it was a good conference, but that our work is of more value to EfW audiences, as opposed to just those working in Bioenergy.
- The task needs to decide how we will attend, and if we do if we make it a Task meeting, or just a few representatives attend. We will need to make a decision in the Autumn meeting.
- Possible subjects for presentation:
 - End of Waste work on solid recovered fuel being done in Italy.
 - Evaluation of different processes from a political perspective (suggested by HS, and based on the fact that there is a danger of overcapacity in Germany due to increased segregation of biogenic feedstocks and older plants are being shut down)
 - Revised framework directive in Sweden and setting a cap on EfW (suggested by IJ)
 - These presentations need not just be done by Task members, but we could invite presentations from outside the Task.
- PH will talk to Art in May about the role he wants us to play at the conference and will report back in the Autumn meeting.
- The next ExCo meeting is in May in Copenhagen
- Other updates from ExCo
 - Canada will pay for final year of 2010-2012
 - Task 36 featured in the annual report – KW to upload on to website and circulate
- October ExCo meeting in Brussels – the Task discussed are there any other organisations we should meet with whilst in Brussels
 - IJ suggests meeting with CEWEP and will provide contacts
 - EP has contacts at FEAD
- There is still a drive from ExCo to increase interaction between Tasks and with outside organisations. IJ commented that this is very important as this has been mentioned in the Swedish evaluation of IEA membership. There is little or no communications at national level in most countries.

Update on Task 36 – Where are we now?

- PH updated on progress to date and the remaining tasks for the Triennium.
- A discussion was held on the topic of the next Task meeting which is to be in the UK in Autumn.

- The topic theme identified in the original programme was Barriers to EfW. However, the Task thought this was negative and would rather look at where we might be in 2030 – i.e. a forward looking topic rather than looking back at the problems we've had. Whilst barriers may play a part in this, we could look at policies, feedstocks, composition etc. and also at national differences. JV has a report on barriers, and KW mentioned the work we had done in the UK for EPOW on barriers to infrastructure. It was also suggested that we could take a look at what is happening in Eastern Europe (where there is currently a lot of activity on EfW) and how development of EfW in Eastern Europe may influence other regions of Europe.
- Policy makers could be invited to the meeting

Topic Reports

Small Scale EfW

- IJ has agreed to lead a topic report on small scale EfW and a proposal has been prepared. The work will update the previous 2004 report, but the focus will be on different drivers and limitations concerning small scale energy from waste. The report will consist of a number of case studies from the countries participating in Task 36, but contacts in other countries will also be approached to get a wider approach.
- The Task discussed which member countries would be able to develop case studies of small scale EfW to contribute to the report:
 - Germany does not have small scale EfW
 - There are many plants in France that are <100,000 tonnes
 - There are a small number of plants in the UK (Exeter, Surrey, NE Lincs)
 - Italy – GC will check to see if there is a suitable case study
- HS commented that it is important to understand local conditions, as to what makes small scale plants viable.
- KR commented that in the UK subsidies help make smaller plants more viable
- One of the objectives of this task will be to provide an idea of costs, but the Task members warned of problems with this, particularly as published costs are highly variable at small scale. This is because they may (or may not) include the costs of the land and back end conversion (to heat or power), but it is often not clear. So it will be important to ensure we have a good record of what is included in “capital cost”. One suggested solution would be to show a range of gate fees for small scale plants for each country (rather than capital costs); an alternative is to ask for specific investment costs (e.g. capital cost of plant, land costs, operating costs and costs of power generation plant).
- Additionally it was suggested that we should capture the reason for investment in a small scale plant. It could be related to a unique circumstance (e.g. Jersey is considering an EFW plant because it has no landfill option and the cost of importing electricity from France is increasing); however, other sites in the UK (e.g. Grimsby, Exeter, NE Lincolnshire and Dumfries) have chosen small scale plants for political reasons.

- The focus should be on recent plants, in order to understand what drives investment in small scale energy from waste. Are subsidies driving this investment (e.g. subsidies for a particular type of plant, such as gasification)? Or is it the scale of the operations in the control of local waste management companies?
- IJ will circulate a questionnaire for the case studies on small scale EfW plants.

Gasification

- KR (Vismundi) has submitted a proposal to undertake a study of gasification in the UK
- The UK is in a unique situation regarding energy from waste as energy and waste policy have resulted in an increased interest in advanced conversion of waste using technologies such as gasification. This interest is the result of increasing taxes on landfilled waste (the 'Landfill tax'), (which means that EfW treatment prices are increasingly competitive with landfill) and the end of the Government's PFI programme (which means that the UK EfW sector is increasingly focused on the private sector). Added to this is the incentive regime for electricity in the UK, which incentivises advanced conversion, with the result that it is becoming increasingly viable to down scale plants and there is wider consideration of gasification in the UK. Confusingly the definition of advanced conversion in UK renewables incentives includes close coupled 2 stage combustion as gasification, so more of these types of plants are being planned. Another trend is an increase in Japanese advanced conversion technologies interest in the UK market, with the advantage of having reference plants behind them. Currently three plants are being proposed by municipalities and other (merchant) plants are being proposed.
- In addition ETI has recently funded a competition for a demonstration of gasification of waste (see <http://www.eti.co.uk/>)
- The scope of topic report will be:
 - Review of data on operational gasification facilities using information from the English and Welsh Environment Agency, SEPA, NIEA, EPA Ireland, to identify operational gasification plants that are treating household and commercial and industrial waste streams
 - Identification of further plants in development in UK and Ireland
 - A review of the different technologies being proposed, including details of the operator/developer, the status of the facility and key parameters of the plant, including capacity, waste type, pre-processing, thermal cycle deployed, efficiency (particularly input electricity) and clean-up of syngas required. If it is possible energy balance will be included.
 - Identification of the drivers for investment in gasification of waste, including the trends above.
- JR is involved in a report for the German EPA on gasification. This is covering 118 different processes, but it is likely that the UBA will rank these and only report on the ones considered to be best practice. It is anticipated that JV may be able to provide a summary of the German work that could be combined with KR's UK report. However the work that JV is doing is focused on the BREF. JV agreed to feed in some ideas to KR.

- KR also mentioned a US database of gasification plants. PH agreed to send a list of in the USA plants that she has compiled.
- EP will also be able to contribute some input in to this project, and ADEME has recently written a report on 45 gasification and pyrolysis plants that she can circulate. Of particular interest is the Europlasma and CHO power plants and that the Japanese developers are also interested in France at the moment.
- It was agreed that KR, JV and EP should discuss further outside of the Task meeting.

Country updates

- Country updates were provided by the UK, France, Sweden and Italy. These presentations will be added to the members' only area of the Task 36 website.

International conferences

- A discussion was held on which conferences may be suitable to Task members to attend and present at, with the aim of promoting task membership and disseminating our work
- Those discussed included:
 - I-CIPEC
 - IT3
 - NAWTEC
 - Venice
- KW and PH agreed to compile a summary of potential conferences for further discussion.

Next meeting planning

- It was agreed that the next meeting would be in the UK, and the focus to be on future of EfW as discussed earlier in the meeting.
- KW and PH to discuss potential dates and begin plans for next Task meeting and workshop

Site visits and Workshop

See separate notes

Next Meeting

Pat Howes, Kathryn Warren

April 2014