

## WHAT IS BIOGAS?

Anaerobic digestion (AD) technology produces a sustainable form of renewable energy through a naturally occurring biological process in which micro-organisms break down biodegradable material in the absence of oxygen in an enclosed system. The process produces a methane-rich biogas and a nutrient rich fertiliser known as 'digestate'. The biogas can be converted into renewable electricity for our homes and businesses or it can be upgraded to biomethane for use as a vehicle fuel or for injection directly into the gas network to provide a source of renewable heat.

## BENEFITS OF BIOGAS



### RENEWABLE ENERGY BENEFITS



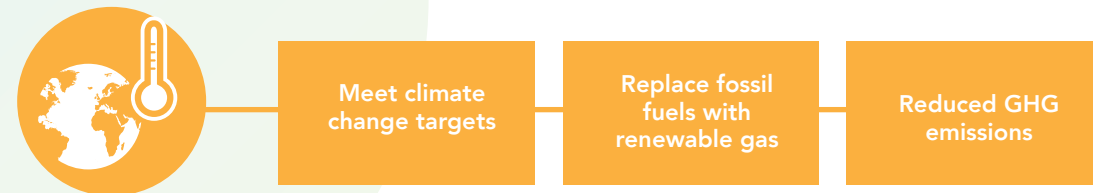
### AGRICULTURAL BENEFITS



### SOCIO-ECONOMIC BENEFITS



### ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

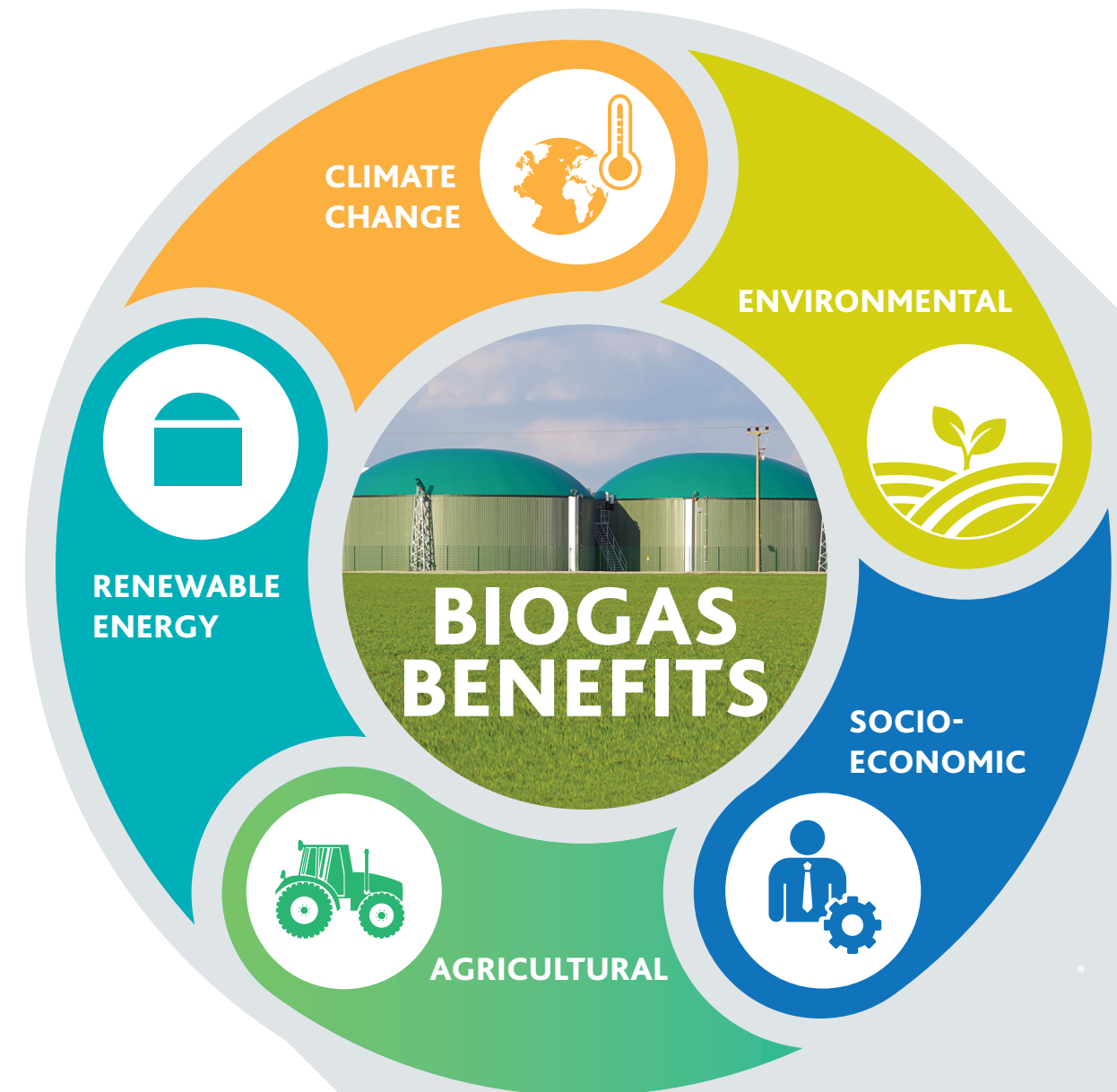


### CLIMATE CHANGE BENEFITS

This is a summary version of a detailed biogas policy document developed jointly between IrBEA and Cr  which can be downloaded from [www.irbea.org](http://www.irbea.org) & [www.cre.ie](http://www.cre.ie)

## BIOGAS SUPPORT SCHEME – SUMMARY DOCUMENT

## MOBILISING AN IRISH BIOGAS INDUSTRY WITH POLICY & ACTION



Consultation – Members, Farm Organisations,  
Semi State sector, Statutory bodies.

Joint policy  
paper  
developed  
for Biogas  
Support  
Scheme

Objective -  
Mobilise 1.6TWh  
of Biomethane  
set out in the  
Government  
Climate Action  
Plan

Phased  
approach  
between 2020  
to 2030

Other phases to  
follow between  
2020 and 2030

Initial Phase in  
2020

65MW  
Biomethane  
Equivalent in  
initial Phase

### Vision

In the medium term 1.6Twh / 200MW of biogas would be incentivised on a phased basis over several years by provision of a biomethane support scheme from government. Our document outlines a proposal to support 65MW of Biomethane in a first initial phase.

Deployment of 65MW of biomethane supported in a first phase will diversify land use, create 400 jobs, abate 500,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> annually, develop the agricultural circular economy, develop closed nutrient loops, reduce greenhouse gas emissions across many sectors including agriculture, transport, heat and electricity, support sustainable waste management and intensify agriculture and develop the bioeconomy.

### 65MW biomethane (Equivalent to 25MW electrical AD- 50% of budget for REFIT 3)

Type of Plant	Size of Plant (MW)	Number of Plants Over Next 5 years	Rate (x cents) Support Required
Manure/Grass Silage	1.25	17	9
Agri Food Industrial	4	5	7
Food Waste	8	3	6

Delivered through 25 centralised and strategically located medium to large scale biogas plants spread across the country in proximity to the gas grid

Potential Carbon Dioxide Saving per year  
– c. 500,000 tonnes

Creates approx 400 jobs

**Support: €40 million** Support Scheme  
Budget required

### Mission:

To mobilise a biogas industry in the short term by setting out the clear policy decisions and actions required to realise the potential which exists for an Irish biogas industry.

### Key Agriculture Aspects

- Biogas complementing food production and addressing agriculture emissions
- Promoting reduced use of chemical fertilisers
- Farm diversification
- Feedstock through increased grass production & using manures
- Biogas assisting farmers in a fodder shortage

### Funding Options:

- Public Service Obligation Levy on Fossil Gas to create a Biogas Fund
- Whole of Government Approach to create a Biogas Fund
- Ring fencing Carbon Taxes for a Biogas Industry

### Others options

- Tax Breaks, Low Interest Loans, the Biofuels Obligation Scheme, Renewable Electrical Support Scheme