



Case Study:

Wyke Farms – leading the way in creating a sustainable energy future



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Wyke Farms, one of the UK's largest cheese producers, has put sustainability at the heart of its business. The company based in the Somerset countryside is one of the first national food brands to be self-sufficient in green energy.

Wyke has created a sustainable working farm which sources all its energy from solar, biogas CHP and biomethane, also known as green gas, generated from over 75,000 tonnes of biodegradable waste from its cheese business, its farms and its neighbours' farms. It was the Guardian Sustainable Business of the Year in 2014 and also in 2014 chosen by leading trade publication, The Grocer, as Sustainable Supplier of the Year.

The company has been at the forefront of exploiting new gas technology since late 2014 when it first injected biomethane into the gas grid. Wyke's Anaerobic digestion (AD) plant produces biogas from dairy and farm waste. Some biogas is used to generate electricity with waste heat utilised in the process. The majority of biogas however is converted into biomethane which is then injected into the gas grid; the process is known as biomethane to grid (BtG). The Wyke plant started producing green gas in December 2014 and production has increased steadily to the point where today Wyke Farms is producing around 70 million units of certified Green Gas per year (one unit = 1kWh).

Wyke's biomethane is shipped through the gas grid by Barrow Green Gas (BGG). In January 2016, Wyke announced a partnership with Sainsbury's to supply green gas for its stores. BGG make this possible by transferring a proportion of Wyke's green gas to Sainsbury's gas supplier. The aim of the partnership is to supply enough gas to make up six per cent of Sainsbury's total gas use.





BGG is also a direct supplier of green gas and supplies Wyke with the gas that is used to provide energy for its cheese manufacturing plant, which is on a different site to the AD Plant.

The biomethane is tracked through the system using the REA Green Gas Certification Scheme, the process is facilitated by Barrow Green Gas who can provide proof-of-origin via the Green Gas Certificate transfers. This gives confidence to all parties that the gas is biomethane.

In addition, because BGG supports other green gas producers, if for any reason Wyke's gas production does not meet a company's needs on a particular day, BGG is able to fulfil that gas demand from its other producers, ensuring that sustainability targets continue to be met.

Wyke's commitment to sustainability is impressive and driven by a real desire to create a better world. According to Richard Clothier, Managing Director and 3rd generation family member at Wyke Farms:

"As people who work closely with the land, we can see first-hand effects of climate change and I believe that we have a responsibility for the sake of future generations to be part of a low carbon solution to energy. Increasingly the shoppers that buy our cheddar across the world see green and sustainable as part of our corporate responsibility and expect us to do our bit."

Barrow Green Gas was set up to provide biomethane producers with a dedicated service which is focused on all the benefits that green gas can offer. BGG supplies more green gas than any other shipper, sourced from over half of Great Britain's biomethane producers.

BGG holds GB Gas Shipper and Supplier Licences, and so uses the existing natural gas network to deliver green gas. BGG offers flexible contracts, tailored individual support and transparency. Green gas is supplied at prices linked to the natural gas 'daily system clearing price' – where prices are driven by real supply and real demand on the day.

BGG is the only GB supplier and shipper business to focus exclusively on the biomethane market so anyone buying gas from them can be sure they are purchasing green gas.

Barrow Green GAS is the only green gas/ biomethane shipping business that ships biomethane for the producer, supplies biomethane to the gas buyer and manages the green gas certificates to make the gas green.

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