



LIFE CoWaCo - LIFE Communal and organic waste conversion

LIFE17 ENV/DE/000267

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Contact details:

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Project description:

Background

In order to shift to a circular economy, waste materials need to be converted into useful products. This means extracting valuable hydrocarbons, water and other resources from organic waste (municipal, domestic, garden, sewage sludge), paper, wood, used lubricants, paints and organic chemicals, thus reducing the amount of waste that is incinerated.

Objectives

LIFE CoWaCo will set up a near-zero emission prototype in Rendsburg, northern Germany, to process biogas and wet residuals (sewage sludge, manure) into sulphur-free, carbon-neutral and high-quality primary products (fuels, lubricants and solvents), and profitable by-products (fertilisers and water). This will reduce the amount of waste incinerated, preventing harmful effects on soil, air, climate, groundwater and resources. The prototype will be optimised to meet product quality standards. This will create new market potential for existing bio and sewer-gas plants, waste disposal and wastewater treatment companies and suppliers of raw input materials.

The project will help implement the EU's Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe and the Biofuels Directive.

Expected results:

- Conversion of some 900 tonnes (dry substance) of sludge and 675 000 cubic metres of biogas into CO₂-neutral diesel, other hydrocarbons (e.g. solvents, lubricants) and 710 tonnes of concentrated fertiliser, as well as more than 3 700 cubic metres of water as a by-product;
- Reduced carbon dioxide emissions (1 055 tonnes);
- Reduced air pollution (nitrous oxide emissions 12% lower; particulate matter emissions 24% lower);
- End products certified for commercial use;

- Nine full-time equivalent jobs created;
- A business plan drafted and links created with 80 potential business partners across the EU;
- Dissemination of the project results;
- Planning for transfer to at least one follow-up plant within the EU.

Results

Results to be published at the end of the project

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Environmental issues addressed:

Themes

Waste - Waste recycling

Waste - Municipal waste (including household and commercial)

Keywords

waste use, waste treatment, waste reduction, biofuel, sludge treatment, resource conservation, fertiliser

Target EU Legislation

- Waste
- COM(2015)614 - "Closing the loop - An EU action plan for the Circular Economy" (02.12.2015)
- Directive 2008/98 - Waste and repealing certain Directives (Waste Framework Directive) (19.11.200 ...
- Directive 1999/31 - Landfill of waste (26.04.1999)

Natura 2000 sites

Not applicable

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Beneficiaries:

Coordinator

Infinite Fuels GmbH

Type of organisation	Large enterprise
Description	Infinite Fuels GmbH is a company that specialises in the development of sustainable fuels and fertilisers. It delivers concepts for converting a wide range of input materials from plants to biogenic residuals, organic waste materials and carbon dioxide into sustainable high quality sulphur-free carbon-neutral fuels such as diesel, kerosene and gasoline, as well as concentrated fertiliser.
Partners	HOCHSCHULE FUER ANGEWANDTE WISSENSCHAFT HAMBURG, Germany Abfallwirtschaftsgesellschaft Rendsburg-Eckernförde GmbH, Germany

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Administrative data:

Project reference	LIFE17 ENV/DE/000267
Duration	01-JUL-2018 to 31-DEC -2022
Total budget	12,000,833.00 €
EU contribution	6,000,691.00 €
Project location	Schleswig-Holstein(Deutschland)

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