



## NEWSLETTER #04

### Guidelines for sustainable biogas production on organic farms

You are an organic farmer or you are advising organic farms, you are interested in biogas production and you wonder what should be considered to make a biogas plant a truly sustainable investment? SUSTAIN GAS has developed [guidelines](#) for sustainable biogas production, consulted organic farmers and discussed it in workshops. Now the final guidelines are [online](#) - please share them with your colleagues, discuss them with your fellow farmers and send us feedback!

### Sustainable Biogas discussed in European Parliament

On the 8th April, a policy roundtable "Sustainable Biogas on Organic Farms - a contribution to reach the 20-20-20 renewable target and to increase organic food production" took place in the European Parliament, in order to discuss about sustainable biogas production on organic farms. All the speakers, coming from different backgrounds, from a European Commission officer to an organic farmer tried to present the advantages of using biogas plants. The panel was followed by a fruitful discussion with experts and the audience. Presentations can be downloaded [here](#).



### Training Modules

On the 6th February the last of eight Live-Webinars in six different languages took place, concluding a series of online trainings with great feedback. Participants had the chance to get acquainted with the topic of Biogas in Organic Farming during a lecture followed by lively discussions via the chat. Just recently 6 regional Workshops have been conducted and carried out in Germany, Austria, Bulgaria, Poland, Denmark and Spain. The workshops were very well attended, e.g. by organic but also conventional farmers, biogas plant manufacturers, representatives from cooperatives and associations, scientists, students and other people interested in the topic. The focus of the workshops was set on sustainability aspects, feasibility and practical implementation of biogas plants in organic farms. For interested people who could not attend the workshops: in September we will start a 3-months [online course](#)!

### Handbook on sustainable biogas production launched

The handbook provides a single source of information about the biogas process, the technical and non-technical aspects of planning, building and operating biogas plants as well as about biogas and digestate utilisation. The extensive practical part of "getting started" is devoted to the practical implementation; it shows which specific aspects have to be considered when realizing a biogas project.

The handbook has been published in English, French, German, Bulgarian, Danish, Polish and Spanish language. It can be downloaded from the [website](#).



### Sustainingas on BioFach

The handbook was launched in a seminar that took place on 14 February at the [BioFach](#), the worlds largest organic food fair in Nuremberg, Germany. Speakers' presentations were followed by discussions with an engaged international audience about the sustainability, the effects on soil life and the economic viability of biogas production on organic farms.



### Upcoming soon

3-5 June 2014: European [Green Week](#)  
 23-27 June 2014: [EU Sustainable Energy Week](#)  
 13-15 October 2014: [Organic World Congress](#)