



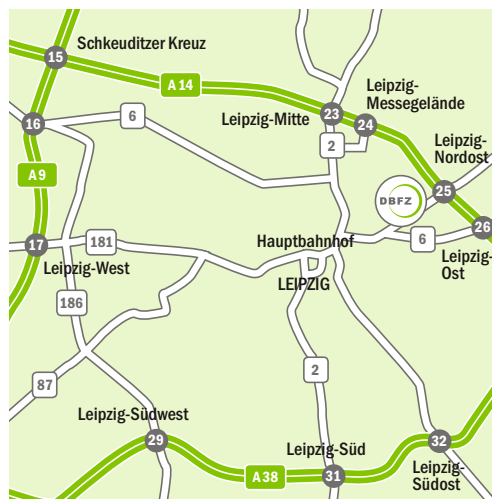
Annual Report 2023

Directions

By train: to Leipzig main station. Take tram line 3/3 E (towards Taucha/Sommerfeld) as far as the Bautzner Strasse stop. Cross the street, leave the car park on the right and use the main entrance of the DBFZ (House 1, Torgauer Str. 116). Please check in at the front office.

By car: on the A 14 motorway. Exit at Leipzig Nord-Ost; follow signs for Taucha; then follow signs for Leipzig; then follow signs for Zentrum, Innenstadt. Turn off left after the “bft” filling station (see “By train” for further directions).

By tram: line 3/3 E towards Taucha/Sommerfeld; Bautzner Strasse stop (see “By train” for further directions).



Annual Report 2023



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1 Editorial

Dear readers,

The effects of Russia's brutal war of aggression against Ukraine are becoming increasingly clear. This was and is also associated with a variety of challenges for the DBFZ. We are very pleased that we were able to master these well with our highly committed team and continue to drive the positive development of the DBFZ in 2023. Special thanks go to all our partners (Supervisory Board, Research Advisory Council, project management organisations and project partners) for their tireless input and constructive collaboration!

Despite the difficult conditions mentioned above, the first part of the R&D roadmap (2021–2023) was successfully completed. The second part of the R&D roadmap (2024–2026) was designed and, following intensive discussions in the committees, was finally unanimously approved by the DBFZ's Supervisory Board in November 2023.

A particular highlight of the past year was the ceremony to mark the 15th anniversary of the DBFZ, at which the excellent development was particularly recognised by State Secretary Silvia Bender (BMEL) and State Minister Wolfram Günther (Saxon State Ministry for Energy, Climate Protection, Environment and Agriculture), among others. As planned when it was founded, the DBFZ has since developed into the central federal research institution in the field of energy and integrated material utilisation of renewable raw materials. We would like to thank everyone involved for the positive development of the past 15 years.



Fig. 1: The General Management of the DBFZ

Major national and international projects such as "Pilot-SBG" and "ETH Soil" were successfully advanced in 2023. In addition, around 30 new third-party funded projects with a total volume of EUR 12.5 million were launched and scientific issues relating to the bioeconomy as a whole were increasingly addressed. In this way, we want to make a contribution towards a climate-neutral society in which renewable energies and a functioning circular economy are central pillars.

You will find a wealth of interesting information on this topic in this Annual Report 2023. On behalf of the entire DBFZ team, we hope you enjoy reading it and wish you all the best for the future.

Prof. Dr. Michael Nelles
Scientific Managing Director

Dr. Christoph Krukenkamp
Administrative Managing Director

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The DBFZ at a glance

Mission

The DBFZ, founded in 2008, develops practical solutions along the value chains and cycles of biomass on the basis of the “Smart Bioenergy Approach”¹. Through applied research and development (R&D) of technologies for the energetic and integrated material use of biomass, the DBFZ is making a significant contribution to the realisation of a climate-neutral society, which is to become a reality by 2050 at the latest. Thanks to its close networking with numerous partners from science, practice and society, the DBFZ has a special role to play in the development of rural areas and regions in Germany affected by the coal phase-out or other structural changes. Co-operation with international partners promotes the global transfer of knowledge and technologies.

Target groups

The target groups of the R&D work are the specialised public and here in particular the energy industry, agriculture and forestry, the economy in the areas of bioenergy and bioeconomy as well as the end consumer with an interest in an environmentally and climate-friendly, economically viable and socially acceptable bioenergy supply. In addition to the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture, there are other relevant federal and state ministries as well as other governmental and non-governmental organisations in Germany and abroad.



Co-Operations and services

New processes, procedures and concepts are developed in close co-operation with partners from business and industry as well as other research institutions on the basis of jointly acquired national and international research funding or on behalf of other research institutions. This is intended to promote the initiation and support of networks in industry and between industry and science. At the same time, networking takes place with research in the agricultural, forestry and environmental sectors, including with the departmental research of the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL), large-scale non-university research (in particular with the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research), the state research institutions, selected universities and other German, European and international institutions in the field of biomass research.

→ Further information:

www.dbfz.de/en/the-dbfz/mission-statement

www.dbfz.de/en/research/rd-networks

www.dbfz.de/en/services/research-with-companies

www.dbfz.de/en/research/research-infrastructure

¹ www.smart-bioenergy.com

Key figures 2023

31

Newly launched projects
(market and third-party funded projects)

51

Completed projects

124

Processed projects

402,942 EUR

Average project volume
of the projects launched in 2023

275

Employees
(as of: 31/12/2023)

58

Events
(internal/external)

63

Peer reviewed publications
(including 56 open access articles)

2.1 Project cooperation (EU and national)

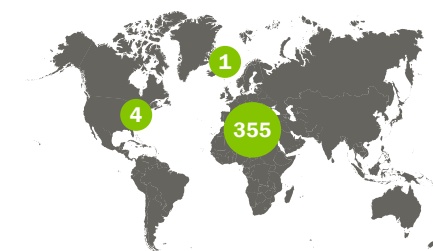
Project cooperation

Thanks to close research cooperation with numerous partners from science, industry and society, the DBFZ was able to further expand its position as a leading national research institution in the field of energy and integrated material utilisation of biomass last year. In total, more than 120 research projects were carried out in collaboration with scientific institutions and industrial partners

in 2023. A project overview can be found in this annual report from page 137.

As part of 31 EU project collaborations with over 350 partners or as an active member and National Team Leader in leading international research networks such as the IEA Energy Technology Collaboration Programme, the European Energy Research Alliance (EERA) or the European Technology and Innovation Platform Bioenergy (ETIP Bioenergy),

Main partners in EU cooperation (Number per country/region)



KEY DATA

31 EU projects (FP7/Horizon2020/HEU)

355 partners:

- 37 % Private-for-profit-Organisations (Industry, SME)
- 21 % Research institutions
- 18 % Colleges and Universities
- 18 % Others (Associations, Agencies, Networks)
- 6 % Institutions under public law (public administration)

Funding for DBFZ:

10.8 Mio EUR

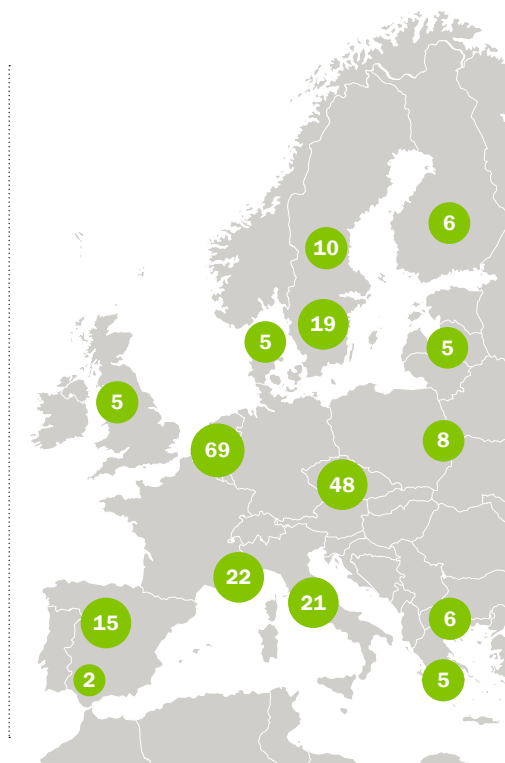


Fig. 3: International co-operation at EU level

the DBFZ is active in committee work and continues to expand its scientific networks at national and international level. An overview of the extensive committee and network activities can be found in this annual report starting on page 112.

Publication output

Scientific project results and findings were published in 2023 together with co-authors from 65 institutions in 63 peer-reviewed publications and numerous popular science journals. The more than 150 publications

with DBFZ involvement published each year in 2023 also included an increased number of 64 statements and position papers to inform interested practitioners and users as well as policymakers. With almost 180 presentations at scientific congresses and conferences, DBFZ employees presented the latest results and findings of bioenergy research and actively networked with the scientific community and interested members of the public. With a total of 338 publications, a new record was once again achieved in 2023. A detailed overview of the DBFZ's publications can be found in the appendix starting on page 141.

Tab. 1: Publication overview for the period from 2019–2023

Publications	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Book publications/ Editorships	9	12	15	13	15 ²
Book articles	5	37	14	23	13
Journal articles (reviewed)	57	70	62	58	63 ³
Journal articles	10	11	11	17	16
Contributions to conference proceedings	44	27	31	33	43
Presentations	156	132	165	217	179
Research data	1	3	4	5	9
Total	282	292	302	308	338

² of which: 9 Monographs, 2 Editorships of collective works, 4 Editorships of conference proceedings
³ of which: 56 open access articles

2.2 Scientific highlights and prizes

The market for edible mushrooms and alternative bio-materials is growing rapidly and offers the best conditions for a sustainable bioeconomy. The DBFZ project “MycoForm” (FKZ: 031B1323) investigated the cascade use of organic residues for the production of completely biogenic materials such as insulation boards and moulded packaging parts, which are kept in shape by fungal mycelium (the fine, thread-like structure that represents the actual fungal organism). The project focussed on agricultural residues (maize harvest residues, wheat straw) with considerable volume potential. The speciality here is the exclusive use of edible mushrooms and



Fig. 4: Bioeconomy: from mushroom to moulded part

their cultivation, from which additional added value can be achieved through the production of food. The insights gained in this project are promising and provide the basis for large-scale implementation.

Handover of REF4FU and Innofuels funding decisions

On 14 March 2023, scientists from the DBFZ's Biorefineries Department contributed to the success of the BMDV conference on “Renewable Fuels” with a keynote speech and received the funding decisions for the R&D project “REF4FU” (Refineries for Future) and the platform project “Innofuels” from Parliamentary State Secretary Oliver Luksic. In both projects, colleagues from the DBFZ are involved in the research projects with technical expertise in processes for renewable fuels, with evaluation issues and with the management of work packages and focal points.



Fig. 5: Official handover of the funding decisions for the REF4FU and Innofuels projects

Revised Resource Database goes online

Biogenic waste and residues harbour growing potential for a sustainable and bio-based economy. In a completely revised resource database, DBFZ scientists have provided extensive data on biomass potentials for Germany and the EU as a freely accessible database. The expanded database updates the known biomass data, summarises project results and has a modular design, so that further options are available. The new version also provides successive time series of biomass potentials, shows links between biomass and utilisation paths and offers considerably more graphical information overall. The web application is available free of charge to researchers, political representa-

tives, companies and all interested parties at www.dbfz.de/en/resource-database.

Successful authorisation of mixed hardwood/wood pellets under the 1st BImSchV

The possibility of using renewable raw materials outside the specified list, as stipulated in Section 3 (1) No. 13 of the 1st BImSchV, was and is associated with uncertainties regarding emission and combustion behaviour, among other things. This has so far prevented any authorisation in Germany for small and medium-sized combustion plants. Against this background, the process was described as an example for the production of mixed



Fig. 7: Successful authorisation of mixed hardwood-wood pellets

hardwood-wood pellets and the one-year measurement programme for the fuel category described was carried out on one type of boiler. As a result, DBFZ scientists were able to demonstrate on the basis of measurements by the accredited ILK Dresden testing centre that the emission limit values of the 1st BImSchV and the LAI licensing requirements for mixed hardwood-wood pellets can be complied with in full-load operation with the firing system used, which has a rated thermal input of less than 100 kW. On this basis, this combination of fuel and the combustion technology described can be used throughout Germany within the scope of the 1st BImSchV.

study demonstrates the potential of these materials for advanced applications, particularly as a catalyst carrier in low-temperature methane combustion. The results not only offer a sustainable solution for the utilisation of biomass residues, but also underline the importance of their integration into catalytic processes, thus contributing to the development of environmentally friendly materials and processes.

→ The results have been published as an open access paper:

www.mdpi.com/2079-4991/13/9/1450

Development: Catalyst from African residues rich in silicon

The research work of DBFZ doctoral student Clement Owusu Prempeh (Thermo-chemical Conversion Department) is investigating the use of agricultural residues in Africa for the production of high-quality and sustainable biogenic silica. Through the use of innovative extraction and modification processes, the



Fig. 8: Doctoral student Clement Owusu Prempeh

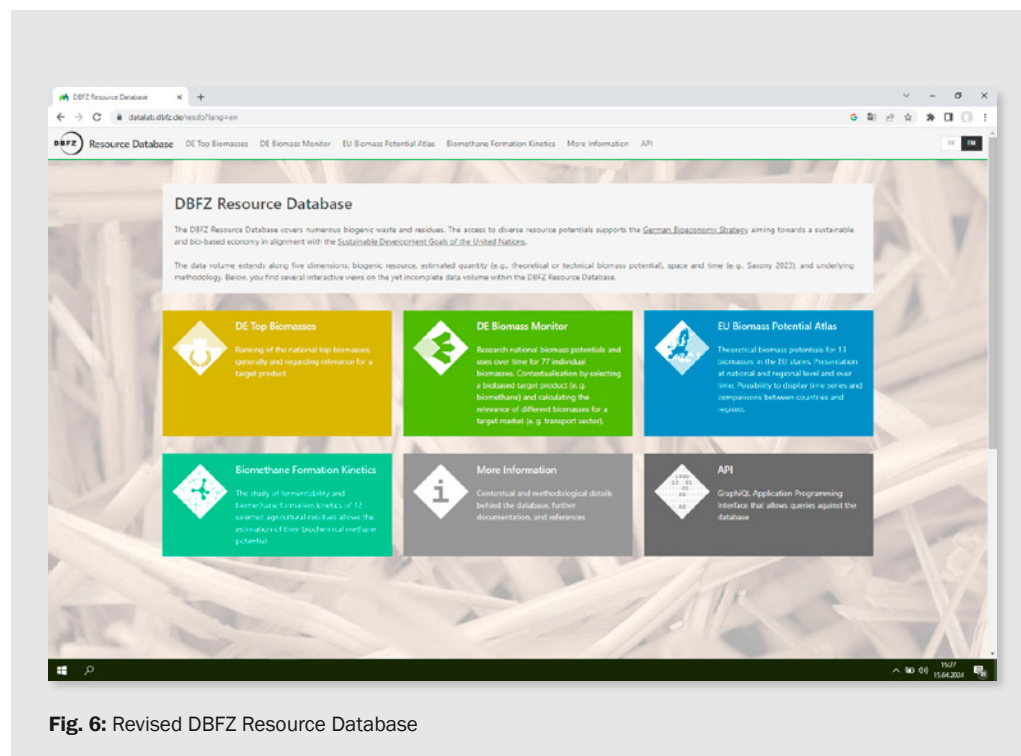


Fig. 6: Revised DBFZ Resource Database

Prizes, awards, appointments

DBFZ scientists win the 2023 Biogas Innovation Award

At the 16th Biogas Innovation Congress in Osnabrück on 24/25 May 2023, forward-looking research approaches and technologies in the field of biogas were once again discussed. The annual presentation of the Biogas Innovation Award by the German Farmers' Association (DBV) also took place as part of the congress. For the first time, there were several winners in the science category. The EUR 3,000 silver innovation prize went to Dr. Nils Engler from the DBFZ for his research into measuring emissions from slurry or fermentation product storage under practical conditions, as well as to his DBFZ colleagues Dr. Britt Schumacher and Lukas Knoll.



Fig. 9: Dr. Nils Engler receives the Biogas Innovation Award 2023



PhD student Selina Nieß wins 2nd place at the “DGAW-WIKO” science congress

The scientific congress “DGAW-WIKO” is the doctoral colloquium of around 60 waste management professorships in German-speaking countries. In the 12th edition of the event on 9/10 March 2023, 20 contributions were initially selected from more than 70 submitted abstracts in a review process to be included in the programme as presentations. DBFZ doctoral student Selina Nieß (Biorefineries Department) took second place with her presentation on “From waste biomass to biofuel – suitable catalysts for direct biogas methanation”. The award is endowed with prize money of EUR 1,000 and includes free participation in the DGAW-WIKO 2024 at TU Wien as well as a travel allowance.

Groundbreaker Award 2023 for the EU project “Regatrace”

The EU project REGATRACE, which was supported by the DBFZ, received the Biogas Groundbreaker Award from the European Biogas Association (EBA) in November 2023. The research project focussed on laying the foundations for the efficient issuance and trading of biomethane/renewable gas certificates and supporting market development. A total



of 16 partners from eleven different European countries are involved in REGATRACE. In the joint project, the DBFZ was entrusted with the integrated evaluation of the ecological and economic indicators of various technologies for the production of renewable gases.

→ **Further information:**
www.regatrace.eu

Doc BIOENERGY: Doctoral student Matthis Kurth receives the Best Poster Award

DBFZ scientist and doctoral student Matthis Kurth (Biorefineries Department) won the prize for the best scientific poster at the 6th Doctoral Colloquium BIOENERGY on 18/19 September 2023 at HAWK Goettingen. The poster is entitled “Maxwell-Stefan Surface Diffusion Modelling on Nano-Porous Carbon Membranes” and describes a method in which a binary mass transfer model with a discretisation of three membrane layers can be created using Maxwell-Stefan surface diffusion and Knudsen diffusion using adsorption isotherms and single gas permeation experiments.



Fig. 10: Best poster award: Doctoral student Matthis Kurth

Scientist Johanna Wiechen wins “Out of the Box” science competition

The winner of the creative competition “Out of the Box: The Science Competition” as part of the “Biomass to Energy” status conference was scientist Johanna Wiechen from the DBFZ. She impressed the jury with her imaginative presentation on the “Nutritional Value” project. In the project presented, nutrients are separated from fermentation residues using various processes and made transportable again in solid form. Nutrients can thus be discharged again at the places where they are needed. The three other participants in the competition, Dr. Caroline Autenrieth (University of Stuttgart), Dr. Franziska Müller-Langer (DBFZ) and Andreas Fuchs (University of Stuttgart), also scored highly with their cre-



Fig. 11: DBFZ scientist Johanna Wiechen (left) was the winner of the “Out of the Box” creative competition

ative contributions. The presentations were assessed by a jury according to comprehensibility, audience reaction and creativity.

Professorships for DBFZ scientists Weinrich, Kretzschmar and Hartmann

Dr. Sören Weinrich (Biochemical Conversion Department) was appointed to the professorship of “Resource Management and Environmental Process Engineering” at Münster University of Applied Sciences in mid-2023. In addition to individual modules on process simulation and life cycle assessment, he

teaches the fundamentals of process engineering as well as waste and recycling management. Dr. Jörg Kretzschmar (Biochemical Conversion Department) has also been appointed to a professorship at the Zittau/Görlitz University of Applied Sciences, where he has been working in the Faculty of Natural and Environmental Sciences in the field of environmental bioprocess engineering since September 2023. The long-standing head of the DBFZ research focus area “Catalytic Emission Control”, Dr. Ingo Hartmann, has held a one-year deputy professorship at the HTWK Leipzig, Department of Environmental Engineering, since the end of 2023.



Fig. 12: Professorships for DBFZ scientists Weinrich, Kretzschmar and Hartmann (from left to right)

2.3 Ecological responsibility: climate-neutral DBFZ

The DBFZ is pursuing ambitious goals with regard to environmentally conscious business practices. The centre's aim is to achieve climate-neutral operations by 2030. With this in mind, numerous measures have been defined and implemented in recent years. Over the course of 2023, the DBFZ's CO₂ emissions in 2019 were initially determined from various sources. The year 2019 also appears as a reference year in the climate framework negotiations (COP28) and is due to the fact that the coronavirus pandemic has distorted the figures with working from home and the virtual impossibility of business trips. The DBFZ's emissions figures for 2019 are therefore as follows:

Overall, emissions totalled 1505 t CO₂eq, which corresponds to around 8 t per full-time

equivalent. The biggest drivers here were lignite-fired electricity with 885 tonnes CO₂eq, heat generation from natural gas with a total of 250 tonnes CO₂eq and business trips with around 200 tonnes CO₂eq. Commuter traffic accounts for around 74 t CO₂eq.

A lot has happened since the reference year 2019. Electricity from lignite was switched to green electricity in 2020; this measure enabled the DBFZ to save around 885 t CO₂eq per year. In addition, three working groups were established to deal with the topics of “heat”, “electricity” and “mobility”. The work involves the implementation of a measurement, monitoring and heating concept, the establishment or reutilisation of solar systems on the DBFZ roofs and the implementation of the “DBFZ Climate Challenge”, in

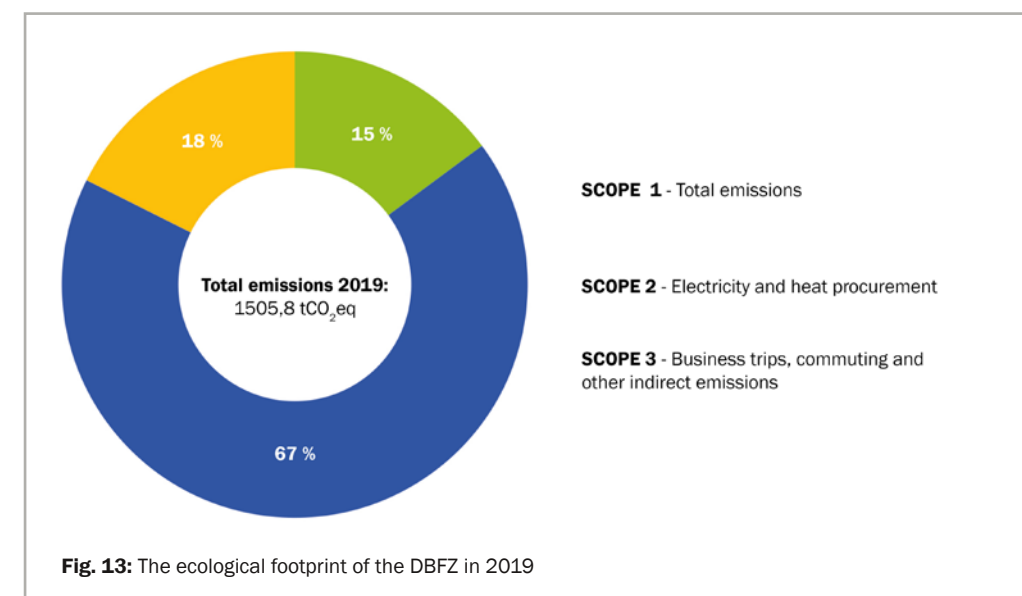


Fig. 13: The ecological footprint of the DBFZ in 2019



Fig. 14: Woodchip firing in the DBFZ technical centre

which twelve teams competed against each other in the first edition in 2022 to achieve the greatest possible reduction in emissions from commuter traffic.

For the current year 2024, the woodchip firing system is to be upgraded for continuous operation (probably from the end of February), which will further reduce the DBFZ's emissions considerably. There will also be a new edition of the aforementioned climate challenge. Compared to the first edition, four new activities are planned: a bicycle check including road safety issues in March, the "Climate-friendly to work" challenge in April, in which teams drawn by lot will compete for the greatest CO₂ savings and the lowest final CO₂ value, the (bicycle) kilometre collection in September parallel to Leipzig's city cycling event and the "public transport challenge" in November. Here, teams drawn by lot can ex-

plore the possibilities of the Central German Transport Association (MDV) to get to the DBFZ in a climate-friendly way.

Business trips and commuting remain the biggest emission factors. Employees should be made more aware of the extent to which travelling by air is really necessary or whether activities in the host country can be combined. In dialogue with other research institutions, the DBFZ is also developing compensation strategies for these unavoidable emissions, whereby the latest developments at EU level must also be taken into account.

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3

Policy advice: Report from Berlin

One of the DBFZ's core tasks is to advise the German government on issues relating to biomass utilisation. As a scientific institution, the DBFZ also strives to make its research findings available to interested political stakeholders. In recent years, the DBFZ has further intensified its

advisory services for political decision-makers in ministries and parliaments as well as for the specialised public. These services take the form of scientific statements, background or discussion papers as well as lectures and expert discussions.



Key areas of policy advice in 2023

The DBFZ's advisory services in 2023 centred on supporting the responsible ministries in developing the National Biomass Strategy (NABIS). Together with other scientific institutions, the DBFZ provided extensive data on the current and future availability and utilisation of biomass, which forms a central basis for the development of strategic guidelines for biomass policy. In addition, two colleagues seconded to the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture supported the development of the NABIS as mediators between political and scientific expertise. The results of the

advisory services will be made available to the public in the form of a scientific report at the same time as the NABIS is published.

Another priority of policy advice in 2023 was the heating sector. The focus was on federal funding for efficient buildings (BEG) and the design of heat planning requirements for local authorities (WPG). For both laws, the DBFZ supported the German government in assessing the role biomass can play in the defossilisation of the heat supply, as well as in relation to detailed questions concerning special provisions for individual biomass technologies. Among other things, the DBFZ argued that biomass will continue to play an important role in the heating sector in the future, but that its use in areas that are difficult to defossilise, such as industrial heating, will be more important in the long term than its use in the building sector. Even there, however, limited use can make sense, especially in combination with other heating solutions such as heat pumps (so-called hybrid solutions).

Also relevant for the heating sector, but also for other fields of application, is the future role of forest bioenergy. The DBFZ has published a much-noticed discussion paper on this subject, in which climate effects, sustainability effects and political control options are analysed. The paper argues that the long-disputed question of how to measure the climate effects of wood energy is ultimately not decisive for sustainable utilisation. It is more important to eliminate market distortions on wood and energy markets so that wood cost-efficiently contributes to climate protection, for example by means of a CO₂ price, according to the authors.



Fig. 15: Discussion paper on the sustainability of wood energy



Fig. 16: Prof. Dr. Daniela Thrän (right) at the Bioeconomy Forum 2023

Policy advices were also provided in connection with the German Renewable Energy Sources Act. Here, for example, cost analyses were prepared in the course of the discussion about increasing the remuneration (maximum bid values). Other topics included green and biogenic hydrogen and its crediting in transport, the reduction of methane emissions from animal excrement, the law on the electricity price brake and biochar.

In addition to its statements and discussion papers, the DBFZ was also involved in numerous committees and events in 2023. In addition to activities in the International Energy Agency (IEA), these include participation in the German government's Bioeconomy Council, chaired by Prof. Dr. Daniela Thrän. The Bioeconomy Forum 2023 organised by the Bioeconomy Council enabled an important bridge to be built between science and politics, which was reflected in the participation of Federal Ministers Bettina Stark-Watzinger, Cem Özdemir and Robert Habeck.

The services at a glance

- _ Scientific monitoring of legislative and administrative legislative procedures
- _ Support for political strategy development in the field of bioenergy/biomass strategy
- _ Monitoring and impact assessment
- _ Analysing the climate, energy, environmental and research policy framework for the bioeconomy

→ Further information:

www.dbfz.de/en/services/policy-recommendations-and-advice
www.dbfz.de/en/press-media-library/more-publishments/statements-studies

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4

Interview on the Circular Economy

Sustainable climate and resource protection is one of the central and most pressing tasks for the future. Since the 1970s, global resource and energy consumption has significantly exceeded the world's ecological regeneration capacity. In 2023, the global ecological footprint was around 75 % too high; in Germany, it was around twice as high. If everyone lived as they do now, around three Earths would be needed for national resource consumption. The two most populous countries, each with a total of around 1.4 billion people, are therefore ahead of Germany in the climate protection balance with around 0.8 Earths (India) and China (around 2.4 Earths). Against this backdrop, the following applies: if Germany is to successfully achieve climate neutrality by 2045, as set out in the Climate Protection Act, Germany's energy supply must be completely converted to renewable energy sources over the next

two decades in the interests of sustainable development and a functioning circular economy must be realised.

Prof. Nelles: Germany likes to present itself as a pioneer in climate and resource protection. Does this image correspond to reality?

MICHAEL NELLES: No, our material and energy consumption is still far too high. If we want to become climate-neutral by 2045, we need to tackle the most important areas of action quickly and consistently. In addition to the two central pillars of "100 % renewable energy system" and "circular economy", this also includes a resource-minimised lifestyle (reduced material and energy consumption as well as reduced consumption), otherwise

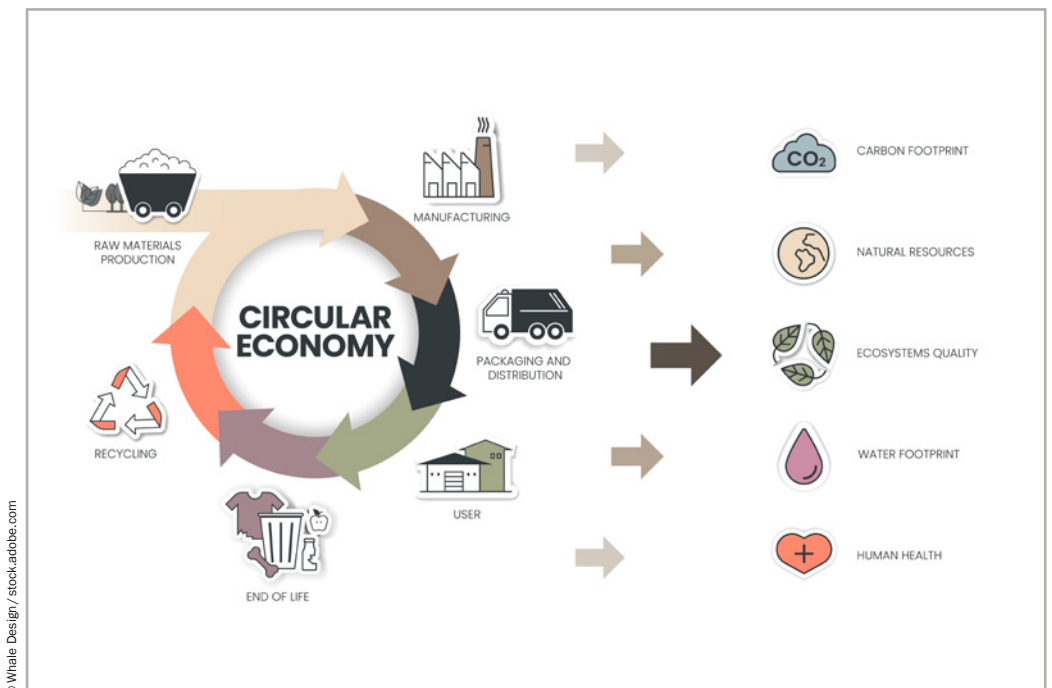


Fig. 17: Stages of the circular economy

we will not be able to achieve the goal of a climate-neutral society. Germany is currently operating in a linear economy/society and is unfortunately still a long way from a circular economy. As of 2023, the share of renewable energy in the energy system is just under 20% and the circularity rate (CMU), i.e. the proportion of waste and residual materials that are fed into recycling plants, is only 12%, which is far too low to achieve our ambitious goals.

After all, don't the Germans separate their waste like world champions? What's the problem?

MICHAEL NELLES: In Germany, we have a waste management system that is very well developed by international standards and offers highly developed technical treatment options for all the main types of waste in the current linear economic system. Separate waste collection is a key prerequisite for high-quality recycling, but there is still considerable room for improvement here too, for example in the collection of organic waste. The basic prerequisite for a functioning circular economy is that the waste generated after the utilisation phase can also be repaired or recycled. The EU first introduced the right measures in 2019 with the "Green Deal" and in 2020 with the "Circular Economy Action Plan", which must now be implemented by the member states by 2030.

You head the Chair of Waste and Material Flow Management at the University of Rostock and are Scientific Managing Director of the DBFZ. What significance do organic waste and residual materials have for the circular economy?

MICHAEL NELLES: Organic waste and residues are a very important secondary resource for material and energy utilisation. Their utilisation does not compete with food



Fig. 18: Biogenic waste as an important secondary resource

production and, ideally, cultivated biomass can be largely replaced with low emissions. In this way, a significant contribution can be made to a cross-sector and sustainable energy supply. However, in order to utilise biogenic waste and residues efficiently and with low emissions, the challenge remains to tap into the still partially untapped potential and to develop adapted technical processes. This is a key focus of work both at the DBFZ and at my chair at the University of Rostock.

How high is the potential available for energy and material utilisation?

MICHAEL NELLES: Germany currently produces around 240 million tonnes of biogenic waste and residues per year in the form of dry matter (real fresh matter > 400 million tonnes per year), which is available for environmentally friendly material and energy use. While biogenic waste is covered by the Closed Substance Cycle Waste Management Act (KrWG), biogenic residues largely originate from agriculture and forestry. The KrWG regulates a total of around 400 million tonnes, with construction waste being the largest waste stream at around 200 million tonnes. This mass comparison alone shows the potential of biogenic waste and residues in Germany.

“If Germany wants to successfully realise its goal of climate neutrality by 2045, as set out in the Climate Protection Act, the many good approaches in the coalition agreement must be put into practice quickly.”

What percentage of this could be used for the national energy supply?

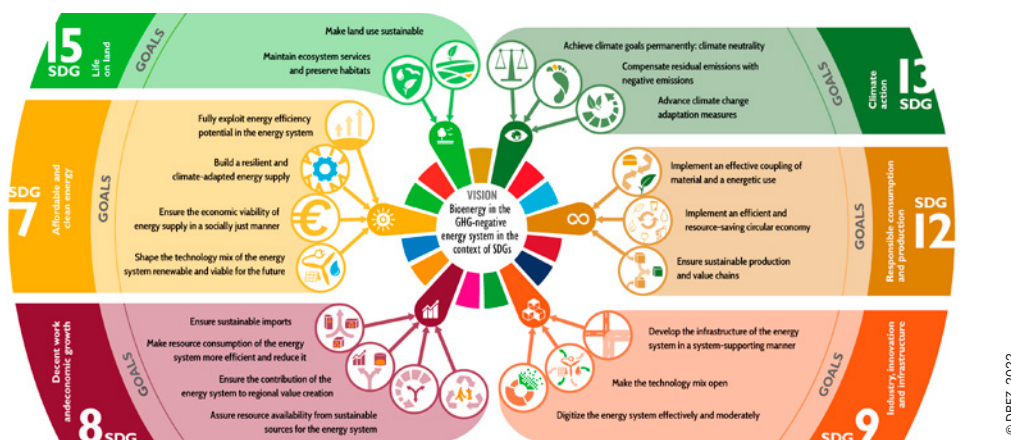
MICHAEL NELLES: Renewable energies accounted for just under 20% of primary energy consumption (PEC) in 2023. Bioenergy makes the largest contribution to the PEC with around 11%, although this is mainly through cultivated biomass and not yet through the energy recovery of biogenic waste and residues. The 240 million tonnes of dry matter of biogenic waste currently produced in Germany must be utilised more for energy recovery in the future. However, here too, it must first be examined whether partial material utilisation is not more sensible. In relation to today's energy consumption, around 10% of our PEV could be covered by consistently utilising biogenic waste and residual materials for energy. This illustrates what we will have to achieve in the next 30 years! To the extent that we succeed in keeping these valuable raw materials in the cycle, companies will become less dependent on increasingly expensive and often fluctuating raw material imports. A functioning circular economy not only offers economic benefits, but also actively promotes climate protection.

How can/must politicians support this process in your view?

MICHAEL NELLES: If politicians want to successfully realise Germany's goal of climate neutrality by 2045, as set out in the Climate Protection Act, the many good approaches in the coalition agreement must be quickly backed up with the necessary concrete measures and put into practice very quickly. Otherwise, the medium-term goal of reducing emissions by 65 per cent by 2030 compared to 1990 will certainly not be achieved. Progressive climate change, severe biodiversity loss and the current geopolitical crises already clearly show how important a secure and sustainable supply of energy and raw materials is, which is also reflected in the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

The Federal Government is currently working on the National Biomass Strategy (NABIS), which is due to be available in spring 2024. What are your expectations?

MICHAEL NELLES: In recent years, biomass has increasingly come into focus as an important carbon source, on the one hand for reducing and binding CO₂ emissions, and on the other as the carbon source for the future bioeconomy. This will significantly increase the demand for biomass and the need for sustainable cascade and coupled utilisation.



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Fig. 19: Bioenergy in the context of the UN Sustainable Development Goals

tion in the future. Against this backdrop, a long-term strategy is certainly necessary and helpful in order to optimise the material and energy use of the limited biomass available in Germany in the future. However, overly compartmentalised regulations should be avoided here. This typically German approach to practical implementation can lead to high

“In newly industrialising countries such as China or India, which together account for almost 40% of the world’s population, simple waste management measures can prevent more greenhouse gas emissions than Germany emits in total.”

economic costs and undesirable developments that will not help us to protect the climate and resources. Unfortunately, it is currently impossible to seriously assess whether the NABIS can achieve the targets set and when it will be adopted. There is currently no technically/politically coordinated draft from the BMWK, BMEL and BMUV and the announced stakeholder process is also still pending, meaning that it is very unlikely that the NABIS will be adopted in spring 2024.

You are on the board of the most important waste management committees and associations. What issues do they pursue at national and international level?

MICHAEL NELLES: At a national level, the German Association for Waste Management (DGAW) and the German RETech Partnership e.V. (RETech) should be mentioned in particular as an export network for the circular economy. The world’s leading university institutes in the waste and recycling industry are organised in the Waste Working Group (IWWG), while the International Solid Waste Association (ISWA) is the central practice-oriented network of the international recycling



PROFILE

Prof. Dr. Michael Nelles (born 1966) has held the Chair of Waste and Material Flow Management at the University of Rostock since 2006 and has been Scientific Managing Director of the DBFZ in Leipzig since 2012. At the same time, he is active in various waste management committees and associations (ReTech, DGAW, Iswa Germany) and has held various guest professorships at Chinese universities.

industry. Nationally, the focus is primarily on issues relating to the further development of the German waste management sector into a sustainable circular economy. Internationally, the aim is to initiate and support waste management developments and to contribute experience from Germany. There is plenty to do and the positive ecological effects are very high, especially in the large newly industrialising countries such as China or India, which together account for almost

40% of the world’s population. Simple waste management measures there can avoid more greenhouse gas emissions than Germany emits in total.

Your chair at the University of Rostock organises the annual Rostock Biomass Forum in cooperation with the DBFZ, among others. What is the focus of this year’s conference?

MICHAEL NELLES: As in previous years, we also want to increasingly consider material utilisation options as part of the Rostock Biomass Forum in order to make the most holistic contribution possible to the further development of the energy system and a bio-based circular economy on the path to climate neutrality. The 18th edition of the event will therefore be held under the motto “Bioenergy and bio-based materials for a climate-neutral future” and will take place on 20 and 21 June 2024 at the University of Rostock. We are looking forward to a large number of experts from science, business and politics and hopefully fruitful discussions on the topic, which should lead to a gain in knowledge for all and to new approaches to solutions.

Thank you for the interview

→ **Further information:**
www.retech-germany.net/en
www.iswa-germany.de
www.dgaw.de/en
www.iwwg.eu

5

The DBFZ's research focus areas

A large number of different research projects in the field of energy and integrated material biomass utilisation were successfully completed in 2023. Key research topics are realised at the DBFZ in five research focus areas. They ensure that important aspects of bioenergy and the bioeconomy can be mapped in the depth required for excellent research. The DBFZ's research focus areas are orientated towards current and future research policy challenges and framework conditions (e.g. the National Bioeconomy Strategy, the Mobility and Fuels Strategy, the EU Green Deal and the future National

Biomass Strategy). Other important cornerstones for the scientific orientation of the research focus areas are the funding policy framework, the unique selling points in the research landscape and the DBFZ's excellent research infrastructure.

→ Further information:

www.dbfz.de/en/research/research-focus-areas

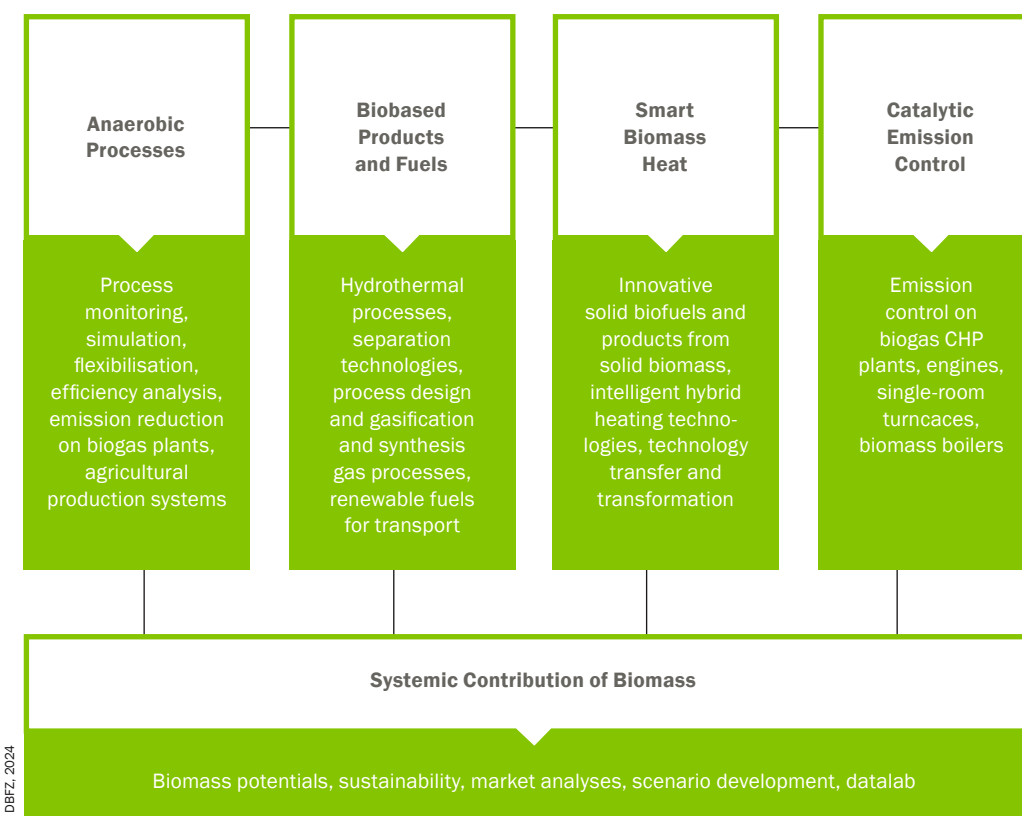


Fig. 20: The five research focus areas of the DBFZ

5.1 Systemic Contribution of Biomass



“As a renewable energy source, biomass can contribute to the transformation of the energy system towards climate neutrality. However, the availability of biomass is limited and at the same time in demand by many potential users. In the SoBio project, the goal was to develop a strategy for optimal energetic use of the limited available biomass in the future German energy system in the medium term up to 2030 and in the long term up to 2050.”

SOBIO – Scenarios for the optimal use of biomass in the energy system

Germany has set itself the goal of being climate-neutral by 2045. The German government is focussing primarily on reducing energy consumption, for example by using resources efficiently and increasing the share of renewable energy [1]. Biomass is a renewable energy source that is already making an important contribution to the energy transition. Biomass, especially biogas and solid biomass, contributed 11 % to German electricity generation in 2021. In terms of heat generation, woody biomass in particular, but also gaseous and liquid biomass, accounted for 14 % of the heat supply in 2021. In addition, biofuels contributed 7 % to the transport sector in the same year. The use of renewa-

Dr. Kathleen Meisel
Project Manager

KEYWORDS
Biomass use
Bioenergy
Energy transition
Modelling
Energy system analysis



Fig. 21: Climate neutrality through renewable energies

ble energies saved 216.7 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalents in 2021. The use of biomass accounts for 34.4 % of this [2]. However, the availability of biomass is limited. It should therefore only be used in energy applications where it is the best option among alternative renewable energies. It should also be produced or supplied in a sustainable manner.

Numerous scientific studies [3–10] have developed long-term scenarios for achieving climate neutrality in Germany by 2045. In all of the studies analysed, biomass makes a contribution to this climate protection goal, albeit to varying degrees. In all studies, solid biomass is used in the long term for high-temperature applications in industry. Some studies see BECCS (bioenergy with carbon capture and storage) as a long-term option to achieve the 2045 carbon neutrality

target. In the long term, biomass will play a smaller role than today in transport, electricity generation and heating in buildings, and in some sectors it will cease to play a role. Demand will be met by other renewable energy sources. In these studies, the use of biomass is primarily seen in the conversion of raw materials in industry. [3–10]. In all of these studies, neither the available biomass nor the conversion paths are presented in a very differentiated way, nor are they varied in scenarios. In contrast to these studies, this paper takes a very differentiated look at biomass, its energy conversion options and its optimal integration into the energy system.

In order to close the research gaps regarding the biomass integration into the energy system, the following research questions were addressed in the SoBio project:

- i) What is the optimal role of biomass in the energy transition?
- ii) What are the priority target markets for biomass in the electricity, heat and transport sectors?
- iii) Which are the most competitive (bio) energy technologies and are there turning points?
- iv) Which framework conditions have the greatest influence on the future role of bioenergy?

Methods

The available biomass potential is decisive for the contribution of biomass to the energy system. In the SoBio project, a general distinction is made between residual and waste materials, energy crops from arable land and other biomass. The DBFZ's resource database [11] and the FNR's information on available areas for energy crops [12] are used to determine the potential for energy utilisation. The biomasses analysed can be roughly divided into woody/lignocellulosic, digestable and oily biomasses.

In order to determine the optimal energetic utilisation of this biomass in the future energy system, potential biomass uses in the electricity sector (residual load only), in the heating sector (residential and commercial buildings; low-, medium- and high-temperature industry and district heating networks) and in the transport sector (road passenger transport, light and heavy duty vehicles, aviation, rail transport, inland navigation and maritime shipping) are investigated.

In total, 20 different groups of domestic biogenic residues and waste materials, 15 types of energy crops, three other types of biomass (algae, paludiculture, log wood), 111 different bioenergy technologies and a total of 265 renewable and fossil energy technologies to

cover the sector-specific energy demand are analysed.

The BenOpt model is used to derive the optimal utilisation of biomass in the energy system. BenOpt is a classic linear energy system optimisation model according to [13], which performs an optimal allocation of possible resource and technology options while simultaneously meeting demand in the electricity, heating and transport sectors and fulfilling long-term climate protection targets in various future scenarios. BenOpt requires a variety of data inputs for this. Essentially, these are biomass-specific potential quantities, prices for biomass and other energy sources, auxiliary materials and co-products, as well as data on the technology options such as capacities, efficiencies, costs and scenario framework data. Imports are also taken into account. Further information on BenOpt can be found in the publication by [14].

As the future of the energy system, including bioenergy, is unpredictable, the scenario development method is used [15]. While both medium-term (up to 2030) and long-term scenarios (up to 2050) are developed in SoBio, only the long-term scenarios are discussed below. Table 1 provides an overview of the long-term scenarios analysed. Compliance with the climate protection targets is assumed for all long-term scenarios. The reference scenario serves as a comparison scenario. Here, all parameters are set to base values, while at least one parameter in each of the long-term scenarios is set to a maximum or minimum value.

In scenario 1, the CO₂ price is raised very sharply to 500€/t CO₂ by 2050. In Scenario 2, the technology push scenario, the CO₂ starting value of 150€/t CO₂ by 2050 applies, as in Scenarios 3 and 4, but here the investment costs of all the technologies considered are set to their specific minimum

and the efficiencies to the technology-specific maximum. In scenario 3, it is assumed that the use of biomass from cultivated areas as well as algae and paludiculture will be phased out by 2030 for political reasons. Only residual and waste materials form the biomass potential. Increased mobilisation is assumed here. Scenario 4 assumes maximum biomass potential. Here, the area under cultivation is doubled compared to today, an increased mobilisation of residual and waste materials and higher potentials of algae and paludiculture are assumed.

Results

The modelling results show that the cost-optimal use of biomass is (i) in particular in sectors where direct electrification is not possible or only possible to a limited extent and at high costs, and (ii) in the electricity sector as a flexibility option to cover the residual load. In addition, the use of biomass for energy is the more competitive option for the transition to renewable energies in all sectors analysed due to its lower costs compared to the PtX options. The competitiveness of bio-

Tab. 2: Considered long-term scenarios with their essential characteristics

2050 scenario	Reference scenario	Sc. 1	Sc. 2	Sc. 3	Sc. 4
Designation	Reference	Politics high CO ₂ price	Technology Push in Development	Biomass Only residues mobilization	Biomass Max. biomass availability
GHG target in million t CO ₂ eq. (excl. negative emissions)	0	0	0	0	0
CO ₂ price ETS in €/t	150	500	150	150	150
Residue availability (biomass-specific)	Base	Base	Base	Elevated	Elevated
Cultivated areas for bioenergy in million ha	2.3	2.3	2.3	0	4.7
Import residues/bio-KS; % of the domestic bioenergy potential	50	50	50	50	100
Import energy crops/biofuels	Status quo 2020	Status quo 2020	Status quo 2020	No imports	Status quo 2020
Final energy consumption	UBA Greenlate				
Investment costs (technology-specific)	Base	Base	Minimum	Base	Base
Efficiencies (technology-specific)	Base	Base	Maximum	Base	Base

energy technologies is demonstrated by the fact that the available biomass will be used almost completely in all scenarios by 2050, in some cases in different applications in the energy system.

In the heating sector, the largest amount of biomass is used in the form of wood chips from wood residues and miscanthus for high-temperature industrial applications. In addition, firewood, mostly from small and very small private forests, continues to be used in wood stoves and pellets, primarily in hybrid systems with heat pumps in buildings. In the electricity sector, the the most cost-efficient option in the long term is the use of biogas from domestic fermentable residual and waste materials or maize as well as smaller amounts of waste wood in waste wood-fired CHP plants to flexibly cover the residual load. In the transport sector, the electrification of

road and rail transport is proving to be the most competitive option, followed by biofuels and electricity-based fuels. In the long term, lignocellulose-based biomass and oily residues will be used as BtL (Biomass to liquid) and HEFA (hydroprocessed esters and fatty acids) in air transport at optimal cost and digestable and lignocellulose-based biomass as liquefied biomethane in shipping. These raw materials will still be competitive options in road transport until the mid-2040s, (see Figure 22).

The availability of biomass has the greatest influence on the modelling results (scenario 3 and 4). Without energy crops from agricultural land, fossil technologies remain in the energy system for longer. In addition, the use of or non-use of cultivated biomass influences the future industrial transformation. In scenario 1, 2 and 4 (no limited biomass availability),

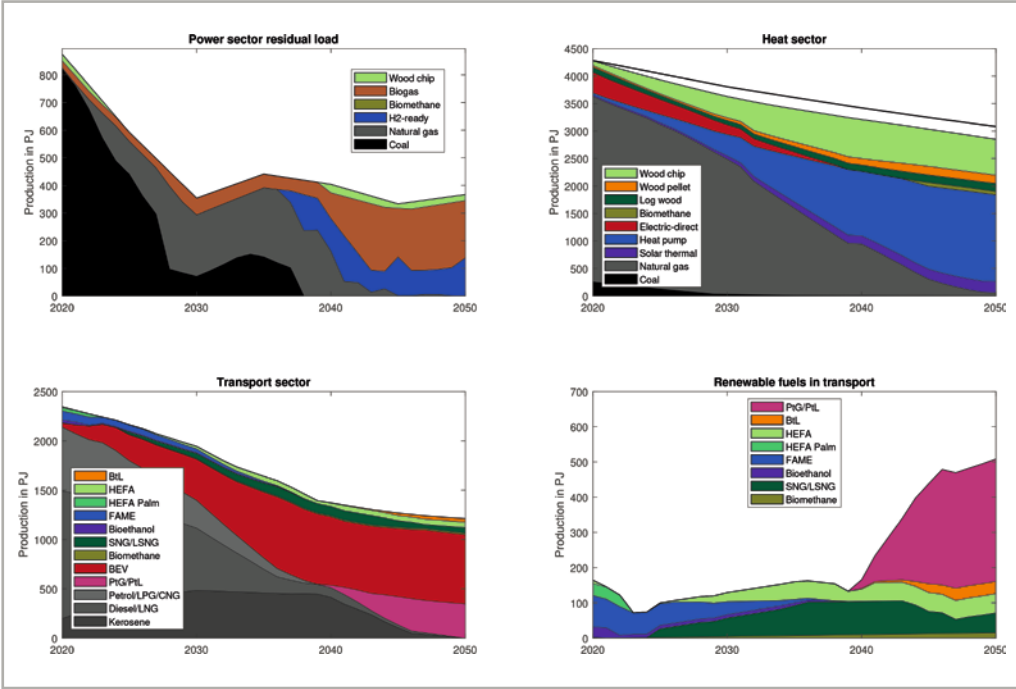


Fig. 22: Optimal use of biomass in the electricity, heat and transport sectors (in the reference scenario)

Tab. 3: Contribution of biomass to the electricity, heating and transport sectors in 2050

Biomass in final energy in 2050	Reference scenario	Sc. 1	Sc. 2	Sc. 3	Sc. 4	Status in 2021
Heat in PJ	1 009	1 009	892	470	1 253	618
Share of total in %	32.7	32.7	28.9	15.2	40.6	37
Electricity in PJ	228	254	277	5	324	180
Share of total in %	6.9	7.7	8.5	0.1	9.8	11
Transport in PJ	161	161	171	184	255	124
Share of total in %	13.3	13.3	14	15	21	7
Total in PJ	1 398	1 424	1 340	659	1 832	922

the industrial demand for medium and high temperature could be covered solely with the available biomass. The absence of cultivated biomass would lead to an increased use of PtX options, which in turn would lead to higher costs for the energy transition and increased electricity consumption. Compared to a lower CO₂ price, a higher CO₂ price (Scenario 1) ensures a faster displacement of fossil fuels, but does not ensure more biomass in the energy system due to its limitations. A technology push (scenario 2) shows only a slight shift in biomass market shares (see Table 3).

construction and chemical industry and as a substitute for peat. In addition, bioenergy is expected to play an important role in the future in the generation of negative emissions by capturing biogenic CO₂ emissions and injecting them underground. Against this background, the follow-up project SoBio II was launched in the second quarter of 2023 to investigate the optimal role of limited biomass in a climate-neutral economy. The analyses of the SoBio project will be extended to include the other potential biomass users mentioned above.

Perspectives

Biomass is not only in demand as a renewable energy source in the energy transition. It is also used as a renewable resource in the

➔ Further information (german language): www.dbfz.de/sobio

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PROJECT PROFILE

Duration:
1/12/2019–30/04/2023

Scientific contact:
Dr. Kathleen Meisel

Project partner:
Helmholtz Centre for
Environmental Research – UFZ

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Research Focus Area “Systemic Contribution of Biomass”

The research focus area contributes to the development of sustainable bioenergy strategies at a national and international level. Here, regionally and globally available biomass potentials are determined and various biomass utilisation concepts are considered and evaluated. The overarching goal is to solve methodological and system engineering issues surrounding the efficiency and sus-

tainability of biomass use from an economic, ecological and technical perspective, taking into account both the land resources used and the energy carrier-specific processing and conversion technologies. The combination of these aspects provides the basis for deriving strategies and recommended courses of action for policymakers and corporate decision-makers.

Important reference projects and publications

Project: BeForce – Begleitforschung Bioenergie, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action, 01/04/2021–31/03/2025 (FKZ: 03EI5400)

Project: BioZ-RP – Rahmenprojekt III: Life Cycle Assessment/Nachhaltigkeitsbewertung & Wirksamkeitsanalyse, Federal Ministry of Education and Research, 01/09/2022–31/08/2025 (FKZ: 03WIR5303)

Project: BRANCHES – Boosting Rural Bioeconomy Networks following multi-actor approaches, European Commission, 01/01/2021–31/12/2023 (GA 101000375)

Project: HARMONITOR – Harmonisation and monitoring platform for certification schemes and labels to advance the sustainability of bio-based-systems, European Commission, 01/06/2022–31/05/2025 (FKZ: GA 101060133)

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5.2 Anaerobic Processes



Climate protection-oriented organic waste use in agriculture (Climate BioHum)

The joint project “Climate protection-oriented biowaste utilisation in agriculture” (KlimaBioHum) focused on the development of a pilot version for climate protection quality assurance in the production and use of biowaste compost and fermentation products and the reduction of greenhouse gases through optimal process design. The project was carried out with partners from science and practice under the leadership of the Förderverband Humus e. V. (FVH) with the DBFZ and TERRA URBANA GmbH as project partners. The project comprised a total of four measurement campaigns for emission measurements at the plants in the period 2019–2022. Measurement phase 1 included emission measurements to record methane, nitrous oxide and ammonia at

“In the joint ‘KlimaBioHum’ project, biowaste plants were analysed in terms of emissions in order to assess how the process of the plants – in particular the rotting process – can be designed to reduce emissions. Extensive measurement data was collected over the four years, giving the project team the largest database on GHG emissions from aerobic biowaste treatment. The findings show that the composting process is complex and that emissions depend on many interactions. However, the reduction in emissions was most evident in the active aeration (forced aeration) of digestate and composting material.”

Jaqueline Daniel-Gromke
Project leader

KEYWORDS

Biowaste
emission measurements
GHG balance
composting
fermentation

twelve selected biowaste plants. In measurement phases 2, 3 and 4, variations of the windrow were carried out at selected plants during operation in order to investigate the influence of various parameters (including windrow geometry, ventilation, conversion) on the emission behaviour. As the direct measurements of methane and nitrous oxide emissions are very complex in terms of measurement technology, the extent to which the recording of pore gases correlates with the emissions from the rotting process determined from the direct emission measurements was investigated.

The plant measurements focused on the following questions:

- _ How do the emissions from composting and fermentation differ?
- _ Which key parameters determine the emission behaviour of the rotting process?
- _ How do the emission measurements on the rotting process using wind tunnel measurements correlate with the pore gas measurements and how can easily measurable parameters for simplified field measurement methods be derived from this in practice?

The Magdeburg-Stendal University of Applied Sciences was involved as a subcontractor of the DBFZ for the analysis and evaluation of the pore gas composition of the rotting processes, including the windrow description and the laboratory analyses. Detailed evaluations of the correlations between the pore gas measurements and the wind tunnel measurements were carried out in close cooperation with Dr. Jürgen Reinhold (FVH).

Methods

The DBFZ's tasks at the selected biowaste treatment plants included the following analyses:

- _ Material flow analysis of selected biowaste plants
- _ Emission measurements using wind tunnel measurements at twelve biowaste plants (1st measurement campaign) including a leakage search to record the main emission sources of the plants
- _ Investigation of the pore gas compositions of the compost by using measuring lances parallel to the direct emission measurements (subcontracted by Magdeburg-Stendal University of Applied Sciences)
- _ Analysis of the correlation between pore gas and wind tunnel measurements with the Förderverband Humus e. V. (FVH) and the Magdeburg-Stendal University of Applied Sciences
- _ GHG balancing of the analysed biowaste plants to evaluate the emission situation of the biowaste treatment plants and derivation of recommendations for action regarding measures to reduce emissions at biowaste treatment plants and approaches for the design of a quality assurance system in cooperation with the project partners

For the emission measurements, so-called hoods or wind chambers were used, which are placed on a section of the emission-active surface (here rent) (see Figure 23). The chambers thus enclose a defined, emission-active surface or volume. By determining a surface or volume-specific emission factor, the emission rate of the entire rent can be extrapolated. A flame ionisation detector (FID) from TESTA was used as a gas analyser to carry out the emission measurements, in particular on the biofilters (if present in anaerobic digestion plants) and the windrows, which enabled the selective determination of total C and methane C concentrations. Sampling was carried out via evacuated vials and laboratory analysis using a gas chromatograph (GC) and (FID) for methane and an electron capture detector (ECD) for nitrous oxide. Ammonia was analysed by wet chemical analysis in the lab.



Fig. 23: Test setup of the wind tunnel measurements with use of the FID on the rotting of fermentation plant A04 in June 2019

When analysing the parameter variations, emission reductions were particularly evident in the active aeration (forced aeration) of the windrows. Non-aerated and actively aerated windrows with variations in the input materials (fermentation product from anaerobic digestion and biowaste from composting) were analysed comparatively at plant A04. Figure 24 shows the GHG emissions in CO₂ equivalents in total and differentiated by type of greenhouse gas (methane, nitrous oxide and, as an indirect GHG gas, ammonia) of natural aeration (non-aerated) compared to forced aeration (active aeration) at plant A04. As a result, the windrow emissions with active aeration (forced aeration) are significantly lower for both the fermentation products (fermentation) and the biowaste (composting) than for the non-aerated windrows. The actively aerated windrows show significantly lower emissions in both cases.

Based on the actual directly measured and indirectly derivable emissions of the analysed composting processes and the information collected from the biowaste treatment plants, greenhouse gas balances were drawn up. The total GHG emissions were calculated on the following basis:

- 1) Measurement results of the emission measurements (measurement phase 1)
- 2) GHG emissions from the operation of the plants (operator information on energy requirements, nutrient content and properties of the compost and fermentation products based on the RAL annual certificates)
- 3) GHG savings resulting from the substitution effects (project team assumptions)

The total balance of emissions as the balance of GHG emissions and the emis-

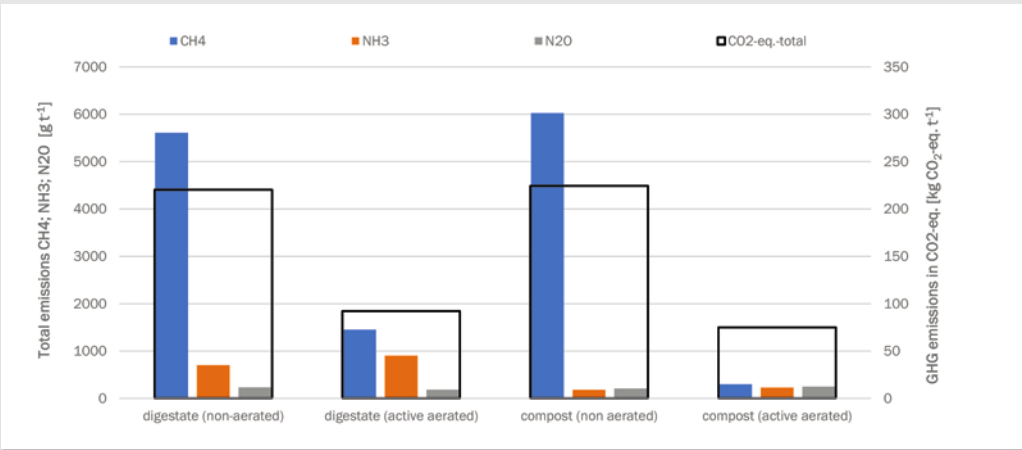


Fig. 24: Winter measurement phase A04; GHG emissions over the entire 6-week rotting period of aerated and non-aerated windrows of fermentation products and biowaste from composting in trapezoidal windrows.

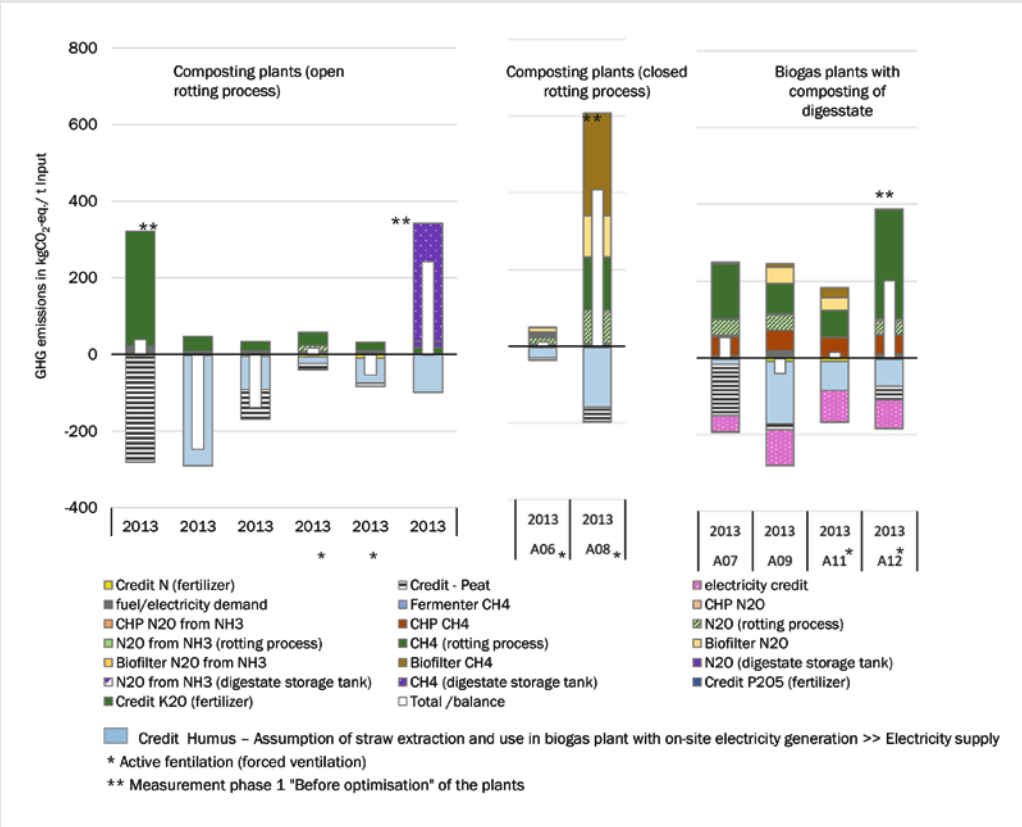


Fig. 25: Total GHG assessment of the biowaste plants analysed in the KlimaBioHum project (measurement phase 1) in kg CO₂ equivalents per tonne of input (GS = credits)

sion savings resulting from the substitution effects (utilisation pathway “straw extraction and use in biogas plants with on-site electricity generation”) are marked as a white sum bar in Figure 25. For almost all biowaste plants, the emission savings exceed the measured and determined GHG emissions or can almost be compensated for. Exceptions are plants A01, A10b, A08 and A12, whose emissions shown here no longer correspond to the current status, as optimisation measures have already been taken as part of the project.

Milestones/Challenges

Based on the emission measurements, relevant emission sources of the analysed biowaste treatment plants could be identified. Particularly high emissions were found at plants with high rotting emissions due to excessively high windrow heights (A01), inadequate ventilation of the rotting process as a result of incorrect operational management (A08, A12) or open fermentation product storage facilities (A10b). High nitrous oxide emissions can result if very moist biowaste is used and an acid scrubber is not used upstream of the biofilter. Optimisations were already carried out at four plants during the course of the project. Overall, the plant emissions determined show a high range of around 22 (A05) to 574 (A08) kg CO₂ equivalents per tonne of input material, regardless of the type of composting. Fermentation plants have higher overall plant emissions compared to the composting plants analysed. The overall GHG balance has not yet been taken into account. Seasons can have a considerable influence on windrow emissions. The measured values from the winter measurement phases indicate significantly higher emissions than in summer (winter: higher humidity and lower temperatures).

The database was also used to create the GHG balances. An evaluation and limitation of greenhouse gas emissions requires a parallel evaluation and control of treatment processes and sufficient ventilation of windrows for aerobic decomposition. When analysing the parameter variations, significant reductions in emissions became apparent, particularly with active aeration (forced aeration) of the composting process. Actively ventilated windrows (forced ventilation) show significantly lower emissions compared to unventilated windrows (passively ventilated).

The current statistical analyses of the extensive data on the relationship between wind tunnel measurements and on-site field measurements have provided new technical knowledge for estimating GHG emissions from field measurements. This results in necessary extensions in the assessment of GHG emissions in climate protection. Climate-neutral biowaste treatment can generally be guaranteed if the plants are managed accordingly. An assessment and limitation of greenhouse gas emissions requires a parallel assessment and control of treatment processes and a sufficient aeration of windrows for aerobic composting.

Perspectives

Very extensive measurement data (over 100 wind tunnel measurements, over 700 pore gas measurements) was collected in practical operations as part of the project. This means that the KlimaBioHum project team has the largest database on GHG emissions from aerobic biowaste treatment.

Significant optimisations have already been carried out at four plants during the course of the project, but can also be transferred to other biowaste plants. The database was also used to create the GHG balances and more

detailed analyses regarding the correlation between simple field measurement methods and wind tunnel measurements in close cooperation with the project partners. Based on the statistical analysis of the measurement results at the analysed biowaste plants, it was possible to derive orientation values for the climate-friendly operation of biowaste treatment plants. These results are an enormous gain in knowledge, which can be used to further develop the basic framework for voluntary, plant-related climate protection quality assurance in biowaste treatment with the project partners on the basis of the results. At the same time, it is clear that considerable efforts are still required to transfer the results presented for climate protection quality assurance in the production of organic fertiliser from biowaste.

The optimisation approaches could also be applied to agricultural residues such as solid manure storage, as the storage of solid manure can also cause high GHG emissions. There is also a need for further R&D in this area.

➔ **Further information:**
Final report on the project:
DOI: 10.13140/RG.2.2.15158.27205

PROJECT PROFILE

Duration:

1/10/2018–31/12/2022
(Utilisation of the project results
in 2023/2024)

Project partner:

Förderverband Humus e.V.
(Project coordinator:
Dr. Jürgen Reinhold);
TERRA URBANA GmbH,
Hochschule Magdeburg-Stendal
(Prof. Dr. Carsten Cuhls)

Scientific contact:

Jaqueline Daniel-Gromke

Project number:

281B303316

Funding body:

Federal Ministry of Food
and Agriculture



With support from



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German Bundestag



Research Focus Area “Anaerobic Processes”

Processes that use microorganisms to convert biomass under anaerobic conditions are the basis of a large number of biotechnological processes for producing energy carriers and materials. The research focus area “Anaerobic Processes” is developing efficient and flexible processes, primarily for biogas production, that can meet the requirements of the future energy system.

Higher added value is achieved by coupling these with material utilisation processes. To this end, the research focus area is developing tools to monitor and control processes, concepts for flexible, low-emission plants and operating regimes, methods to evaluate and optimise efficiency, and processes to maximise material conversion, especially for difficult substrates.

Important reference projects and publications

Project: BiberZym – Vergärung von lignifizierter Biomasse durch den Einsatz von Enzymkombinationen aus dem Verdauungstrakt des eurasischen Bibers, Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture, 01/02/2023–31/07/2025 (FKZ: 2221NR031A)

Project: Kompost4Klima – Grüngutverwertung zur kombinierten Bereitstellung von biogener Wärme und Kompost: Bau eines Prototyp-Biomeilers zur Erzeugung von Wärme aus Kompost, Sächsische Aufbaubank – Förderbank (SAB), 01/07/2021–30/11/2023

Project: Pülpegas – Verbundvorhaben Pülpegas – Entwicklung einer Pilotanlage zur Vollverwertung von Weizenpülpe und automatisierte Systemintegration in die industrielle Stärkeproduktion, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action, 01/05/2022–31/10/2025

Project: SEMPRES-BIO – SEcuring doMestic PROduction of cost-Effective BIOmethane, European Commission, 01/10/2022–30/04/2026 (GA 101084297)

Project: STARCH2E – Support biogas project, Market project, 01/01/2023–30/09/2023

Publication: Daniel-Gromke, J.; Oehmichen, K.; Knoll, L.; Reinelt, T.; Matlach, J.; Vater, F.; Stinner, W.; Cuhls, C.; Reinhold, J. (2023). “Klimaschutzorientierte Bioabfallverwertung: Projektergebnisse aus dem Verbundvorhaben ‘KlimaBioHum’”. *Müll und Abfall* (ISSN: 0027-2957), Nr. 7. p. 398–405. DOI: 10.37307/j.1863-9763.2023.07.07.

Publication: Engler, N.; Schumacher, B.; Knoll, L. (2023). Emissionen aus der Gülle- oder Gärproduktlagerung unter Praxisbedingungen messen. In: *Biogas 2023: 16. Innovationskongress. Tagungsband 2023*. Hildesheim: ProFair Consult+Project GmbH. ISBN: 978-3-947777-08-2. p. 93–100.

Publication: Lenhart, M.; Pohl, M.; Sprafke, J. (2023). “Challenges and Potential of Anaerobic Digestion from Municipal and Agricultural Organic Waste in Ethiopia”. *Ethiopian Journal of Applied Science and Technology* (ISSN: 2220-5802), Nr. Special Issue 2. p. 33–41.

Publication: Meola, A.; Weinrich, S. (2023). Hybrid modelling of dynamic anaerobic digestion process in full-scale with LSTM NN and BMP measurements. In: *ESANN 2023: Proceedings. 31st European Symposium on Artificial Neural Networks, Computational Intelligence and Machine Learning*. [online]. [s.l.]: i6doc.com publ. ISBN: 978-2-87587-088-9. p. 543–548. DOI: 10.14428/esann/2023. ES2023-133.

Publication: Wedwitschka, H.; Gallegos Ibáñez, D.; Reyes-Jáquez, D. (2023). “Biogas Production from Residues of Industrial Insect Protein Production from Black Soldier Fly Larvae *Hermetia illucens* (L.): An Evaluation of Different Insect Frass Samples”. *Processes* (ISSN: 2227-9717), Vol. 11, Nr. 2. DOI: 10.3390/pr11020362.



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5.3 Biobased Products and Fuels



“Phosphate is an immensely important raw material, especially for agriculture. Phosphate is largely imported from politically unstable regions and its extraction causes massive environmental damage. In Germany, we are still sitting on a huge and yet largely untouched source in the form of biogenic residues. This is exactly where abonoCARE® comes in.”

Dr. Benjamin Herklotz
Project leader

abonoCARE® network –
joint project 2: pollution
reduction and phosphorus
encouragement in fertilizer
intermediate products

Organic residues represent a challenging waste stream. On the one hand, they contain valuable nutrients, but on the other hand they contain environmentally hazardous or harmful contaminants, such as heavy metals. By recycling these residues, the dilemma arises of either destroying the nutrients or exposing people and the environment to the dangers of the contaminants.

The abonoCARE® network (Figure 26) set itself the goal of developing innovative utilisation paths for organic residues in which nutrients are recovered and contaminants are separated and disposed of properly. In this

KEYWORDS

Organic residues
phosphate recovery
hydrothermal carbonisation (HTC)
membrane technologies
sewage sludge utilisation

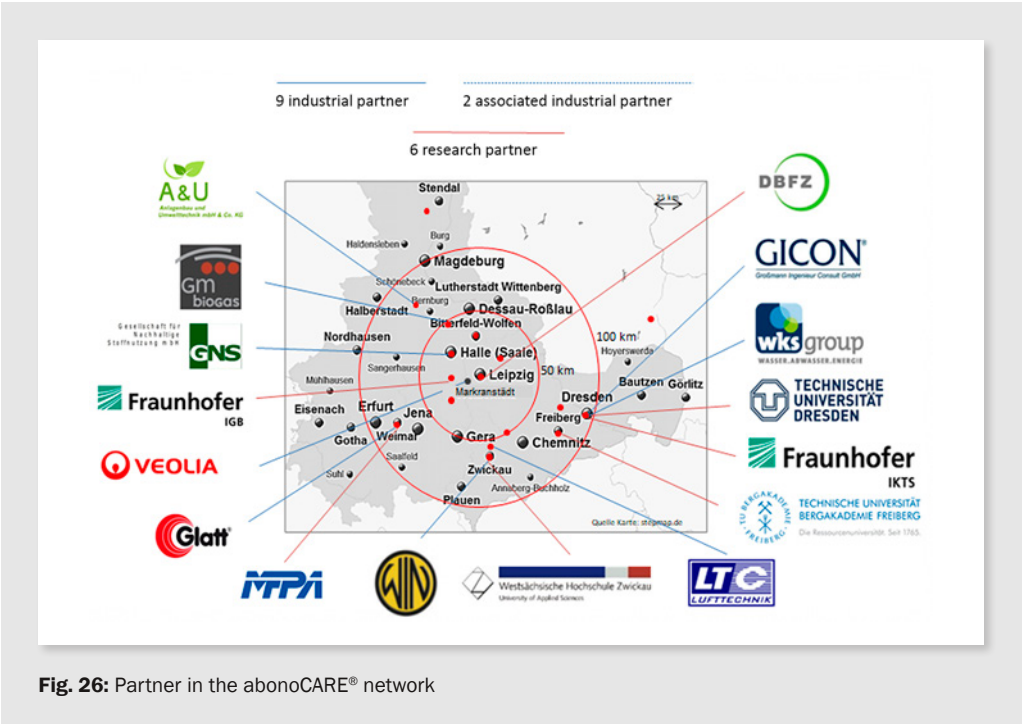


Fig. 26: Partner in the abonoCARE® network

context, the DBFZ focused on the recovery of phosphate from wastewater treatment and animal husbandry residues via hydrothermal carbonisation (HTC).

Phosphate is a finite and increasingly critical raw material that is of considerable importance for global nutrition, particularly as a component of fertiliser products. Certain organic residues such as sewage sludge, digested sludge from wastewater treatment and animal manure sometimes contain very high amounts of phosphate. The application to agricultural land therefore sometimes contributes to local over-fertilisation with negative environmental impacts. For these reasons, the amended Sewage Sludge Ordinance almost completely prohibits the application of sewage sludge from 2029 and requires sewage treatment plants above a certain size to recover phosphate instead. By

2023, the affected sewage treatment plants will have to demonstrate how they intend to fulfil the required phosphate recycling quotas.

Phosphate recovery can be realised via the HTC of such residual materials. While other, partly established processes focus, for example, on extracting phosphate from sewage sludge ash after incineration, which is sometimes energy-intensive [1], the DBFZ is pursuing the goal of mobilising phosphate directly during the HTC as part of abonoCARE®. During the HTC, the biogenic feedstock is broken down under increased temperature and pressure and phosphate is transferred to the aqueous phase. This process water is therefore rich in dissolved phosphate, which can be precipitated and purified, for example in the form of struvite – more precisely magnesium ammonium phosphate (MAP). In addition, a phosphate-depleted solid –

known as hydrochar – remains, which has a higher calorific value and a higher dry matter content than the biogenic feedstock. Due to the lower phosphorus content, this solid can still be thermally utilised in co-incineration plants. The use of acids is usually necessary to mobilise phosphate during HTC. However, the use of membrane technologies should reduce the need for acids.

Another aspect of the project was to improve the thermal drying of the solids after the HTC. Even if the HTC itself significantly improves the mechanical dewatering of the solids compared to the biogenic feedstock, subsequent thermal drying is still necessary for most applications. By utilising the increased temperature and pressure already present in a so-called hot dewatering process, mechanical dewatering carried out in this way should also benefit from the effects of thermal drying.

Methods

The project focussed on the in-situ shift of the reaction equilibrium (EQ) of phosphate during the HTC. Two approaches were pursued: i) the acid-based EQ shift and ii) the membrane-based EQ shift. For the acid-based EQ shift, several experiments were carried out on a 0.5 L scale at the DBFZ as part of a statistical experimental design. Experiments were carried out with different acids such as sulphuric acid, acetic acid and citric acid in different concentrations at 180 °C [2]. The additional effect of so-called complexing agents on phosphate mobilisation before, during and after the hydrothermal treatment of digested sludge was also investigated [3]. These complexing agents are intended to form a coating around the released phosphate or other binding partners in order to protect phosphate from subsequent reincorporation into the hydrochar.

For the application of membrane-based EQ displacement, a membrane test bed (Figure 27) was planned, designed and realised as a supplement to an existing 10 L autoclave at the DBFZ with a total of five different operating modes [4]. These operating modes allow the autoclave to be emptied or the return of retentate (retained by the membrane), permeate (passed through the membrane) or fresh solutions such as water or acid. In this way, a variety of tests such as process water recirculation or subsequent acid addition can be carried out. The operating modes work equally well for removal of the liquid phase via an immersion tube or removal of the vapour phase from the headspace of the autoclave. After the membrane test stand was only ready for operation in October 2022, extensive commissioning tests were carried out. For this purpose, a zeolite membrane from project partner Fraunhofer IKTS was installed and digested sludge was introduced into a filter basket in the autoclave. The initially very slow separation by the ceramic membrane was continuously improved by further technical adjustments so that a fully functional and widely applicable test rig was created at the end of the project.

Several tests were also carried out to investigate hot dewatering. For this purpose, the process temperature of the HTC was primarily varied between 160 and 200 °C. In addition, the influence of the amount of acid (in this case sulphuric acid) and the solids content of the digested sludge used was investigated. The mechanical dewatering itself was then initially carried out at room temperature and ambient pressure. The experiments resulted in initial findings on the influence of the process parameters varied in the HTC on the mechanical dewatering of digested sludge.

As filters are also used in hot dewatering, potentially suitable and commercially available filter materials were screened. For this

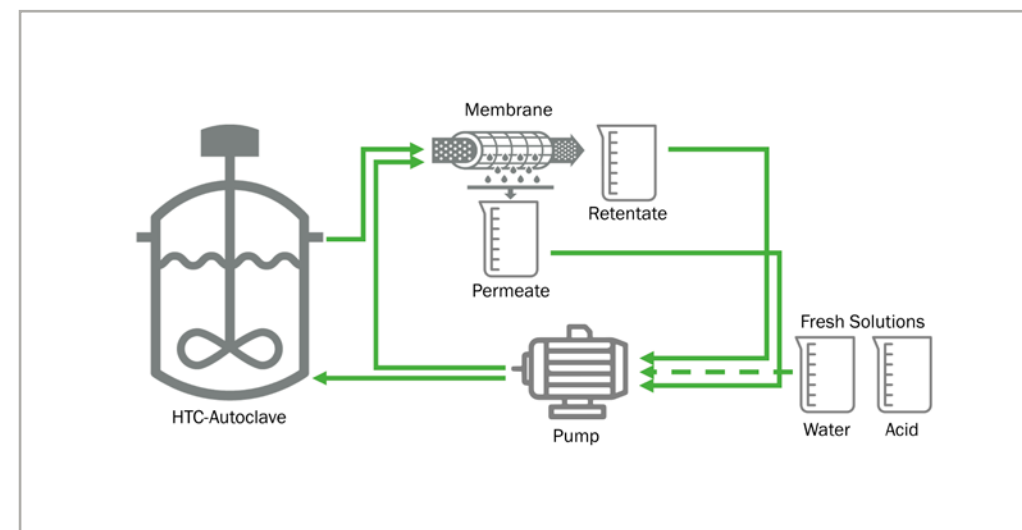


Fig. 27: Diagram of the membrane test bed

purpose, they were first exposed to different conditions (in particular temperature and pH value) and then hydrothermally treated digested sludge was passed over the pre-treated filters again at room temperature. In addition, the residual particle load in the expired process water was determined in order to evaluate the filtration success.

Milestones/Challenges

The laboratory tests on acid-based EQ shifting showed that the use of sulphuric acid and citric acid causes a concentration-dependent phosphate extraction. Acetic acid, on the other hand, can only extract a small amount of phosphate – regardless of the amount added and the resulting concentration. However, the underlying effects are very different. While sulphuric acid acts as a strong acid and phosphate therefore remains in solution, citric acid complexes potential phosphate mineralisers such as calcium, aluminium, iron or magnesium and thus prevents phosphate from recombining to form insoluble salts.

The use of a membrane-based EQ shift can lead to a significant reduction in the amount of acid used, as the continuous separation of the process water continuously removes phosphate from the system and thus influences the balance between phosphate in the solid and liquid phases. The laboratory-scale tests showed that the membranes are permeable to short-chain organic acids and water and retain components such as ethanol and long-chain organic acids. However, the initial tests also showed that the ceramic membranes gradually lose their selectivity due to the very acidic medium and that a separation effect is no longer achieved after a few applications. There is therefore a need for further research into other possible membrane materials that are suitable for use under these conditions and also enable appropriate separation.

The process parameter variation for the investigation of hot dewatering revealed a clear temperature dependency, so that higher production temperatures had a positive effect on the mechanical dewatering of

the resulting hydrochar. The effect of acid utilisation was even more pronounced. The use of sulphuric acid also had a pronounced, positive effect on mechanical dewatering. The effect of a higher process temperature was superimposed when sulphuric acid was used. The filter screening also revealed that stainless steel filters with mesh sizes smaller than 100 µm showed good overall stability and a good filtration result in the form of a low residual particle load in the filtrate.

The final economic evaluation of the acid-based process showed that the recovery of phosphate from sewage sludge using HTC is currently still quite expensive. Compared with processes that recover phosphate from the ash after sewage sludge incineration, for example, the costs of the acid-based HTC process are even higher. Nevertheless, it can be deduced that the costs for the HTC must be additionally covered by other advantages of the process. The resulting hydrochar was not initially taken into account in the economic analyses. It can be argued that the better properties of the char in terms of thermal utilisation compared to the sewage sludge itself also lead to possible revenues or at least to savings in disposal costs. A further, rather conservative assumption is that the energy requirements of the HTC process can be covered by burning the hydrochar itself. This assumption also leads to significantly lower costs for the process and consequently phosphate as the main product.

Perspectives

Carrying out phosphate extraction under hydrothermal conditions offers a number of advantages over room temperature processes. In addition to improved phosphate mobilisation, a hygienised material with a higher calorific value and lower water content is produced almost in-situ, which can also be

further thermally utilised in co-incineration plants.

The membrane test stand realised in the project is only suitable for the concentration of phosphate to a limited extent, but there are other possible applications here. These include, for example, the separation of other, sometimes volatile compounds for more targeted purification and the corresponding integration of initial downstream processes. The ability to analyse process water in a time-resolved manner during the experiments also offers a variety of new possibilities with regard to a better understanding of the underlying conversion mechanisms. By using other membranes, further research questions can also be addressed.

The results on improved mechanical dewatering of the hydrochar after the HTC are also being incorporated into the further development of a hot dewatering device. A suitable test stand is currently being developed at the DBFZ for this purpose, which will allow the effects of real hot dewatering at temperatures of over 100 °C to be investigated on a laboratory scale.

The results have also provided better insights into the behaviour of amino acids under hydrothermal conditions [5]. These findings can also be transferred to other, particularly protein-rich residues and biomass.

→ **Further information:**
www.abonocare.de

Sources

- [1] Körner, Paul; Röver, Lisa (2022): Ganz ohne Feuer. Phosphatextraktion aus Klärschlamm. In: Müll und Abfall (4), p. 190–196. DOI: 10.37307/j.1863-9763.2022.04.06.
- [2] Körner, Paul; Röver, Lisa; Römerscheid, Stefan; Wirth, Benjamin (2020): Hydrothermale Phosphatextraktion aus Klärschlamm. abonoCARE-Conference. Leipzig, 05/03/2020.
- [3] Röver, Lisa; Körner, Paul; Herklotz, Benjamin (2022): P-recycling via hydrothermal Carbonization and the use of complexing agents and acids. ESPC 2022. ESPP. Vienna, 20/06/2022.
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PROJECT PROFILE

Duration:

01/04/2019–31/12/2022
 (Utilisation of the project results in 2023)

Project partners:

Fraunhofer Institute for Ceramic Technologies and Systems IKTS, WIN Wartung und Instandhaltung GmbH Zwickau, LTC – Lufttechnik Crimmitschau GmbH

Scientific contact:

Dr. Benjamin Herklotz/Lisa Röver

Funding body:

Federal Ministry for Education and Research



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Research Focus Area “Biobased Products and Fuels”

The overarching research goal of the research focus area “Biobased Products and Fuels” is to contribute to biorefinery concepts as part of a sustainable bioeconomy through the use of innovative technological approaches. Here, the process engineering equipment of the biorefineries technical centre is used and comprehensive methods for the multi-criteria technology assessment of individual processes and overall concepts for biorefineries are applied. A wide range of process engineering equipment and processes are used to map the complexity of the biorefineries. It is only through the meaningful combination of these process steps that

biorefinery concepts emerge in which marketable products can be manufactured. For this reason, the technical equipment of the biorefineries technical centre is designed to be inter-compatible so that a wide range of processing chains for biogenic raw materials can be investigated. In addition, the focus is increasingly on the automated acquisition of measurement data and automated plant operation. Work is naturally done in accordance with high scientific standards using statistical experimental design and evaluation methods as well as process simulation, databases and software tools to evaluate the technology.

Important reference projects and publications

- Project:** CapUp – Verbundprojekt: Chemikalienproduktion an Biogasanlagen - Upscaling eines Verfahrens zur Herstellung mittelkettiger Carbonsäuren aus regionalen Reststoffen, Sub-project: Up-Scaling und Bewertung der Downstream-Kaskade, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action, 01/02/2023–31/07/2023 (FKZ: 13BDA30012)
- Project:** ELEVATOR – Elektrochemische Valorisierung furanreicher Prozessströme aus dem hydrothermalen Aufschluss landwirtschaftlicher Reststoffe, Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture, 01/05/2023–30/04/2026 (FKZ: 2221NR027B)
- Project:** OpToKNuS – Entwicklung einer “Toolbox” basierend auf numerischen Modellen und Praxismessungen zur Auslegung bzw. Optimierung von thermochemischen Anlagen zur Energiebereitstellung aus alternativen Brennstoffen; Sub-project: Untersuchungen am DBFZ-Festbett-Laborvergaser, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action, 01/01/2020–30/06/2023 (FKZ: 03KB163B)
- Project:** Pilot-SBG – Forschungs- und Demonstrationsvorhaben I Bioressourcen und Wasserstoff zu Methan als Kraftstoff, Federal Ministry for Digital and Transport, 01/09/2018–31/12/2023 (2 sub-projects)
- Project:** REF4FU – Erneuerbare Kraftstoffe aus grünen Raffinerien der Zukunft; Sub-Project 3, Federal Ministry for Digital and Transport, 01/12/2022–30/11/2025 (FKZ: 16RK24001C)

- Publication:** Etzold, H.; Röder, L.; Oehmichen, K.; Nitzsche, R. (2023). “Technical design, economic and environmental assessment of a biorefinery concept for the integration of biomethane and hydrogen into the transport sector”. *Bioresource Technology Reports*, Vol. 22. S. 101476. DOI: 10.1016/j.biteb.2023.101476.
- Publication:** Klüpfel, C.; Herklotz, B.; Biller, P. (2023). “Influence of processing conditions and biochemical composition on the hydrothermal liquefaction of digested urban and agricultural wastes”. *Fuel* (ISSN: 0016-2361), Nr. 352. DOI: 10.1016/j.fuel.2023.129016.
- Publication:** Köchermann, J.; Klemm, M. (2023). “Hydrothermal Reactive Distillation of Biomass and Biomass Hydrolysates for the Recovery and Separation of Furfural and Its Byproducts”. *Industrial & Engineering Chemistry Research* (ISSN: 0888-5885), Vol. 62, Nr. 18. p. 6886–6896. DOI: 10.1021/acs.iecr.3c00259.
- Publication:** Röder, L. S.; Gröngroft, A.; Grünwald, M.; Riese, J. (2023). “Assessing the demand side management potential in biofuel production: A theoretical study for biodiesel, bioethanol, and biomethane in Germany”. *Biofuels, Bioproducts and Biorefining* (ISSN: 1932-1031), Vol. 17, Nr. 1. p. 56–70. DOI: 10.1002/bbb.2452.
- Publication:** Yuan, B.; Braune, M.; Gröngroft, A. (2023). “Liquid-Liquid Extraction of Caproic and Caprylic Acid: Solvent Properties and pH”. *Chemie Ingenieur Technik* (ISSN: 1522-2640), Vol. 95, Nr. 10. p. 1573–1579. DOI: 10.1002/cite.202200189.



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5.4 SmartBiomassHeat



“The heat transition in private residential property will only work if the owners of residential buildings perceive renewable solutions such as grid-connected renewable heat, heat pumps, heat pump biomass hybrids or biomass firing systems as suitable and feasible for them. The heat transition check developed in the OBEN project is intended to encourage precisely this positive perception.”

Dr. Volker Lenz
Project leader

OBEN – Oil replacement biomass heating

At around 1,160 TWh/a (2022), heat consumption is the largest final energy consumer in Germany, far ahead of transport and electricity generation. With a share of over 80 % of natural gas, heating oil and coal, the heating transition is still deeply stuck in the fossil age [1]. The provision of low-temperature heat (< 110 °C) for heating buildings in the private household and the tertiary sector alone required around 640 TWh in Germany in 2022 [1]. While the heat pump technology has established itself as the most common heating solution for newly constructed residential buildings with a share of 57 % [2], coal, oil and gas are still the most common heating solutions for multi-family houses and heating system refurbishments in existing buildings. In fact, every gas or oil firing system installed today can technically

KEYWORDS

Heating replacement
heat transition
tool
oil replacement
climate protection
knowledge transfer

still be operated in 2045. Therefore, there are only two options for Germany with regard to the goal of climate neutrality by 2045:

(i) conversion to renewable gases or heating oils (from sustainably produced biomass or from renewable electricity) or (ii) the heating systems still functioning at that time must be taken out of service and replaced by another heat supply option.

At the start of the project “OBEN – oil replacement biomass heating” in 2019, the political agenda did not yet include the idea of banning the installation of fossil-fuelled oil or gas heating systems in residential buildings. In the meantime, the very extensive and very media-driven debate on the Building Energy Act (colloquially: Heating Act) has established the 65 % minimum proportion of renewable heat for new heating systems to be installed in the future. However, at the same time, the rejection of the issue in large parts of the population has been reinforced by the excessive polemics in the media and politics. With 19 million heating systems still to be replaced in the residential sector alone, subsidy programs such as the Federal Subsidy for Efficient Buildings (BEG) can only provide an impetus (otherwise around EUR 30 billion would be needed annually over the next ten years). Rather, the conviction of personal responsibility, coupled with a reduction in hardship for financially weak households, must be promoted. Against this backdrop, the aim of the OBEN project is to facilitate responsible climate protection behaviour.

Methods

An essential first step of the project was a comprehensive obstacle analysis. To this end, literature analyses were combined with surveys, trade fair visits, personal discussions with stakeholders and feedback on interim results from the stakeholders involved. In the

end, it was possible to obtain the summary of obstacles shown in Figure 28.

As a further key element of the project, a catalogue of measures for policymakers was developed from the list of obstacles, further literature results and discussions with stakeholders and discussed in a hybrid workshop at the DBFZ before finalisation. The corresponding statement paper can be viewed on the DBFZ website (see Further information).

In addition to these rather soft measures, specific obstacles in the market should be addressed. At the start of the project in 2019, neither interrupted supply chains nor the effects caused by Russia's attack on Ukraine in violation of international law were an issue. Solutions were to be provided that would allow a quick switch to pellets or other renewable heating options even in the event of an oil or gas boiler breakdown. Extensive research showed that, among other things, the preparatory work for the project had already enabled some manufacturers in the biomass combustion sector to bring standardised solutions onto the market that would allow a switchover in just a few days. There was also a company that offers completely online-capable pellet boiler installations, where customer service is only present online for commissioning. In conjunction with rapidly rising prices and interrupted supply chains, both of these factors led to a shift in the focus of implementation support from fast delivery solutions to a tool for influencing customer perception.

While a completely externally programmed solution was initially considered, discussions revealed that the basic idea of the so called “heat transition check” could also be implemented using an in-house solution with externally supplied templates. This process was finalised by the end of the project so that the roll-out could then take place.

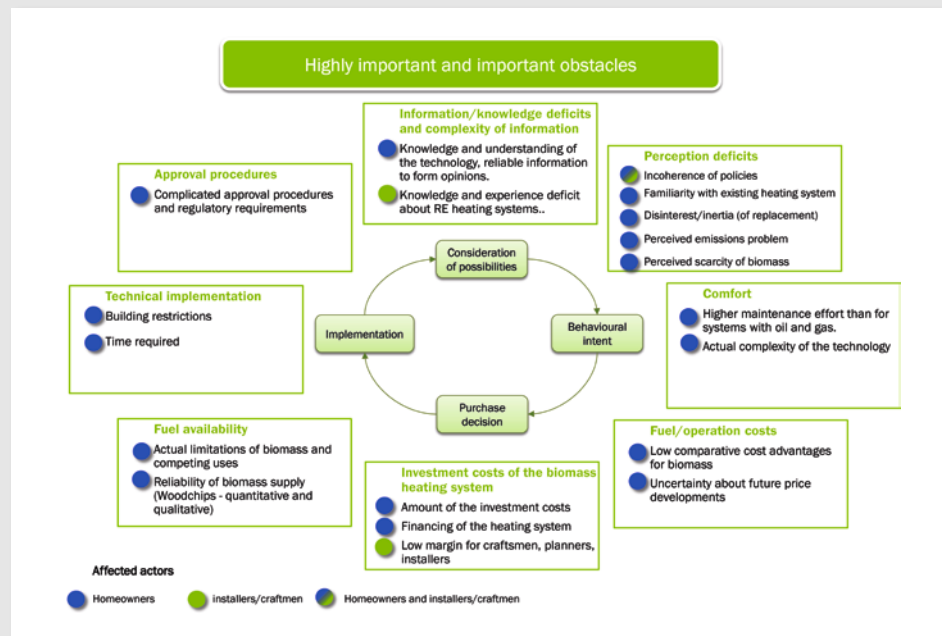


Fig. 28: Very important and significant obstacles in the decision-making process for replacing heating systems

Milestones/Challenges

The picture shown in Figure 28 emerged from the obstacle analysis. A key finding is that there is extensive information on heating replacement on the Internet, but that this is not always easy to find and users find it difficult to assess the truthfulness and timeliness of the information. These and all other identified obstacles are subordinate to a central challenge: the perception deficit. In our pluralistic society with many individual positions and at the same time increasingly aggressive argumentation and even agitation against and rejection of other opinions, the impression often arises that there are no solutions for the future. This also applies to the issue of replacing heating systems. People are

faced with considerable investments and fear that the legislator will intervene in their very private lives without understanding why the heating transition needs to happen much faster. The rapid switch from fossil fuels to renewable heat sources, which is absolutely necessary from a climate protection perspective, will bring individual changes for every single heating system owner (see Figure 28). At the same time, however, the entire heating construction industry, including fuel suppliers and chimney sweeps, will have to rethink and adapt to new areas of business and activity. This explains the rapid spread of negative experiences with renewable heating solutions as well as the associated feeling of many people that there is no feasible conversion option for them.



Fig. 29: Website Waarmewendecheck.de
(Your way to a new heating system)

The heat transition check developed in the project (see Figure 29), presents the clearly existing technologies that have been established for years or decades and recommends them as suitable for the specific characteristics of the respective heating system owner. In addition to that, it is also important to support the heat transition in politics and in all other contributing bodies. See also the developed statement paper with recommendations for action to politicians (see Further information).

Despite all the positive results of the OBEN project, the central challenge remains: in disregard of human rights, international law and climate protection, natural gas is and remains an absolutely simple, convenient and fundamentally cost-effective solution for providing energy on both a small and large scale. A rap-

id heating transition is therefore only possible if renewable heating solutions are only considered when the above disadvantages of

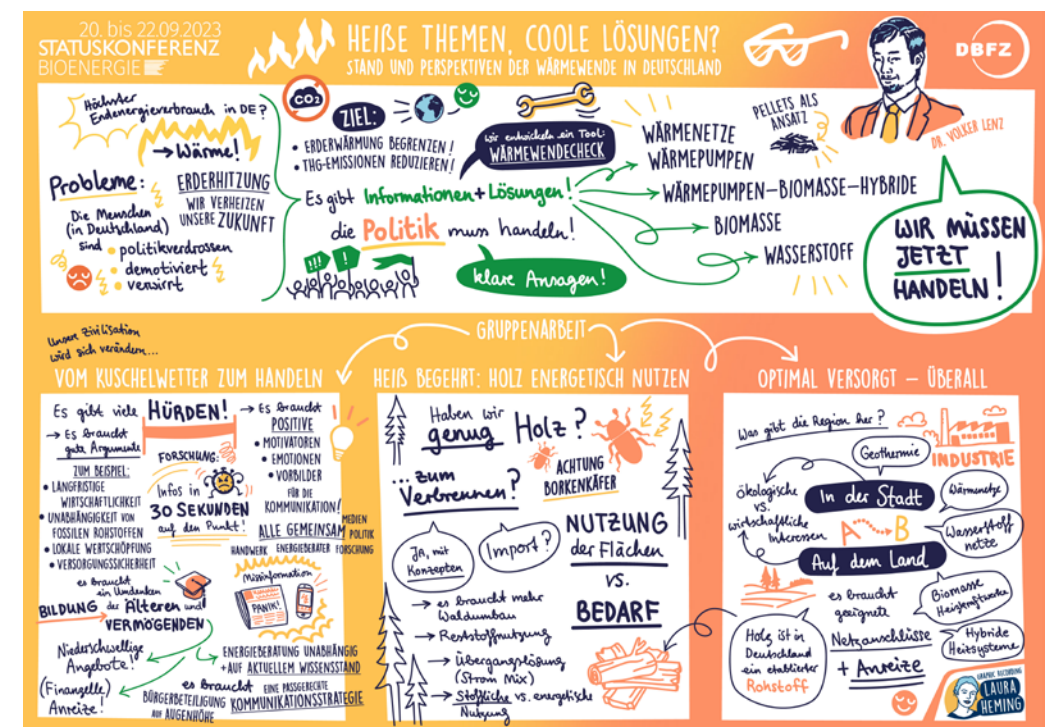


Fig. 30: Summary of the results of the OBEN World Café at the 2023 Status Conference

Heiztechnologien im Überblick

Die richtige Heiztechnologie ist nicht leicht zu finden. Hier verschaffen wir dir einen Überblick und geben dir Informationen zu verfügbaren, nachhaltigen Heiztechnologien.



Wärmenetzanschluss

Die bequemste Art der Wärmeversorgung erfolgt über ein Wärmenetz. Die Wärme gelangt dabei aus einer zentralen Wärmeversorgung ins Gebäude.

[Mehr darüber >](#)



Wärmepumpe

Wärmepumpen sind Technologien, die Umgebungswärme nutzen, um dein Zuhause zu heizen. Sie gewinnen Wärme aus Luft, Boden oder Grundwasser.

[Mehr darüber >](#)



Stromdirektheizung

Diese Heizung erzeugt Wärme direkt aus elektrischem Strom. Die Stromdirektheizung kann eine effiziente Methode zur Erzeugung von Wärme beispielsweise in Passivhäusern sein.

[Mehr darüber >](#)



Solarthermische Anlage

Solarthermischen nutzen die Sonne als nachhaltige Energiequelle. Diese etablierte Technologie zeichnet sich durch ihre geringe Ressourcennutzung und Unabhängigkeit aus.

[Mehr darüber >](#)



Wärmepumpen-Biomasse-Hybrid

Der Wärmepumpen-Biomasse-Hybrid ist eine effiziente und nachhaltige Lösung für die Wärmeversorgung in deinem Wohnhaus. Die Technologie bietet eine große Versorgungssicherheit.

[Mehr darüber >](#)



Biomasseheizung

Eine Biomasseheizung funktioniert simpel und effizient. Erneuerbare Pellets werden verbrannt, um Wärme für dein Zuhause zu erzeugen.

[Mehr darüber >](#)



Individuelle Beheizungskombination

Wenn Standardheizoptionen nicht passend für dich sind, dann sind individuelle Beheizungskombinationen möglich, um mit 65 Prozent erneuerbaren Energien zu heizen.

[Mehr darüber >](#)

Wärmewendecheck

Dieses Informationsangebot wird durch das Deutsche Biomasseforschungszentrum (DBFZ) bereitgestellt und ist im Rahmen des Forschungsprojektes „Ök. Ersatz-Biomasseheizung“ (FAZ) gefördert entstanden. Die Verantwortung für den Inhalt dieser Veröffentlichung liegt beim Autor.

[Impressum](#) [Datenschutz](#)



natural gas are taken into account. Effective CO₂ prices should have been established in the end customer sector some time ago, the German government should have imposed a surcharge on Russian natural gas in order to feed a financial fund for the consequences of the war that have now occurred and natural gas procurement should have been diversified much earlier and more broadly.

Perspectives

The OBEN project has confirmed many of the known obstacles such as costs, security of supply, ease of use and installation effort, but at the same time has also differentiated the perception deficit from the supposed information deficit. This makes it possible to resolve the discrepancy between the abundance of helpful information, especially in the digital world, and the articulated feeling of many people that there is no renewable heating solution that works for them (see Figure 30).

The heat transition check was developed as an initial digital consultation to counter precisely this feeling without much effort. With a fundamentally positive idea of a solution for a renewable heating supply for their own heating system, owners can either tackle the concretisation and implementation of their own solution themselves or with the help of well-trained experts or expert systems. If this succeeds in shaping the basic perception of renewable heating solutions in a positive way, the number of units will also increase and prices will fall in the near future, which means that investment subsidies can be reduced or restricted to financially weak citizens.

The next steps involve publicising the tool and linking it to as many websites as possible. In addition, the information available on the DBFZ's framework page is to be con-

tinuously expanded in order to help people find helpful information online. In addition, however, the challenge for us as a society remains: we must become much faster in terms of climate protection and this requires much more appreciative discussion, willingness to compromise and working on joint solutions.

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PROJECT PROFILE

Duration:

01/09/2019–31/10/2023

Scientific contact:

Dr. Volker Lenz/Daniela Pomsel

Project number:

03KB156

Funding body:

Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action/
Project Management Jülich GmbH

Supported by:



on the basis of a decision
by the German Bundestag

→ Further information (german language):

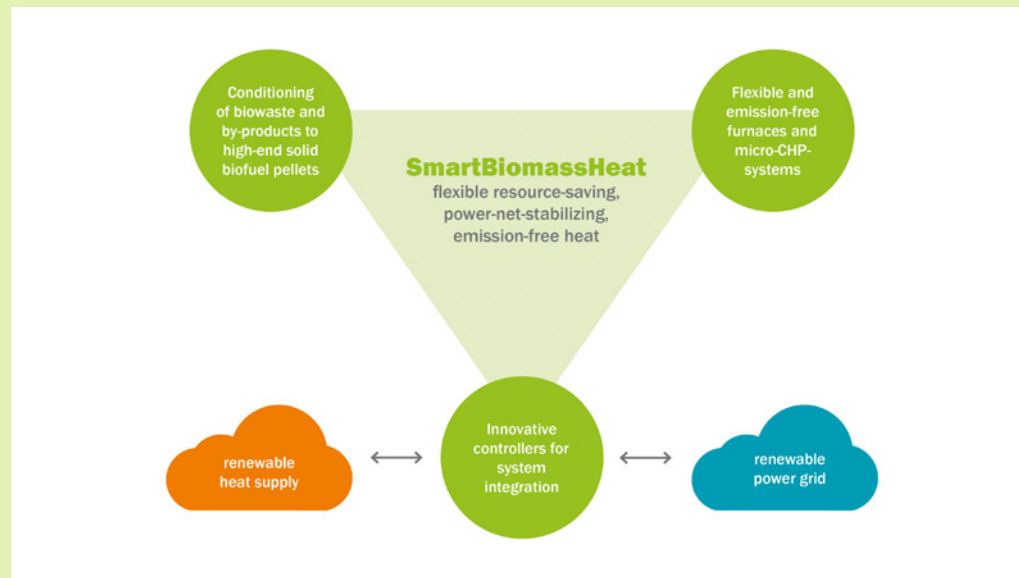
www.dbfz.de/oben-oelersatz-biomasse-heizung

www.waermewendecheck.de

www.dbfz.de/oben/handlungsempfehlungen

→ Further information:

www.smartbiomassheat.com



Research Focus Area “SmartBiomassHeat”

The research focus area concentrates on the small-scale, renewable supply of heat to buildings and building complexes up to villages and neighbourhoods using alternative renewable energy sources and smart heating technology networks that are based on biomass, primarily from residues, by-products and waste. The overarching goal is to make the best technological and economic use of all renewable heat sources through the flexible demand-oriented use of biomass-based heating technologies. The entire chain must be mapped, investigated (both on an individual basis and as a whole), simulated and optimised – from the refinement of biomass fuels via new conversion plants, to the integration of biomass heating systems in the heating and power grid. These biomass heating systems are also designed as future heat-power-cooling systems. By

developing the necessary technical components and combining these with the development of control systems, these systems can be optimised for flexible operation as well as for efficient (smart) operation that is environmentally friendly, economic, safe, demand-oriented, flexible and sustainable. With the growing urgency of climate protection, the research focus area is increasingly focussing on the short-term effects of burning carbon-containing fuels. As a result, the levels of consideration are increasingly expanding to include linked material utilisation options for biomass before and after combustion. Extended material utilisation cascades, a more system-friendly integration of biomass combustion, including the provision of high-temperature heat, and the subsequent use of combustion residues such as ash and coal are being specifically researched.

Important reference projects and publications

Project: BioBeton – Biomassebasierte und nachhaltige Herstellung von Betonprodukten, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action, 01/01/2021–30/06/2023 (FKZ: KK5045102KI0)

Project: EBCNAM – Assessment of the Namibian NUST laboratory in order to introduce EBC aligned testing services for producers of biochar, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), 15/12/2022–31/10/2023

Project: ETH-Soil – Bodenverbesserung in Äthiopien durch die energetische und materielle Nutzung landwirtschaftlicher Rückstände mit besonderem Schwerpunkt auf Bildung und Ausbildung, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), 01/07/2021–31/12/2026

Project: MeBiKo – Metastudie Biokohle, Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture, 18/07/2022–31/12/2023 (Inhouse)

Project: ZirkulierBar – Interkommunale Akzeptanz für nachhaltige Wertschöpfung aus sanitären Nebstoffströmen Nährstoffwende – von linearer Sanitärspülung zur zirkulären Nährstoffverwertung, Federal Ministry of Education and Research, 01/07/2021–30/06/2024 (FKZ: 033L242H)

Publication: Adam, R.; Beneker, C.; Schröder, C.; Calmet, A.; Jung, E.; Kirsten, C.; Krause, A. *EU-Recht nutzen, um Märkte zu erweitern und Ressourcen zu schonen – ein Positionspapier zur Sanitär- und Nährstoffwende* (2023). Berlin et al.

Publication: Adam, R.; Pollex, A.; Zeng, T.; Kirsten, C.; Röver, L.; Berger, F.; Lenz, V.; Werner, H. (2023). “Systematic homogenization of heterogeneous biomass batches: Industrial-scale production of solid biofuels in two case studies”. *Biomass and Bioenergy* (ISSN: 0961-9534), Nr. 173. DOI: 10.1016/j.biombioe.2023.106808.

Publication: Krüger, D.; Mutlu, Ö. Ç. (2023). “The Apeli: An Affordable, Low-Emission and Fuel-Flexible Tier 4 Advanced Biomass Cookstove”. *Energies* (ISSN: 1996-1073), Vol. 16, Nr. 7. DOI: 10.3390/en16073278.

Publication: Mutlu, Ö.; Jordan, M.; Zeng, T.; Lenz, V. (2023). “Competitive Options for Bio-Syngas in High-Temperature Heat Demand Sectors: Projections until 2050”. *Chemical Engineering & Technology* (ISSN: 0930-7516), Vol. 46, Nr. 3. p. 559–566. DOI: 10.1002/ceat.202200217.

Publication: Pollex, A.; Zeng, T.; Bandemer, S.; Ulbricht, A.; Herrmann, K.; Bräkow, D. (2023). “Characteristics of gasification chars: Results from a screening campaign”. *Biomass and Bioenergy* (ISSN: 0961-9534), Nr. 179. DOI: 10.1016/j.biombioe.2023.106962.



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5.5 Catalytic Emission Control



“MeKat aims to develop and investigate a sufficiently active and long-term stable catalyst for the total oxidation of methane in the exhaust gas of biogas CHP plants. The basis for this is biogenic silica, which is obtained from the energetic utilisation of biogenic residues and waste materials. In the course of the project, the catalyst development will also be considered under real conditions after upscaling starting from the laboratory scale.”

Dr. Bettina Stolze
Project manager

Development of a methane oxidation catalyst based on biogenic silica for the removal of methane in the exhaust gas of biogas CHP plants

The share of renewable energies in Germany's electricity and heating sector has risen steadily in recent years. Biogas plants, in which agricultural residues and renewable raw materials are converted into energy in combined heat and power plants (CHP), have played a significant role in this. Ideally, all combustible hydrocarbon-containing components are completely oxidised to carbon dioxide (CO₂) and water (H₂O) during the combustion of biogas. Under real conditions, however, unburnt and partially oxidised substances are always released during combustion processes, as in the case of biogas-fuelled

KEYWORDS

Catalytic emission control
Methane oxidation
Biogenic silica
Waste recycling
Decoupled active phase

CHP plants. Examples for these pollutants are carbon monoxide (CO), formaldehyde (HCHO), nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and methane (CH₄). The Technical Instructions on Air Quality Control (TA-Luft) stipulate legal limits for pollutant emissions, which were tightened in the 44th BImSchV (“Engine Ordinance” to the Federal Immission Control Act) in June 2019.

Corresponding emission limits cannot be met by internal engine (primary) measures alone due to the conflict of objectives between nitrogen oxide and hydrocarbon abatement, as engine settings that nitrogen oxide emissions result in an increase in hydrocarbon emissions and vice versa. For this reason, oxidation catalysts (CO, HCHO) and SCR catalysts (NO_x) are already available on the market as secondary emission reduction measures.

With the introduction of the 44th BImSchV, limit values for organic carbon emissions (total C) were set for the first time, which brought the topic of methane slip as the main component of these emissions more into the focus of research. Methane slip refers to the escape of significant quantities of unburned methane fuel gas into the atmosphere. Biogas inherently has a lower methane content (50–60 %) than natural gas, for example (> 95 %). The mixture is therefore less willing to ignite and in some cases misfiring can occur, as well as so-called “cold spots” during combustion. Both lead to methane slip, i. e. unburnt fuel being fed into the exhaust tract. In addition to the resulting effects on climate change, methane slip contributes to efficiency losses, as methane slip cannot be converted electrically or thermally without a catalyst and must therefore be counted as a loss. Catalytic post-combustion is a promising way of reducing these emissions and thus making a significant contribution to climate protection and resource efficiency. As methane oxidation catalysts developed to date do not yet have sufficient activity and stability for

practical application, there is still a considerable need for research in this area.

The research project aims to develop a catalyst based on biogenic silica that minimises methane slip in the exhaust gas from biogas CHPs. The aim is to ensure compliance with existing and future limit values for methane emissions and to reduce overall methane emissions despite the expansion of renewable energies.

Methods

For silicon dioxide to be used in catalysis, it must be available in the amorphous modification. Production is energy-intensive and requires the use of expensive chemicals. The price of the material depends on the purity of the product. The use of technical silicon dioxide as a catalyst carrier is therefore neither economical nor environmentally friendly. The project utilises the thermal conversion of biogenic residues to produce biogenic silica. This involves the cascade utilisation of rice husks, which would otherwise remain in the fields in the producing countries or be incinerated in an uncontrolled manner due to the prevailing disposal problem, thus causing environmental and health damage. Through thermochemical conversion in a boiler, the biogenic residues that are not in competition with food and animal feed production are utilised both energetically and materially, as both the heat released in the production process and the ash can be used as products.

The catalyst structure is based on the concept of decoupling metal and metal oxide on biogenic silica. Firstly, the catalyst is to be applied as a washcoat to α-aluminum oxide hollow spheres. Secondly, hollow spheres are to be produced from the powdered catalyst. These hollow spheres can be produced with a defined geometry and porosity.

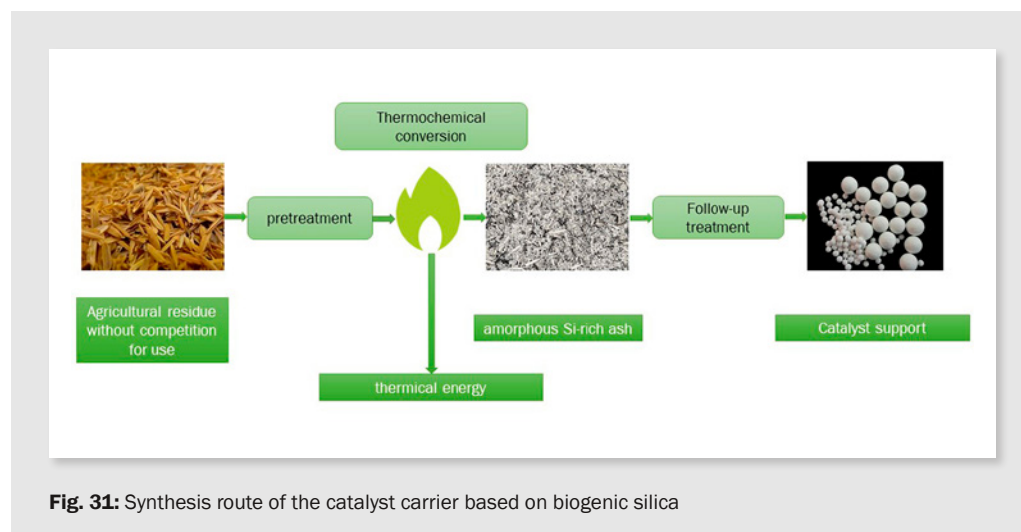


Fig. 31: Synthesis route of the catalyst carrier based on biogenic silica

The transfer of the catalyst into a monolithic state form will be the subject of research in the second year of the project. In preparation for this, the synthesis route of the catalyst was adapted and moulding and stability tests were carried out with the biogenic silica.

In the course of the project, the catalyst development will be modelled under real conditions, starting from the laboratory scale after upscaling. The investigations are to be carried out under practical conditions.

Milestones/Challenges

The catalytic oxidation of methane to carbon dioxide (total oxidation) is a practicable approach to eliminating methane emissions. One difficulty is the low reaction rate under humid flue gas conditions and flue gas temperatures of CHP units of less than 450 °C. As the efficiency is decisive for the design of these systems, it is not possible to adjust or set the operating parameters in such a way that a higher exhaust gas temperature results. On the contrary, CHP manufacturers

and operators are endeavouring to reduce the exhaust gas temperature in order to achieve higher efficiencies. However, catalytic converters typically used for exhaust gas aftertreatment (e.g. for vehicle engines) require temperatures above 450 °C in order to oxidise methane with sufficiently high conversion rates. Catalytic converters investigated to date, which are capable of achieving high methane conversion rates even at temperatures below 450 °C, are generally not very stable over the long term or are very sensitive to short-term temperature peaks. These can occur quite frequently in CHP units.

According to current research, Pd catalysts have proven to be the most active candidates for use at low temperatures [1]. Compared to metallic Pd, PdO is said to be the more active phase at lower temperatures. Consequently, CeO₂ is one of the most effective supports for palladium as it enhances catalytic activity through Pd reoxidation [2]. In laboratory studies, the water produced in total oxidation has been identified as a major cause of deactivation [3]. Investigations into decoupled Pd-CeO₂ systems by means of support on

porous glass showed a significantly improved resistance to water. The disadvantage so far has been the much more expensive industrial glass compared to the Pd component, so that industrialisation did not appear possible. In a joint project between the DBFZ and LIKAT, the replacement of the carrier component with inexpensive, biogenic silica was demonstrated in earlier work [4], which is the basic prerequisite for scaling up such new methane oxidation catalysts.

The rice husk ash could be produced with a purity of >98 Ma.-% Silicon dioxide and a crystalline content <1 wt.-% by appropriate pre-treatment of the starting material. The powdered biogenic silica is homogenised and converted into a solid in the form of a hollow sphere in order to be able to use the catalyst in real applications in biogas CHP plants. In addition to the aspect of weight reduction and material savings compared to a solid sphere, the structure also offers good modelling capability of the catalyst bed due to the adjustable and slightly fluctuating diameter distribution of the hollow spheres. Furthermore, the adjustable porosity and pore size distribution allow the catalyst carrier to be customised to the required conditions.

Perspectives

The significant reduction in methane emissions targeted in the project makes a significant contribution to reducing greenhouse gases. This makes the use of biogenic residual and waste materials for energy generation ecologically justifiable. Biogas CHP plants are considered as an exemplary application in the project. However, this development can be extended to various types of plant for the energetic utilisation of biomass. With the possibility of effectively decreasing methane emissions, the spectrum of utilisable fuels based on biogenic residues and waste mate-

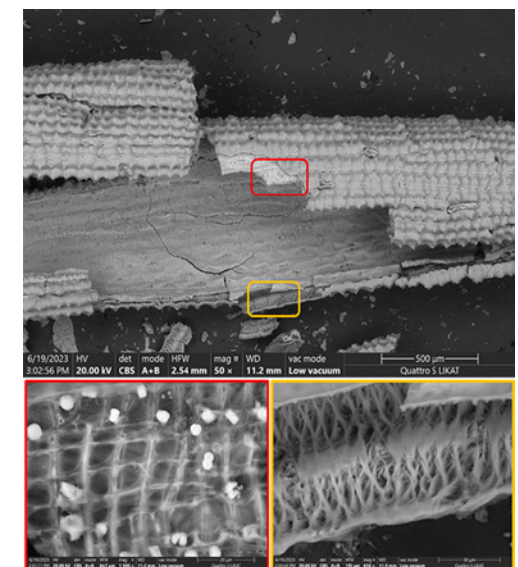


Fig. 32: Electron microscope image of rice husk ash

rials is expanded. The technical integration of the active and long-term stable catalyst must then be adapted accordingly.

The use of hollow spheres made of biogenic silica will be a novelty on the market for catalyst carriers. In combination with various active species, further catalysts can be developed for gas purification as well as for the production of basic organic chemicals. In addition, a catalyst that can activate methane is also conceivable for other applications. For example, there are currently no catalysts available on the market that can produce synthesis gas in dry reforming without auxiliary agents.

Making a methane oxidation catalyst available can promote its use in other technologies that contain methane. In this way, legal framework conditions could be adapted that would motivate the players in the various industries to reduce methane. Examples include the use in conventional natural gas

CHP plants, in vehicles that use methane as a fuel or for residual methane reduction from CO₂ exhaust gas in biomethane production.

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PROJECT PROFILE

Duration:

1/1/2023–31/12/2025

Scientific contact:

Dr. Bettina Stolze

Project partner:

Leibniz Institut für Katalyse e. V.,
Department of heterogeneous
catalytic processes;
Hollomet GmbH;
Emission Partner GmbH & Co. KG

Project number:

03EI5456

Funding body:

Federal Ministry for
Economic Affairs and Climate Action/
Project Management Jülich GmbH

Supported by:



on the basis of a decision
by the German Bundestag





Research Focus Area “Catalytic Emission Control”

The vision of a climate-neutral and sustainable bioeconomy – and the premises associated with this – place very high demands on the research focus area “Catalytic Emission Control” at pollutant-free bioenergy. In particular, increased use in the future of biogenic residues and waste materials in increasingly varying qualities represents a challenge for emission-free bioenergy. The focus here is on controlling the emissions of the combustion processes of bioenergy carriers through the use of and in combination with solid-state catalysts. An extensive abatement in the greenhouse gas methane (CH₄) and toxic vol-

atile organic compounds (VOC), semi-volatile as well as low-volatile hydrocarbons, such as polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) and polychlorinated dioxins and furans (PCDD/PCDF), soot particles (carbon black), and nitrogen oxides (NO_x) is required. The objective of the research focus area is to investigate recyclable and cost-effective catalysts which are stable over a long time on stream and at high temperatures. These catalysts should contain no or a significantly lower amount of precious metals. In particular, combining catalysts with additional emission abatement processes needs to be investigated in detail.

Important reference projects and publications

Project: ABiOx – Thermochemische Umwandlung von siliziumoxidreichen Biomasse-Rückständen zur Erzeugung von Wärme und Strom sowie der gekoppelten Erzeugung von mesoporösem biogenem Silica für die Materialanwendungen, Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture, 01/10/2019–31/05/2023 (FKZ: 2819DOKA05)

Project: BioFeuSe – Neue Sensorik für die Prozessoptimierung von SCR-Verfahren und Partikelabscheidung an Biomasseverbrennungsanlagen, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action, 01/07/2021–30/06/2024 (FKZ: 03EI54346A)

Project: OSchein – Erstellung von Schulungsmaterial zum richtigen Heizen mit Holz (Stove licence), Market project, 05/11/2021–30/06/2023

Project: PaCoSil – Verbrennung regionaler Reststoffe zur energetischen Nutzung von Biomasse mit gekoppelter Erzeugung von biogenem Silika für Feinstaubfilter-Prozesse, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action, 01/07/2021–30/06/2024 (FKZ: 03EI5436A)

Project: UFP-MESS – Messung ultrafeiner Partikel aus Kleinfeuerungsanlagen, Market project, 27/07/2022–30/11/2025 (FKZ: 3721522050)

Publication: Formann, S., Hartmann, I., Stinner, S.: “Utilization and management strategies for biomass from phytoremediation or phytomining”, Lecture at the 21st Jena Remediation Symposium 2023: BioGeo Interfaces under stress, Friedrich Schiller University Jena, 05–06/10/2023

Publication: Hartmann, I.: “Emissionsminderung an Holzfeuerungen durch Kombination von schulischen und technischen Maßnahmen”, Presentation at the Bioenergy 2023 status conference, Leipzig, 21/09/2023

Publication: Hartmann, I., Formann, S., König, M., Bindig, R., Stolze, B., Sittaro, F.-C., Schliermann, T.: “Study on the feasibility of in-situ extraction of biogenic silica from rice husks in the Mekong Delta”, Lecture and conference proceedings of the 17th Rostock Bioenergy Forum, University of Rostock, 15–16/06/2023

Publication: König, M.: “Emisiones de dióxido de azufre (SO₂): Origen, características y disminución” Presentation at the webinar “Emisiones de dióxido de azufre (SO₂): Normativa, medición y control”, University of Talca, Chile, 25/07/2023

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6

Promotion of young scientists



© HAWK Göttingen

Fig. 33: 6th Doctoral Colloquium BIOENERGY at the HAWK in Göttingen

The DBFZ's doctoral programme, which has been running since 2013, offers doctoral students a wide range of opportunities to work on a topic in the field of bioenergy/bioeconomy and apply the knowledge they have acquired in applied research. In the DBFZ's well-equipped laboratories, pilot plants and offices, they have access to state-of-the-art technology for practical work on their research topics. The professional supervision by experienced DBFZ scientists is an additional guarantee for high-quality doctoral supervision and research. Regular participation in high-ranking scientific events (e. g. Doctoral Colloquium BIOENERGY and DBFZ Annual Conference) introduces young doctoral researchers to the scientific community at an early stage. In addition, they are given the opportunity to consolidate their experience within the framework of committee work.

6th Doctoral Colloquium BIOENERGY at the HAWK in Göttingen

The sixth edition of the Doctoral Colloquium BIOENERGY took place on 18/19 September 2023 at the University of Applied Sciences and Arts Hildesheim/Holzminde/Göttingen (HAWK). A total of 42 participants from ten countries (Austria, China, Colombia, Germany,

BIOENERGY
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6TH DOCTORAL
COLLOQUIUM BIOENERGY

Great Britain, India, Iran, Italy, Norway and Pakistan) were present and presented their new results and findings in more than 30 lectures, scientific posters and a stimulating get-in-touch session. In addition to a total of five sessions and a central poster exhibition, the conference programme was rounded off by a tour of the HAWK NEUTEC – Department of Sustainable Energy and Environmental Technology and the BioWärmeZentrum Stadtwerke Göttingen. The next event will take place on 24/25 September 2024 at the DBFZ in Leipzig.

➔ **Further information:**
www.doc-bioenergy.de
www.linkedin.com/showcase/doctoral-colloquium-bioenergy

Tab. 4: Overview of doctorate figures (as at 1 February 2024)

	
Number of doctoral projects in 2023	55
of which are supervised at the DBFZ	34
of which are supervised at the universities of Leipzig, Rostock and UFZ	21
of which were successfully completed	7
Further co-operation with national and international universities and universities of applied sciences in the context of supervising the above-mentioned doctoral projects	11

Doctoral Interview with Selina Nieß (Biorefineries Department)

Hi Selina, you have been a doctoral student at the DBFZ since 2020. Can you explain in simple terms what your doctoral thesis is about?

SELINA NIESS: Nothing could be easier! In my PhD thesis, I am investigating catalysts that convert the CO₂ in biogas into methane with the help of hydrogen. The aim is to process biogas into biomethane so that it can be used as a fuel, e.g. for heavy-duty transport.

What were/are the biggest challenges when writing your dissertation?

SELINA NIESS: For me, the test facility where I do my experiments is the biggest boss. When it runs, it runs well, but there have been a few problems in recent years that have caused delays. From the pressure vessel of a compressor pump being sucked dry by another test rig, causing an emergency shutdown of my system, to a measuring device with dirt deposited on its separation column, a number of unpredictable things have happened.

Writing a doctoral thesis can be very tedious. How do you manage to motivate yourself?

SELINA NIESS: One of my biggest motivators are the colleagues around me who are also doing their PhDs and started around the same time as I did. When I hear about new re-

sults or publications from my fellow doctoral students, I usually think that now is the time for me to step on the gas again. It also helps me from time to time to concretize the central theme of my work and to write down what still needs to be done. Most of the time it's more manageable than I expected.

You won second prize at the “DGAW Wiko” doctoral colloquium in 2023. How important are such awards?

SELINA NIESS: Of course, such awards are also a great motivation. In any case, it's nice to see that your own research is also of interest to other people and that the work you put into preparing a presentation, for example, is recognized in this way. Such awards are also certainly an eye-catcher on your CV.

What added value did you gain from the DBFZ's doctoral program?

SELINA NIESS: Through the PhD program, I was able to get to know the other PhD students at the DBFZ with their very different PhD topics in a relaxed atmosphere at the PhD coffee rounds. I especially like the annual doctoral colloquium. It's a good opportunity to practice presenting your own research results before you stand on stage with renowned scientists at major conferences.

You plan to complete your thesis in 2024. What advice can you give future doctoral students?

SELINA NIESS: Don't wait too long to publish your results if you are doing a cumulative PhD. The whole writing and publishing process can be quite lengthy. And most importantly, stick with it. Every dissertation has its ups and downs. That's completely normal.

Thank you Selina and good luck for the future!



Fig. 34: Doctoral Student Selina Nieß



Fig. 35: Second prize at the 12th DGAW Scientific Congress “Waste and Resource Management”



List of current doctorates at the DBFZ

(as at 31 January 2024)

* Successful completion in 2023

Adam, Roman

Investigation of the compaction of biomass by means of DEM simulation
[Technical University of Berlin](#)

Bindig, René

Method for the development of catalysts for emission reduction at combustion plants
[Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg](#)

Chang, Yingmu

Economic analysis and carbon emission reduction strategies of China's agricultural biogas and biomethane and strategies with regard to Germany's experience
[University of Leipzig](#)

Delory, Felix

Model-based monitoring of anaerobic digestion plants
[Technical University of Berlin](#)

Dernbecher, Andrea*

Numerical investigation of emissions from small-scale biomass heating systems
[Technical University of Berlin](#)

Dietrich, Sebastian

Biogas upgrading to H₂-gas by direct synthesis of short-chain hydrocarbons
[Technical University of Berlin](#)

Dotzauer, Martin

Economic evaluation of policy instruments to achieve the expansion targets of bioenergy plants in the electricity sector with the help of object-oriented programming
[University of Leipzig](#)

d'Espiney, Ana Careirra

Bioenergy production optimization through complementary effluents management
[University of Lisbon](#)

Gallegos, Daniela

Optimization of ensiling fermentation of Elodea genus for biogas production
[University of Rostock](#)

Gebhardt, Heike

Heat grids 4.0 – options for the use of solid biomass in decarbonised heat grids
[Technical University of Dresden](#)

Gökgöz, Fatih*

Development and optimization of off-grid biogas processing plants with integrated filling station technology for a local fuel supply with biomethane
[University of Rostock](#)

Hahn, Alena

The role of smart bioenergy in combination with CO₂ removal in decarbonisation scenarios
[University of Leipzig](#)

Hellmann, Simon

Process monitoring and advanced control of agricultural biogas plants
[Technical University of Chemnitz](#)

Hirschler, Olivier

Potential of renewable resources to replace peat as a substrate feedstock in German horticulture
[University of Leipzig](#)

Karras, Tom

Biomass supply costs for biogenic residues
[University of Leipzig](#)

Klüpfel, Christan Paul

Hydrothermal liquefaction of residual biomasses
[Technical University of Berlin/Aarhus University, Denmark](#)

Köchermann, Jakob

Hydrothermal production of furfural from biomass and biomass hydrolysates
[Technical University of Berlin](#)

König, Mario

Investigations on the development and application of novel SCR catalysts for nitrogen oxide reduction of exhaust gases from the thermo-chemical conversion of biogenic solid fuels
[Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg](#)

Kurth, Matthias

Operating conditions and mass transport descriptions of water-separating membranes in biorefinery processes
[Technical University of Berlin](#)

Meola, Alberto

Artificial Intelligence for process simulation of anaerobic digestion plants
[University of Leipzig](#)

Muluneh, Mekonnen Betelhem*

Anthrosols of the Bale Mountains: Archives for reconstructing settlement chronology and intensity and interactions with fire and destruction of Erica vegetation on the Sanetti Plateau.
[Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg](#)

Ngoumelah, Daniel Dzofou*

Electrochemical activity and stability of Geobacter spp. dominated biofilm anodes in anaerobic digestion
[University of Leipzig](#)

Nieß, Selina

Methanation catalysts for direct biogas methanation of upgraded biogas
[Technical University of Berlin](#)

Nitzsche, Roy*

Adsorption and Membrane Filtration for the Separation and Valorization of Hemicellulose from Organosolv Beechwood Hydrolyzate
[Technical University of Berlin](#)

Pouresmaeil, Shabnam

Bioelectrochemical Power-to-Gas using bed electrodes based on biochar
[University of Leipzig](#)

Prempeh, Clement Owusu

Generation of silicon dioxide from biogenic residues for advanced applications
[University of Rostock/University of Stellenbosch, South Africa](#)

Reinelt, Torsten

Monitoring of spatially unknown and time-varying methane emissions at biogas plants
[Technical University of Dresden](#)

Richter, Lukas

Optimised energy management in an energy cell
[Technical University of Dresden](#)

Richter, Sören

Bioeconomy scenarios for Germany until 2050
[University of Leipzig](#)

Röder, Lilli Sophia

Implementation of demand side management in biorefineries
[Ruhr-University Bochum](#)

Siol, Christoph

Assessing new technologies for the circular bio-economy with combined environmental and economic LCSA
[University of Leipzig](#)

Sumfleth, Beike

Integrated assessment framework for sustainability certification of low indirect land use change risk biomass
[University of Leipzig](#)

Undiandeye, Jerome Anguel*

Ensiling and Anaerobic Digestion of Plant Biomass for Energetic and Material Utilization
[University of Rostock](#)

Weber, Svenja Nathalie

Degradation and sorption behaviour of veterinary antibiotics and metabolites during anaerobic digestion of dry chicken manure
[University of Rostock](#)

Wedwitschka, Harald

Method development for feedstock characterisation for pit fermentation processes
[University of Rostock](#)

Wilde, Kerstin

Bioeconomy from an actor perspective
[Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg](#)



Fig. 36: "How to make it in Saxony": DBFZ doctoral students Clement Owusu Prempeh (left) and Daniel Dzofou Ngoumelah, at the summer party of Saxony's Minister President Michael Kretschmer (22 August 2023)



List of ongoing doctorates with the cooperation partner Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research GmbH – UFZ

(as at 31 January 2024)

Chan, Katrina

Modelling biomass energy use in sustainable agriculture and food scenarios
[University of Leipzig](#)

Cheng, Zhe

Fate and effects of antibiotics in anaerobic digestion systems
[Technical University of Berlin](#)

Guerra-Blackmer, Elliot

Microbiological strategies to mitigate foaming events in biogas reactors
[University of Leipzig](#)

Kühl, Daniel

Reduction of the inhibitory effects of propionic and butyric acid in methanation by promoting direct interspecies electron transfer
[University of Leipzig](#)

Manske, David

Monitoring Renewable Energy Landscapes in Germany: A spatial-systemic approach.
[University of Leipzig](#)

Musonda, Frazer

Modelling of Bioenergy and bioeconomy futures: The optimal allocation of biomass to competing sectors
[University of Leipzig](#)

Sadr, Mohammad

Modeling bio-based NETs in Germany considering regional perspectives
[University of Leipzig](#)

Schäfer, Christina

Engineering microbial communities for the conversion of lignocellulose into medium-chain carboxylates
[University of Leipzig](#)

Strobel, Piradee

Sustainable bioethanol development for an approach to circular economy in Thailand – an evaluation by multi-criteria decision making
[University of Leipzig](#)

Welker, Matthias

Governance Monitor – Tracking and assessing governance narratives for sustainability transformations
[University of Leipzig](#)

Zeug, Walter

A holistic life cycle sustainability assessment for bioeconomy regions – linking regional assessments, stakeholders and global goals
[University of Leipzig](#)



List of ongoing doctorates with the University of Rostock

(as at 31 January 2024)

Afrakoma Armoo, Ekua

Closing the loop in a circular economy – sustainable compost product from fermentation residues
[University of Rostock](#)

Al-Bewani, Rzgar

Press water fermentation
[University of Rostock](#)

Chaher, Nour El Houda

Potential of Sustainable Concept for Handling Organic Waste in Tunisia
[University of Rostock](#)

Daldrup, Markus

Integration of a plant for the production of insect products into the material cycles at Gut Hülseberg
[University of Rostock](#)

Darmey, James

Continuous process biogas production from municipal solid wastes from Ghana
[University of Rostock](#)

Ender, Tommy

A concept for the treatment and nutrient recovery of process waters from the hydrothermal carbonisation of wastes
[University of Rostock](#)

Fröhlich, Janina

Dynamic conversion of biogenic carbon dioxide with regeneratively produced hydrogen into a chemical energy carrier
[University of Rostock](#)

Gievers, Fabian*

Comparative investigation and balancing of process chains for the production and use of vegetable coal
[University of Rostock](#)

Kusuma, Angga

Waste utilization as fuel and alternative material in Cement industry
[University of Rostock](#)

Sarquah, Khadija

Production of refuse derived fuels from municipal solid waste
[University of Rostock](#)

Shahpasand, Masoud

Development and implementation of different tailored regional models assuring best practice in waste management
[University of Rostock](#)

Shettigondahalli Ekanthalu, Vicky

Hydrothermal carbonization – A sustainable approach to treat and manage sewage sludge produced in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern
[University of Rostock](#)

Vincent, Lynn

Expansion of energy system modelling for Thuringia – survey of biomass potentials, expansion of bioenergy pathways, life cycle assessment
[University of Rostock](#)

Weppel, Johanna

Options for action for mechanical-biological waste treatment plants (MBA) against the background of future technical, social and legal framework conditions
[University of Rostock](#)

→ Further Information:

www.dbfz.de/en/career/phd-program

Contact

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7 Science Communication: Press, Projects, Events

In 2023, DBFZ scientists actively contributed in a variety of ways to communicating the centre's knowledge and current research topics to the defined target groups (politics, business and the scientific community) and the general public, successfully contributing to the debate on the national energy transition as experts. In addition to the preparation of scientific publications, a continuous social media presence, press and media work and a large number of specialist and public events and guided tours for visitors, the DBFZ was also able to further expand the utilisation of results from individual research projects under its coordination.

Press and Media

In the press/media area, a wide variety of media articles were generated in 2023, both on specific research projects and on DBFZ topics. Increasingly, DBFZ colleagues positioned themselves as experts on the topics of bioenergy and the bioeconomy. Scientific expertise was used in podcasts, panel discussions, video contributions on research projects and in print and online media. Media highlights of the year included a two-day shoot by Bayerischer Rundfunk on the "CapUp" project (programme "Gut zu wissen!"), a podcast with Dr. Peter Kornatz (Head of the Biochemical Conversion Department) on the topic of "What contribution can bioenergy make to the energy transition?", as well as appearances by Prof. Dr. Daniela Thrän (DBFZ/UFZ/University of Leipzig) on the programmes "Planet Wissen" and "Radio Eins" (Die Profis).

DBFZ scientists in the media



Fig. 37: Scientist Maria Braune during filming with Bayerischer Rundfunk



Fig. 38: Aufgeladen (Recharged) – the energy podcast with Dr. Peter Kornatz



Fig. 39: Prof. Dr. Daniela Thrän on the tv show "Planet Wissen" (SWR)

→ **Further information:**
www.dbfz.de/en/press-media-library/press

Project communication

In 2023, various communication formats, some of them new, were realised as part of selected research projects. The video feature “From hemp to composite material” shows the bioeconomy in practice using the example of natural fibres and the possible applications of hemp fibres and was created in the “BRANCHES” project. Another highlight in the field of bioeconomy was the communication support for the “Bioeconomy Workshop Saxony”. The series of events with a barcamp character aimed to open up the possibilities of the bio-based economy in Saxony for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Another “media product” was created as part of the “OBEN” research project (see page 34). The “Wärmewendecheck” information page is aimed at private households in Germany and

aims to provide a quick and clear overview of sustainable heating systems for residential buildings.

→ Further information (german language):

<https://youtu.be/aVnZ9S008ys?si=C2IQ4F1G7YHogeSL>

www.dbfz.de/werkstatt

www.waermewendecheck.de

The aim of communication for the “Pilot-SBG” research and demonstration project, which has been running since 2018, is to promote professional dialogue with science and industry. To this end, the project website in particular has been comprehensively expanded as a central communication medium. In addition,

core processes and project objectives were presented with infographics, photos and videos. Central aspects of renewable methane in transport and the installed pilot plant were published in three detailed focus booklets. Great importance was attached to target group-orientated presentation (e.g. through graphic abstracts). Communication – as well as the announcement and documentation of scientific lectures and events – took place via social networks (Linkedin/Youtube). The commissioning of the pilot plant, which could take place in relevant parts in 2023, was also documented in detail (photos, time-lapse video) and communicated. Numerous guided tours promoted practical dialogue with the specialist audience.

→ Further information:

www.dbfz.de/en/projects/pilot-sbg



Fig. 40: Video feature “From hemp to composite material”



Fig. 41: Freely available focus booklets in the “Pilot-SBG” project

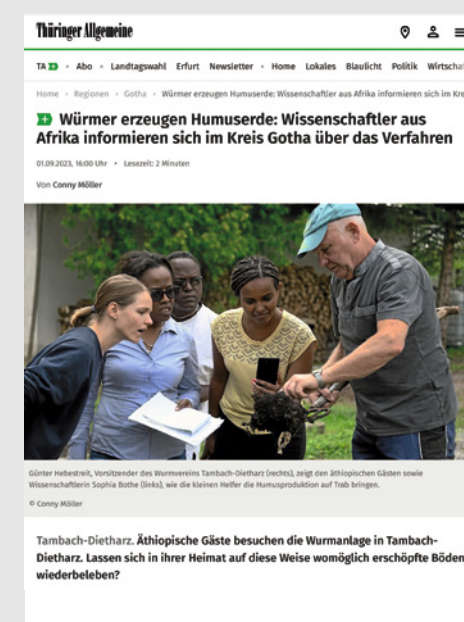


Fig. 42: 1st Study trip with Ethiopian scientists (reporting by Thüringer Allgemeine online)

Project-related science communication was also further expanded in an international context. The ETH-Soil project in Ethiopia was continuously supported and utilised in the media with short videos and a dedicated LinkedIn channel. In particular, the focus was on social media support for a study trip by Ethiopian partners in Germany and Austria (including press coverage and photo documentation) and the Soil Symposium. This event on the topic of soil improvement with biochar-based organic fertilisers, among others, took place for the second time in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa and offered project managers, scientists and stakeholders the opportunity to communicate and expand networks. The symposium also helped to raise the profile of the project in Ethiopia.



→ Further information:

www.eth-soil.com

www.linkedin.com/showcase/eth-soil



Fig. 43: New editions of the “DBFZ Report” publication series

New publications: “DBFZ Report”

In 2023, four new issues were published as part of the scientific publication series “DBFZ Report”. In his dissertation, DBFZ doctoral student Roy Nitzsche dealt with the topic of “Adsorption and membrane filtration for the separation and valorisation of hemicellulose from organosolv beechwood hydrolysates”. His findings can be found in DBFZ Report No. 48. Issue No. 49 deals with the “More-Bio” project, which has been completed in 2023, and provides a comprehensive overview of the bioeconomy in the Central German and Lusatian mining areas. DBFZ Report No. 50 “Biogas production and utilisation in Germany” provides a comprehensive overview of the national stock of biogas and biomethane plants. In addition, the DBFZ Report No. 44 “Monitoring renewable energies in transport” was published in a revised and corrected edition as well as in an English-language version. All issues as well as annual

reports, brochures and conference readers are available as free PDF downloads from the following addresses.

→ Downloads:
www.dbfz.de/en/reports
www.dbfz.de/en/broschures
www.dbfz.de/en/conference-reader
www.dbfz.de/en/annual-report



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Event and visitors management

The year 2023 was characterised by a large number of internal and external events and event participations in the area of event and visitor management. In addition to organising numerous project meetings, workshops and in-house events, almost sixty external specialist events and event collaborations were also held, further increasing the DBFZ’s visibility in the scientific community. In addition, the DBFZ welcomed over 40 groups of guests totalling more than 740 people in 2023. Guests from ReTech, DGAW, the IEA Bioenergy Technology Collaboration Programme (Task 39) and the IEA Advanced Motor Fuels Technology Collaboration Programme (AMF TCP) as well as from more than ten colleges and universities (including Merseburg University of Applied Sciences, Leipzig University, TU Dresden, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Münster University of Applied Sciences), Abilene Christian University (USA, Texas) and Anhui University (China)

visited the DBFZ and gained an overview of the state of research in the field of bioenergy/bioeconomy.

Event Highlights 2023

Process measurement conference

The sixth edition of the english-language conference on process measurement technology in biogas plants (CMP) on 22/23 March 2023 focused on the requirements for measuring instruments, best practices and practical applications as well as new monitoring and control devices in the field of anaerobic fermentation. Around eighty participants took advantage of the face-to-face event to engage in intensive professional dialogue and networking. The next edition of the event will take place in 2025.

→ Further information:
www.dbfz.de/cmp

Fig. 44: 6th edition of the International Conference on Monitoring and Control of Anaerobic Digestion Processes



Closing event of the “SoBio” strategy project

At a virtual closing event held jointly with the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ) on 20 April 2023, around 360 scientists presented and discussed the results of the strategy project “SoBio – Scenarios for optimal biomass use in the energy transition” (see page 34). In addition to the presentation of the core results from the medium and long-term scenarios, various experts gave five-minute statements on selected topics relating to the integration of bioenergy in the energy system.

→ **Further information and results**
(german language):
www.dbfz.de/sobio



Fig. 45: Panel discussions on the occasion of the company's 15th anniversary (August 24, 2023)

Anniversary event “15 years of DBFZ”

To mark the 15th anniversary of the DBFZ, an anniversary event was held at the DBFZ on 24 August 2023 with the participation of almost 230 internal and external guests. State Secretary Sylvia Bender from the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture accepted the invitation to Leipzig, and Wolfram Günther was also a guest at the DBFZ in his official function as Saxony's State Minister for Energy, Climate Protection, Environment and Agriculture. In addition to keynote speeches and an exciting panel discussion, various science slams by DBFZ scientists were a particular source of enthusiasm.

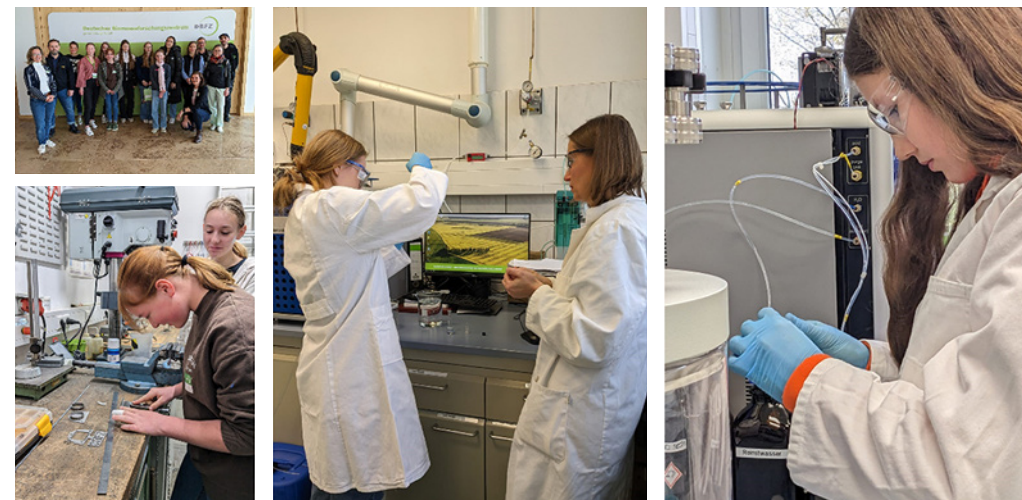


Fig. 46: Girls' Day at DBFZ (April 27, 2023)

Girls' Day at the DBFZ

The DBFZ took part in the nationwide Girls' Day on 27 April 2023 for the third time. The visit by six interested schoolgirls served to introduce potential careers in science. After an introduction to the work at the DBFZ, an exemplary presentation of a researcher's CV and a tour of selected technical facilities and laboratories, the young visitors had the opportunity to gain an insight into the careers of “mechatronics engineer” and “chemical-technical assistant” under expert guidance in a practical section.

evening, almost 100 interested participants learnt about the work of the DBFZ through presentations, tours of the site, exhibitions and various hands-on activities.

Long Night of the Sciences

What is bioenergy, what does research at the DBFZ contribute to environmental protection and the energy transition and what potential does insect biomass, for example, harbour? These and other topics were the focus of the Long Night of Science, which took place for the first time on 23 June 2023 on the premises of the DBFZ. Over the course of the



Fig. 47: Lecture at the Long Night of Science: What potential do insects harbour?

These and other exciting events await you:

20/21 May 2024

18th Rostock Biomass Forum –
Bioenergy and bio-based materials for
a climate-neutral future

28 May 2024

Leipzig biofuels expert talk
“It all depends on the raw material”

4 June 2024

12th Bioeconomy Conference 2024
at the DBFZ

10 September 2024

5th Biorefinery Day

11/12 September 2024

DBFZ Annual Conference 2024

24/25 September 2024

7th Doctoral Colloquium BIOENERGY

6 November 2024

Leipzig biogas expert talk

12/13 November 2024

8th Expert forum on hydrothermal processes

→ You can find an overview
of our events at
www.bioenergie-events.de

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Save the Date:

DBFZ Annual Conference 2024

The next DBFZ Annual Conference on “Multi-talented biomass: basic resource, carbon source and energy option” will take place on **11/12 September 2024** at the DBFZ in Leipzig and will be broadcast via livestream.

Up-to-date information can be found on the event website at
www.bioenergiekonferenz.de

We look forward
to your participation!



8

International activities

Scientific project work in an international (non-European) context is one of the DBFZ's main objectives. It is particularly important, to make the DBFZ's scientific expertise available to foreign partners and to initiate research collaborations. In addition to the joint processing of research projects, the exchange of doctoral students and the realisation of reciprocal research visits are also planned. A further aim is to establish cooperation with international universities and non-university research institutes and to consolidate and selectively expand non-European networks. This also includes initiating and arranging reciprocal visits and organising workshops and conferences.

Memorandum of Understanding with PT.PLN Indonesia

Bioenergy is an important energy source in Indonesia – the development of scientific capacities is necessary, initially for co-combustion of biomass, but also for biogas applications, which are now to be developed in the country. PT PLN is the state-owned electricity company with an electricity production of more than 175 TWh (2015). With more than 50,000 employees, it is one of the 500 largest companies in the world. On 14 June 2023, an official Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with representatives of PT.PLN was signed at the DBFZ under the



Fig. 48: Memorandum of Understanding with PT.PLN Indonesia (14 June 2023)



Fig. 49: Dr. Friederike Naegeli de Torres and Dr. Sven Schaller (last row, centre) in Berlin

coordination of Dr Sven Schaller. As part of the cooperation, employees of PT.PLN are to be trained in bioenergy technologies and, in the future, their own test laboratories are to be set up.

From 18–22 September 2023, five participants from various areas of PT. PLN took place. The aim of the training was to train colleagues in the conversion of coal-fired power plants to biomass. The agenda included explanations of the systemic contribution of biomass and the principles of large combustion plants for solid fuels (coal, biomass), the combustion of solid fuels, combustion systems and emissions, emission reduction and CO₂ capture. In addition to practical work (analyses according to standards), the lignite-fired plant in Lippendorf and the biomass power plant in Piesteritz were also visited.

Waste-Management in Colombia: the DBFZ in Bogotá

The organic waste from the Colombian capital Bogotá harbours huge untapped potential. Every day, 3,500 tonnes of organic waste are produced. If 1,000 tonnes per day were used to produce methane alone, all 750 of the city's natural gas-powered buses could be fuelled with CNG. Despite a number of problems (including too much staff turnover, which requires constant capacity building, no space in the city for plants, no clear vision from the city administration to involve the private sector, etc.), both the members of the German RETech Partnership export network and Colombian companies see good opportunities to set up the first organic waste treatment pilots in Bogotá together with the DBFZ.

On 21 September 2023, DBFZ scientists Dr. Sven Schaller (Coordinator for International Knowledge and Technology Transfer) and Dr. Friederike Naegeli de Torres (Head of the Resources Working Group) presented project results on waste management in Berlin to representatives of the GIZ, senior employees of the Bogotá city administration and ministry employees from Colombia.

Intercultural Communication: “International Lunch” Event Series

The DBFZ has steadily increased its international reputation since it was founded in 2008. This is reflected not only in the numerous projects abroad, but also in the growing number of visiting researchers, post-docs, doctoral students, Master's or Bachelor's students, student assistants and employees with an international background. In this context, the basic idea of the “International Lunch”, which was introduced in 2019, is

a meeting of all DBFZ employees who are interested in global contexts and want to report on their international experiences. The monthly event consists of a lecture on the cultural, historical and geographical characteristics of a country or region, special experiences, fascinating stories or the presentation of fascinating works of art from the respective home countries. The most important part of the event is a lunch with traditional food. This can be finger food, local specialties or culinary delicacies from faraway countries. All dishes are presented and tasted together. Fun, exchange and learning from others go hand in hand.

→ Further information:
www.dbfz.de/en/international-lunch

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Fig. 50: Focus on Kurdistan and Kurdish culture at the International Lunch in March 2023



9

Knowledge and technology transfer

The DBFZ conducts applied research and development (R&D) in a large number of facilities, test beds and laboratories. The primary aim is to translate scientific findings from research projects into practical applications. Whether technological, in the form of an improved production process or a new

product from biowaste, or knowledge-based, for example by providing information on available raw material potential or opinions on planned legislative changes: Research achieves impact when it reaches its respective target group.

9.1 Knowledge transfer

Bioeconomy Workshops (TWBioS)

The “Bioeconomy Workshop Saxony” series of events asked industry representatives, researchers and networks in detail: What are Saxony’s strengths in the bioeconomy? The aim was to tap into the development oppor-

tunities of the bio-based economy in Saxony for application in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). To achieve this, the project team developed a new event format and successfully implemented it in 2023 in the form of six interactive transfer workshops with a barcamp character. These brought together cross-sector networks, industry representatives and researchers to identify



Fig. 51: 4th Bioeconomy Workshop Saxony “From fibre to product”

needs and work on transfer goods that make sustainable business possible in Bavaria. The focus areas defined by the participants included digitalisation, natural fibres, the circular economy, bioprocesses and building with sustainable raw materials. The knowledge gained and the analyses of the innovation potential of the bio-based economy make it clear that the Free State of Saxony has a high bioeconomic potential that needs to be exploited.

→ **Further information (german language):**
www.dbfz.de/werkstatt

Monitoring the bioeconomy strategy for the state of Brandenburg

The project “Priorities of a Bioeconomy Strategy for the State of Brandenburg (BÖ-StrBB)” aimed to support the development of a state bioeconomy strategy by taking stock of the

bioeconomy and developing target images, measures and fields of action. In order to shed light on the status quo of the bioeconomy in the state of Brandenburg, existing development strategies and objectives related to the bioeconomy at EU, federal, other state and Brandenburg level were analysed together with the project partners IÖW and e-fect. In a total of five digital events, objectives, implementation paths and the necessary framework conditions and support structures for the draft measures were discussed and developed in key potential sectors that are particularly relevant for Brandenburg. As a result of the five workshops, initial draft measures were derived in the form of profiles on the topics of sustainable biomass production, regional biomass cycles, bioeconomy infrastructure, bioeconomy research and knowledge transfer as well as politics and society.

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Fig. 52: Workshop on the bioeconomy for the state of Brandenburg on (14 June 2023)



Fig. 53: Zeitz chemical and industrial park

9.2 Technology transfer

“Pülpegas” project develops pilot plant for the full use of wheat pulp

energy-intensive industry can achieve great added value and efficiency gains through synergies in chemical parks. However, bioenergy plants have so far rarely been directly integrated into continuous processes in the industrial environment. In the joint project “Pülpegas” (FKZ: 03EI5442), funded by the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action, this problem area is to be addressed by developing and demonstrating wheat pulp mono-fermentation on an industrial scale and by developing and implementing an innovative industrial biogas plant with a capacity of up to 60 GWh/year at the Zeitz site in the long term.

In the joint project carried out by Infra-Zeitz Servicegesellschaft mbH and the DBFZ in collaboration with the Max Rubner Institute (MRI), a reference biogas plant should be created for the complete material and energy utilisation of wheat pulp residue on the basis of industrially relevant test results. An additional

goal was to recover approx. 11,000 tonnes of CO₂ per year from the biogas produced as a basic chemical for further use. Further project objectives were to quantify the CO₂ reduction by avoiding transport, to integrate the process into continuous production processes, to research the usability of other pulp components (in this case fibre as a nutritional supplement) and to increase the Zeitz site's own energy supply.

The scientific collaboration with the project partner DBFZ served to optimise the process and close knowledge gaps in the fermentation of wheat pulp on an industrial scale. To this end, the DBFZ carried out practical trials on various scales. On the one hand, these were laboratory tests to identify the appropriate process temperature, and on the other hand, the planning principles for the realisation of the industrial biogas plant were researched as part of tests at the DBFZ's research biogas plant (FBGA).

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Industry cooperations in 2023 (selection)

→ Collaborative project with SMEs

Optimised residue-based insect production; product development of biolubricants based on insect fats
#BioLube

→ Measurements

on a large number of different biomass heating stoves for scientific advice on future industrial developments

→ Studies and counselling

on the combustion of solid biomass and the implications for chambers of commerce and companies

→ Scientific input for the improvement of tiled stoves



→ Joint project with large companies

Development of a pilot plant for the complete utilisation of wheat pulp and automated integration into industrial starch production.
#Puelpegas

→ Processing of fermenter broths and fermentation residues for six different companies in the chemical, sugar and methane industries

→ Scientific advice

on the integration of catalysers in fireplaces

→ Certification for biomass-based heat for the heat and electricity provider of a major city

→ Fuel analysis and compacting tests

incl. combustion tests for fuel traders

→ Expert advice

on boundary conditions and trends in the field of biorefineries and renewable fuels for three well-known companies from the energy and mechanical engineering industries



9.3 BMWK research programme “Biomass to Energy”

The “Energetic use of biogenic residual and waste materials” research programme (part of the Federal Government's energy research programme) is financed by the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK). The research programme is scientifically accompanied by a special project called “Biomass to Energy”, which has already been awarded to the DBFZ several times in succession. The accompanying research team is currently supervising approximately 70 research projects in this area dealing with the versatile energy potential of biogenic residual and waste materials. The support team is also responsible for coordinating the Bioenergy Research Network which is initiated by the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK) as well. The aim is to create cross-project scientific added value and facilitate the transfer of valuable results to society and the energy market.

The specific tasks of the accompanying research include scientific monitoring, networking and science communication. On a smaller scale, the team has been hosting the 'Bioenergy Talk' once a month since 2023 for online exchange, has organized workshops, published projects results in multiple formats and coordinated, political statements. For example, a consultation paper on the new edition of the energy research programme was published in 2023. This paper was initiated by the team of the accompanying research and realized with the help of numerous bioenergy experts. In addition to the accompanying research project, the DBFZ is represented with 14 topical research projects in the programme “Energetic use of biogenic residual and waste materials”.

→ Further information:

www.energetische-biomassenutzung.de/en
www.forschungsnetzwerke-energie.de

Highlights from the accompanying research



Fig. 54: BMWK funding area “Biomass to Energy” in 2023

11th Status Conference Bioenergy

At the 11th Bioenergy Status Conference in Leipzig from 20–22 September 2023, more than 150 scientists from the Bioenergy Research Network came together with representatives from business and politics to discuss the exciting potential of biogenic residues and waste materials for the energy transition. In over forty lectures, five workshops and a poster session, researchers and companies presented research successes and current scientific issues.

In his keynote speech, Timo Haase, energy research funding referee at the BMWK, described the use of biogenic residual and waste materials for energy as a valuable piece of the puzzle for a resilient energy system and thanked the participants in the Bioenergy Research Network for their important input. The results will also be incorporated into the BMWK's new energy research programme, which is currently being worked on.



In the future, covering the high-temperature heat requirements of industrial processes will be an important development task. For this reason, the funding of research and development projects in the field of bioenergy will continue at the usual level, said Haase.

The project manager of the accompanying research team, Prof. Dr. Daniela Thrän, also drew a positive conclusion from the event and the work to date in the research programme: "Our aim with the status conference was to evaluate research results, bring to-

gether different perspectives, develop ideas and jointly shape the future of bioenergy in the energy transition. The basis for this is provided by technologies and concepts for biogenic residues and waste materials that have been developed in the BMWK's research programme over the last few decades and are not only intensively discussed in the Bioenergy Research Network, but are also specifically supported in their rapid market launch. With events such as the status conference, we have created an excellent platform for this and, in my view, achieved very good results."

The next Bioenergy Status Conference is expected to take place in autumn 2025.

→ **The conference reader in german language is available as a free download:**
www.energetische-biomassenutzung.de/publikationen/tagungsreader

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Fig. 55: 11th Bioenergy Status Conference at KUBUS in Leipzig (20–22 September 2023)



10

Science-Based Services

As a research institute with predominantly applied research, the DBFZ strives for close cooperation with project partners from industry and offers extensive contract research as well as a wide range of science-based and technical services for this purpose. These go beyond the DBFZ's five main research focus areas and are aimed equally at politics and industry, associations, experts and committees. The content is processed in an interdisciplinary and cross-departmental manner so that the entire expertise of the DBFZ can be used comprehensively and efficiently for the following advisory and technical services.

Science based services

- _ Market analyses and data provision
- _ Technical, economic and ecological evaluation
- _ Concept and process development and optimisation
- _ Scientific support of R&D projects

→ Further information:

www.dbfz.de/en/services/science-based-services

In addition, the DBFZ offers a special R&D infrastructure in the three technical research areas of biochemical conversion, thermo-chemical conversion and biorefineries. The technical-scientific services are aimed at plant and mechanical engineering companies, process development companies, plant operators and other R&D companies and organisations. It is also possible to integrate the services of the analytical laboratory (chemical composition and fuel properties of solid biofuels, biogas substrates, liquid fuels,

by-products from agriculture and forestry and other biogenic residues and waste materials as well as their conversion products such as ashes, filter dusts, HTC coals and process waters) within the framework of research projects.

Technical-scientific services

Biochemical Conversion

Department:

- _ Market analysis (based on the annual operator survey, among other things), forecasting and strategy consulting.
- _ Scientific support for the development of plant components
- _ Balancing and evaluation of processes with regard to efficiency, technical feasibility and economy
- _ Characterization of substrates for biochemical conversion (digestibility, gas potentials, etc.)
- _ Biogas process analysis and characterization of biochemical processes, mainly anaerobic processes
- _ Test implementation (batch and continuous tests, microbial electrochemical tests)
- _ Concept development for specific site conditions
- _ Determination of energy quantity (electricity, heat) and identification of optimisation potentials

Thermo-chemical Conversion

Department:

- _ Development and characterization of solid biogenic fuels and raw materials including pretreatment, additives and compaction
- _ Combustion tests and comparative classification of the combustion properties of furnaces and fuels



Fig. 56: Working in the fuel conditioning lab of the DBFZ

- _ Separator measurement with regard to dust emissions
- _ Investigation of catalyst technology
- _ Catalyst investigations on the test bed and in practice with regard to efficiency and emissions
- _ Catalyst screening in model and real gas
- _ Catalyst characterisation by physisorption and chemisorption measurements
- _ Catalyst synthesis
- _ Innovative concept development for integrated renewable heat systems
- _ Simulation of renewable heat solution options

Biorefineries Department:

- Pilot plant trials to:
- _ Thermochemical biomass digestion
 - _ Hydrothermal synthesis, carbonization and liquefaction
 - _ Hydrotreatment of biogenic oils
 - _ Fixed bed gasification
 - _ Syngas process
 - _ Gas cleaning
 - _ Solid-liquid/liquid-liquid separation process for biogenic valuable materials from aqueous media

➔ **Further information:**
www.dbfz.de/en/services/technical-and-scientific-services

Tab. 5: Tabular overview of the contact persons in the laboratories, test beds and technical facilities of the DBFZ

Department	Description	Contact person
Biochemical Conversion Department	Research Biogas Plant	Florian Geyer E-mail: florian.geyer@dbfz.de Christian Krebs E-mail: christian.krebs@dbfz.de
	Biogas lab	Dr. Nils Engler E-mail: nils.engler@dbfz.de Katrin Strach E-mail: katrin.strach@dbfz.de
	Emission measurement	Lukas Knoll E-mail: lukas.knoll@dbfz.de
Thermo-chemical Conversion Department	Combustion lab	Michael Junold E-mail: michael.junold@dbfz.de
	Fuel conditioning lab	Dr. Claudia Kirsten E-mail: claudia.kirsten@dbfz.de
Biorefineries Department	Biorefineries Technical Centre	André Hermann E-mail: andre.herrmann@dbfz.de
Bioenergy Systems Department	Databases/Research data	Dr. Marco Selig E-mail: marco.selig@dbfz.de
	Assessment methods	Stefan Majer E-mail: stefan.majer@dbfz.de
	Potential analyses	Dr. Friederike Naegeli de Torres E-mail: friederike.naegeli@dbfz.de
All departments	Analytical lab	Dr. Jana Mühlenberg E-mail: jana.muehlenberg@dbfz.de Igor Adolf E-mail: igor.adolf@dbfz.de



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11

Networks, Research Associations and Committee work



Fig. 57: Meeting of the IEA Bioenergy Task 40 in Utrecht with DBFZ scientists Christiane Hennig (centre) and Nora Lange (right) (12–14 September 2023)

The DBFZ is a member of numerous networks and research associations related to the bioeconomy and bioenergy. Strong networking within the national and international research landscape and with industry is highly relevant in order to be able to solve the complex challenges of the energy and raw materials transition comprehensively and sustainably.

IEA Bioenergy and EERA Bioenergy

The IEA Bioenergy is an organisation founded by the International Energy Agency (IEA) in 1978 with the aim of improving international cooperation and the exchange of information on bioenergy research. Members of the IEA Bioenergy Working Groups (Tasks) are around 200 scientists from OECD and non-OECD countries who come together for three-year work programmes. The IEA Bioenergy triennium (2022–2024) has been successfully supported by DBFZ colleagues in 5 (of 11) working groups since 2009. The DBFZ has also been a full member of the European

Energy Research Alliance (EERA) since the end of 2019 and is thus even more closely involved in European bioenergy research. The overarching goal of the EERA Bioenergy is to develop into a solid research and development instrument to assess the research challenges and priorities defined for bioenergy in the roadmap of the European Union's Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET Plan).

Further activities take place in various networks, clusters and associations, mainly focussing on the exchange between science, business and administration (see overview of committee activities).



Scientific cooperation with universities and research institutes

Scientific cooperation with universities and other research institutions has been an essential part of the DBFZ's network activities from the very beginning. The focus is on realising the defined research objectives within the framework of applied research and development (R&D). There is a long-standing cooperation with the neighbouring Helmholtz

Centre for Environmental Research – UFZ on issues relating to the system evaluation of bioenergy and the microbiological basis of biochemical processes. In the field of energy recovery from organic waste and residues, a strategic collaboration between the DBFZ's research focus areas and the Rostock Chair of Waste and Material Flow Management (ASW), represented by the Scientific Managing Director of the DBFZ, Prof. Dr. Michael Nelles, has been initiated.

DBFZ scientists contribute significantly to the visibility of the DBFZ and the expansion of scientific networks through lecturing at a total of 13 universities and colleges (including Leipzig University, Rostock University, Chemnitz University of Technology, Dresden University of Technology, Anhalt University of Applied Sciences, Merseburg University of Applied Sciences and Leipzig University of Applied Sciences). Co-operation with non-European countries, particularly China, has been continuously expanded in recent years. DBFZ scientists work as visiting professors at the University of Hefei and other renowned universities in China.

Committee activities of DBFZ scientists

DBFZ scientists are represented as experts in a wide range of scientific bodies, advisory boards, working groups, networks and committees as well as (visiting) professors in Germany and abroad. The aim of the committee work is to achieve an intensive exchange with the scientific community.

HTWK

Hochschule für Technik,
Wirtschaft und Kultur Leipzig



UNIVERSITÄT
LEIPZIG

Universität
Rostock



Traditio et Innovatio

Committee	Function	Country	Since
Association for the Promotion of Exhaust Aftertreatment Technologies for Combustion Engines (FAD)	Member of the Advisory Board	Germany	2013
Austrian Biomass Association	Member of the scientific committee	Austria	2022
Aviation Initiative for Renewable Energy in Germany e.V. (aireg)	Member of the Advisory Board	Germany	2011
BioEconomy Cluster of BioEconomy e.V.	Member of the Board	Germany	2012
Bioeconomy Council – independent advisory body for the federal government	Co-Chair	Germany	2021
Biomass to Power and Heat	Member of the Programme Committee	Germany	2014
Chinese-German Biomass Research Centre (C-DBFZ) in cooperation with the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Engineering (CAAE), Beijing, and the C-DBFZ Anhui (University of Hefei)	German Coordinator	China/ Germany	2017
Circular Economy 4 Africa	Member of the Executive Board	Germany	2020
German Association for Waste Management e.V. (DGAW)	Member of the Executive Board	Germany	2014
German Bioenergy Association e.V. (BBE)	Member of the Advisory Board	Germany	2012
Doctoral Colloquium BIOENERGY	Member of the Executive Board/Member of the Programme Advisory Board	Germany	2018
Energy and Climate Protection Advisory Council of the Saxon State Ministry for Energy, Climate Protection, Environment and Agriculture (SMEKUL)	Member	Germany	2021
Energy and Environment Foundation Leipzig	Member of the Board of Trustees	Germany	2013
European Biogas Association (EBA)	Member of the Scientific Advisory Board	Belgium	2019
Export initiative RETech “Recycling & Waste Management in Germany” of the German Federal Government (BMUV, BMWK, BMZ)	Member of the Board and Head of the China Working Group	Germany	2014
Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research – UFZ	Member of the Scientific Advisory Board	Germany	2013
IEA Bioenergy, Task 37 “Energy from Biogas”	Member	International	2019
IEA Bioenergy, Task 39 “Biofuels to Decarbonize Transport”	German Management	International	2014

Committee	Function	Country	Since
IEA Bioenergy, Task 40 “Deployment of biobased value chains”	Co-task leader, German Management	International	2019 2009
IEA Bioenergy, Task 44 “Flexible bioenergy and system integration”	Co-task leader, German Management	International	2019
IEA Bioenergy, Task 45 “Climate and sustainability effects of bioenergy within the broader bioeconomy”	German Management	International	2019
Institute for Non-Classical Chemistry e. V. at the University of Leipzig (INC)	Member of the Advisory Board	Germany	2013
International Solid Waste Association (ISWA)	Coordinator of Germany's activities	Netherlands	2022
LaNDER ³ –Hochschule Zittau/Görlitz	Member of the Advisory Council	Germany	2017
Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania Business and Science Strategy Council (including Board of Field of Action 1) “Hydrogen Technologies and Renewable Energies” of the RIS 2021-2026 of the State Government of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern	Member	Germany	2014
Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania State Energy Council	Member and Head of the F&L Working Group	Germany	2012
Renewable Energies Research Association (FVEE)	Member of the Board of Directors	Germany	2015
Renewable Energies Research Association (FVEE)	Expert on bioenergy (electricity, heat, fuels)	Germany	2016
Research Steering Committee of the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL)	Member	Germany	2012
Thuringian Ministry for the Environment, Energy and Nature Conservation	Member of the Scientific Advisory Board for Climate Protection and Climate Impact Adaptation	Germany	2019
verbio Biofuel and Technology “Straw in the Tank” Conferences	Member of the Scientific Advisory Board	Germany	2017
Scientific journal “Müll & Abfall”	Member of the Advisory Council	Germany	2007
Yes-Programm “Young Entrepreneurs in Science”	Member	Germany	2021

Professorships

Committee	Function	Country	Since
Department of Energy, Buildings, Environment (teaching and research area: process engineering, waste and recycling management), University of Applied Sciences Münster	Professorship	Germany	2023
Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, University of Rostock	Professur	Germany	2006
Faculty of Energy and Environmental Science, Shenyang Aviation University	Visiting Professorship	China	2011
Faculty of Environmental and Biotechnology, Hefei University	Visiting Professorship	China	2002
Faculty of Natural and Environmental Sciences, University of Applied Sciences Zittau/Görlitz	Professorship	Germany	2023
Institute for Infrastructure and Resource Management, Chair of Bioenergy Systems, University of Leipzig	Professorship	Germany	2011
Institute for Renewable Energy, Petroleum University Beijing	Professorship	China	2014
Leipzig University of Applied Sciences (HTWK Leipzig)	Professorship	Germany	2020
National Centre of International Scientific and Technological Bioenergy Research (iBEST), Chinese Agricultural University (CAU), Beijing	Associate Professor	China	2017

Working Groups

Committee	Function	Country	Since
Agru Interlaboratory Test, Board of Trustees for Technology and Building in Agriculture (KTBL)	Member	Germany	2018
Bioeconomy WG of the Structure-Related Commission on Technology Assessment and Design (Saxon Academy of Sciences in Leipzig)	Member	Germany	2020
BMWK Dialogue Platform “Industrial Bioeconomy”, WG4 “Communication”	Member	Germany	2021
DECHEMA		Germany	
– Expert Group “Industrial Use of Renewable Resources”	Member		2020
– Expert Group “Measurement and Control in Biotechnology”	Member		2018
– ProcessNet–Sustainable Production, Energy and Resources (SuPER), “Alternative Fuels and Combustibles”*	Member		2014
– ProcessNet–Sustainable Production, Energy and Resources (SuPER), “Energy Process Engineering”*	Member		2015

Committee	Function	Country	Since
EERA Bioenergy; Subprogramme		EU/Belgium	
1: Sustainable production of biomass	Member		2019
2: Thermochemical platform	Member		2019
3: Biochemical platform	Member		2019
4: Stationary bioenergy	Member		2019
5: Sustainability/Techno-economic analysis/ Public acceptance	Member		2019
European Biofuels Technology Platform (ETIP Bioenergy)		EU/Belgium	
WG1 Biomass availability	Member		2007
WG4 Policy and Sustainability	Member		2008
German RETech Partnership "Recycling & Waste Management in Germany"	Member of the International Working Group (Emerging and Developing Countries)	Germany	2017
Taskforce Biomethane	Member	EU/Belgium	2022
WG Biogas of VGB PowerTech e. V.	Member	Germany	2019
WG "Drive systems for agricultural machinery" (KTBL)	Member	Germany	2022
WG on Substance-Specific Waste Treatment (ASA) e. V.	Member of the Advisory Board	Germany	2009
WG "Library concepts" of the BMEL departmental research institutions	Member	Germany	2016
WG "OpenAgrar" of the BMEL departmental research institutions	Member	Germany	2016
"WIR!" Innovation cluster Waste to Value	Member	Germany	2022

* ProcessNet is an initiative of Dechema and VDI-GVC

Networks/associations/platforms (a selection)

Committee	Function	Country	Since
BioEconomy e. V.	Member	Germany	2012
BioWEconomy of the European Commission	Member Core Group/ Initiators	EU/Belgium	2020
Committee on the Sustainability of Biofuels and Bioliquids of the European Commission	Member	EU/Belgium	2017
DENA (German Energy Agency) Biogas partner – the platform for biogas feed-in	Member, Advisory Board Platform for Sustainable Heavy Goods Transport	Germany	2017
DFBEW German-French Office for the Energy Transition	Member	Germany/ France	2016
Energy Committee of the Leipzig Chamber of Industry and Commerce (IHK)	Member	Germany	2016
Energy Saxony e. V.	Member	Germany	2013
European Biogas Association (EBA)	Member	EU	2023
Förderverband Humus e. V. (FVH)	Member of the Scientific Advisory Board	Germany	2019
International Waste Working Group (iwwg)	Management Board	International	2023
Network Energy and Environment e. V. (NEU e. V.) – Bioenergy Cluster	Member of the Advisory Board	Germany	2014
Network for Carbon Cycle Economy (NK2)	Member	Germany	2019
PREVENT Waste Alliance	Member	Germany	2020
Renewable Energies Research Association (FVEE), Hydrogen expert committee	Member	Germany	2020
Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) of the German Development Institute	Member of the Extended Steering Committee	Germany	2016





Fig. 58: FVEE Annual Conference “Research for a resilient energy system in times of global crises” (10/11 October 2023)

DIN/ISO – Standard Committees (a selection)

Committee	Function	Country	Since
Association of German Engineers e. V. (VDI)		Germany	
– VDI 3670 “Flue gas cleaning – downstream dust abatement equipment for small combustion plants for solid fuels”	Chairman		2014
– VDI 3670: “Flue gas cleaning – downstream dust abatement equipment for small combustion plants for solid fuels”	Member		2014
– VDI 4630 “Fermentation of organic substances – substrate characterisation, sampling, substance data collection, fermentation tests”	Member of the Policy Committee		2019
– VDI 4635 “Power-to-x: CO ₂ provision”	Member		2020
CEN–European Committee for Standardization TC 454 Algae and algae products	Chairman WG 3 “Productivity”	Belgium	2015
German Institute for Standardisation e. V. (DIN)		Germany	
– Municipal Technology Working Committee (NKT), NA 051 BR 05 SO “Autonomous sanitary facilities”	Contributors		2023
– Working committee “Requirements for liquid fuels” NA 062-06-32 AA	Member		2020
– Working committee “Liquefied gases, requirements and testing” NA 062-06-31 AA	Member		2021
– “Dust separator testing” working group DIN 33999	Member		2012
– “Biogas” working committee NA 032-03-08 AA	Member		2015
– Working committee “Pyrogenic carbons” NA 062-02-85 AA	Chairwoman		2021
– Working committee “Biogenic solid fuels” NA 062-05-82 AA	Member		2019

Committee	Function	Country	Since
International Organization for Standardization (ISO)		Switzerland	
– ISO 19867-1:2018 Part 1 “Clean cookstoves and clean cooking solutions”	Contributors		2023
– ISO TC 238 Solid Biofuels WG 1 “Terminology”	Convenor		2022
– ISO TC 238 Solid Biofuels WG 2 “Fuel specifications and classes”	Task leader		2020
– ISO TC 238 Solid Biofuels WG 7 “Safety of solid biofuels”	Member		2019
– ISO/TC 238 Task Group 1 “Biochar”	Member		2021
– ISO TC 255 Biogas WG 1 “Terms, definitions and classification scheme for the production, conditioning and utilization of biogas”	Member		2015
VDI/DIN Commission on Air Pollution Control (KRdL)		Germany	
– WG 3933 “Production of biomass carbonisates”	Member		2013
– Committee for Basic Guidelines “Bioeconomy, bio- Contributor 2021 logical transformation – terms, methods, definitions”	Contributor		2021
– Guideline Preparation Committee VDI 3475 Sheet 8, “Emission Reduction; Digestate Treatment Plants”	Chair		2021
– Guideline Preparation Committee VDI 3475 Sheet 9 “Emission Reduction; Manure Processing Plants”	Chair		2021



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12

Structure and organisation

An organisational structure of four research departments has been established at the DBFZ to handle the diverse research tasks. While the Departments of Biochemical Conversion, Thermo-Chemical Conversion and Biorefineries mainly work on applied research tasks in the field of bioenergy and bioeconomy, the Bioenergy Systems Department develops policy recommendations, as well

as potential analyses, acceptance studies, various scenarios for biomass use and database-based web applications. In cooperation with the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ), two departments are also working on the topics of bioenergy (systems analysis) and microbiology of anaerobic systems (MicAS).

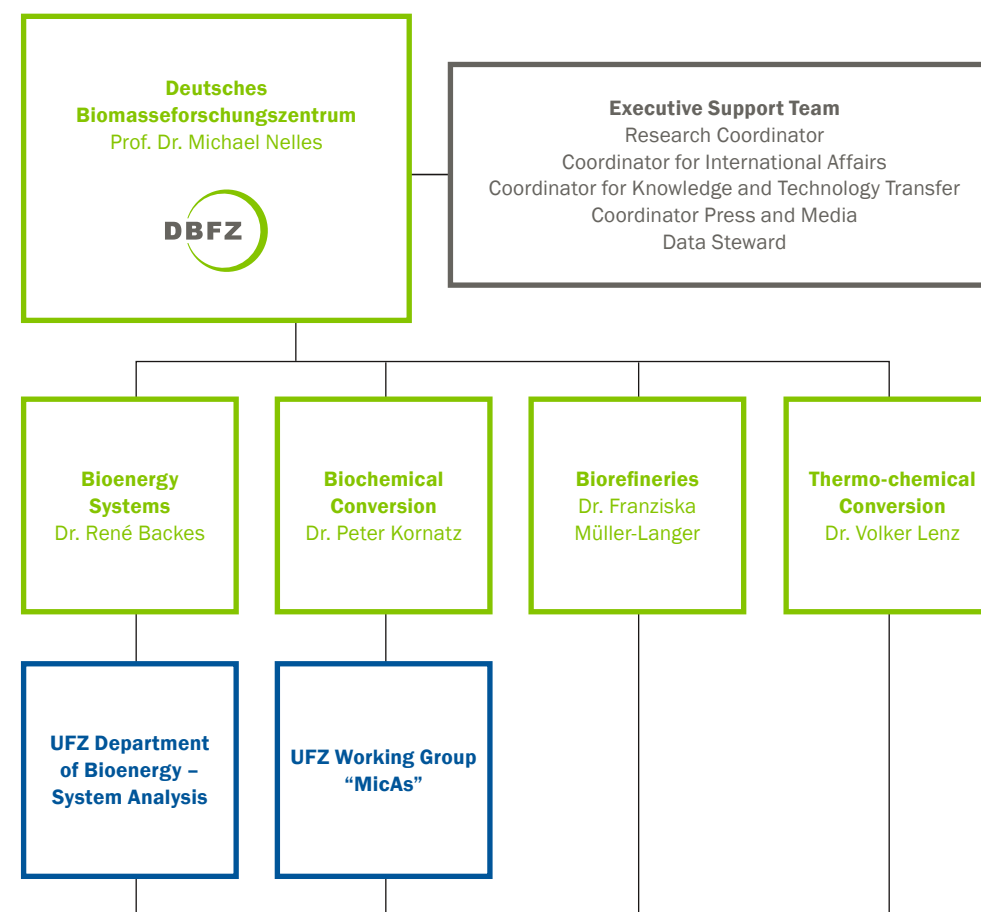


Fig. 59: The four research departments of the DBFZ, the executive support team and the two cooperation departments with the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ)/ Status: 31/12/2023

12.1 Management, staff units and controlling bodies

Since its founding in 2008, the DBFZ has been managed equally by two managing directors, who have divided the tasks between the areas of research and administration. The DBFZ's most important scientific goals are defined in close cooperation with the heads

of the five research focus areas and the executive support team, and are evaluated and further developed in regular strategy meetings together with the Supervisory Board and the Research Advisory Council.

The General Management



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Controlling bodies

The Supervisory Board

The Supervisory Board, which is chaired by the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL), makes the substantive and organisational decisions for the strategic and organisational development of the DBFZ. Other members are the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Con-

servation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV), the Federal Ministry for Digital and Transport (BMDV), the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK) and the Saxon State Ministry for Energy, Climate Protection, Environment and Agriculture (SMEKUL).

The Supervisory Board met at the DBFZ on May 16 and November 14, 2023.

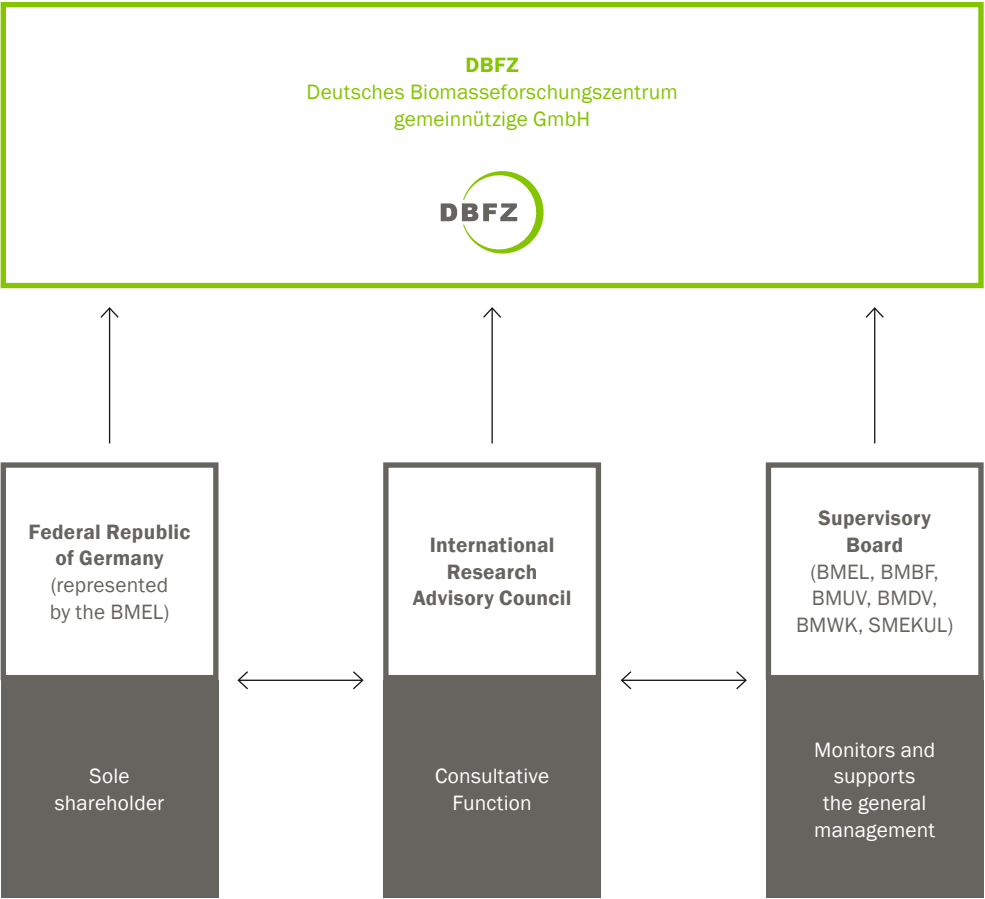


Fig. 60: The controlling bodies of the DBFZ

The representatives of the Supervisory Board
(as of: 1 Februar 2024)



Olaf Schäfer (Chairman)
MinDirig.
Head of Sub-Department “Climate protection, biodiversity, sustainability and bioeconomy” Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture



Katharina Schwarz (from May 1, 2024)
MinDirig'in
Head of working group NII5, Natural and environmental affairs in genetic engineering and the bioeconomy Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection



Daniel Gellner
Head of Department 3 “Agriculture”
Saxon State Ministry for Energy, Climate Protection, Environment and Agriculture



Dr. Christine Falken-Großer
MinDirig'in
Head of Unit IIA7 – Hydrogen Policy, National Hydrogen Strategy Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action



Dr. Kerstin Zimmermann
Senior Government Councillor
Department 7 (Provision for the Future), Department 722 “Energy, Hydrogen Technologies”
Federal Ministry of Education and Research



Birgit Breituß-Renner
MinDirig'in
Subdepartment G1, Policy Issues and Strategies for Passenger and Freight Transport
Federal Ministry for Digital and Transport



Fig. 61: Annual Meeting of the Research Advisory Council at the DBFZ (26 September 2023)

The Research Advisory Council

The Research Advisory Council, made up of nationally and internationally renowned bio-energy experts, has been advising the DBFZ on the direction of its diverse scientific activities since it was founded in 2008. The advice of the Advisory Council ensures that the research carried out with institutional funding is scientifically sound and highly relevant to the current and future use of bioenergy in the energy system. The term of the current research advisory council is 2023–2026.

Tab. 6: Representatives of the Research Advisory Council (as of 1 February 2024)
* appointed on January 1, 2024

Chiaromonti, Prof. Dr. David
Polytechnic University of Turin – DENERG – Department of Energy “Galileo Ferraris”; RE-CORD – Renewable Energy Consortium for Research and Demonstration | Turin, Italy

Dong, Prof. Dr. Renjie (Deputy Chairman)
China Agricultural University (CAU) – National Center for International Research of BioEnergy Science and Technology | Beijing, China

Dornack, Prof. Dr. Christina (Chair woman)
Technical University Dresden – Institute of Waste Management and the Circular Economy | Dresden, Germany

Hartmann, Dr. Hans
Technology- and Support Centre (TFZ) at the Competence Centre for Renewable Resources | Straubing, Germany

Kemfert, Prof. Dr. Claudia
German Institute for Economic Research (DIW) | Berlin, Germany

Kothe, Prof. Dr. Erika
Friedrich Schiller University Jena, Professorship for Microbial Communication | Jena, Germany

Moos, Prof. Dr. Ralf*
University of Bayreuth, Faculty of Engineering | Bayreuth, Germany

Murphy, Prof. Dr. Jerry
University College Cork – Professorship of Civil Engineering | Cork, Ireland

Thiffault, PhD Evelyne
Laval University – Department of Wood and Forest Sciences | Québec, Canada

Thrän, Prof. Dr. Daniela*
Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research – UFZ | Leipzig, Germany

Wagemann, Prof. Dr. Kurt
DECHEMA – Society for Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology | Frankfurt am Main, Germany

Walter, Prof. Dr. Arnaldo
University of Campinas – Department of Energy | Campinas, Brazil

12.2 Financial statement

The DBFZ was founded in 2008 as an institutional funding recipient in the BMEL's business area as a limited liability company and is recognised as a non-profit organisation in accordance with Section 52 (2) No. 1 of the German Fiscal Code (AO). The aim is to utilise public research funding flexibly and transparently and to be able to work in a research and advisory capacity on behalf of third parties. The DBFZ is financed by institutional shortfall funding from the Federal Ministry of Food

and Agriculture and by competitively acquired project grants, contract research and services. In 2023, the DBFZ received 12.6 million euros in funding from the BMEL. In addition, around 16.5 million euros in third-party funding was raised (see Figure 62). On the expenditure side, personnel costs were in the foreground at 15.5 million euros. Other expenditure included 8.1 million euros for material expenses and 1.6 million euros for investments.

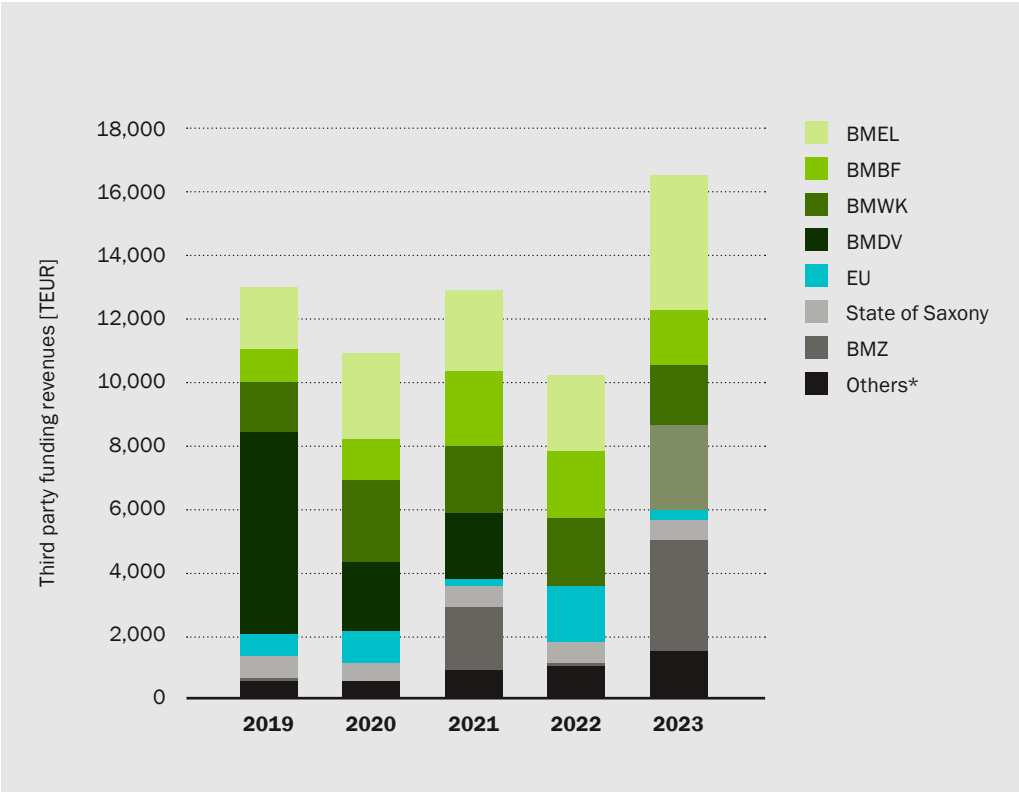


Fig. 62: Overview of third-party funding revenue from 2019–2023 (preliminary figures)
* Contract research and scientific services from private and public clients

12.3 Personnel/Training

As at 31 December 2023, 275 people were employed at the DBFZ. Of these, 211 people (including staff positions) were employed in the scientific/technical area and 64 people in the administration area (including the infrastructure and property management departments and IT). In 2023, the DBFZ again

supervised a large number of projects. A total of seven internships and student research projects as well as 33 bachelor's, master's and diploma theses were supervised. In addition, a total of 28 guest scientists, foreign interns and scholarship holders worked at the DBFZ.

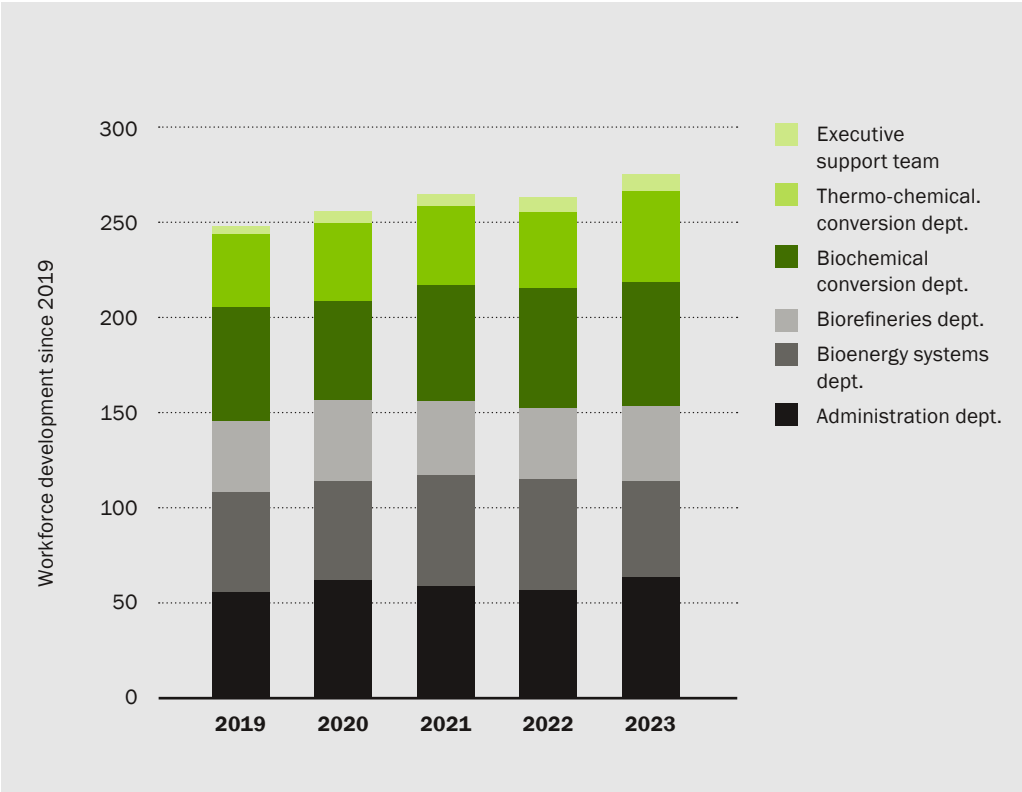
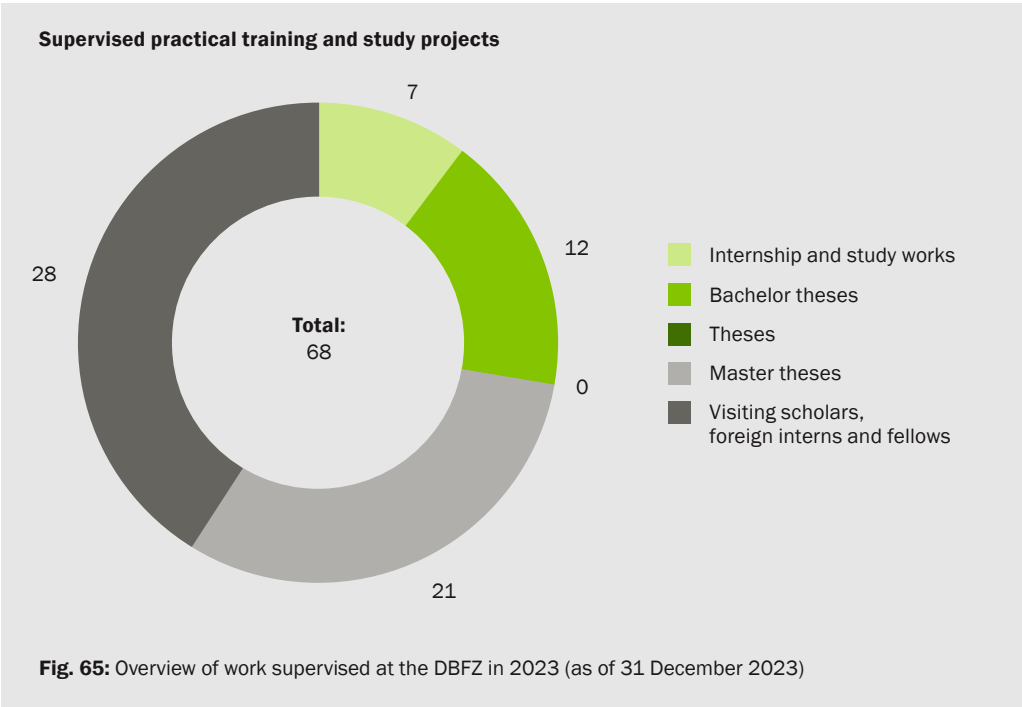
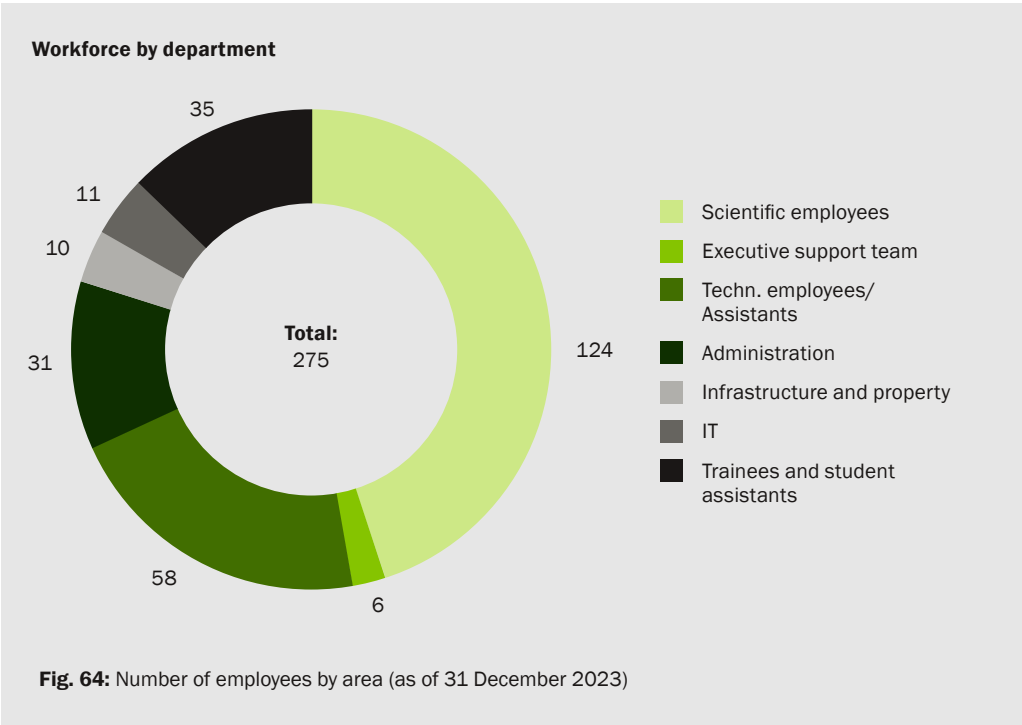


Fig. 63: Personnel development at the DBFZ (as of 31 December 2023)



Trainees at the DBFZ

The DBFZ has been a training centre since it was founded in 2008. By the end of 2023, a total of 40 trainees, retrainees and students on dual study programmes had successfully completed their training. In 2023, eleven trainees were undergoing training in the professions of “event management assistant”, “office management assistant”, “electronics technician for industrial engineering”, “chemical laboratory technician” and “mechanics technician”. The DBFZ was a practical partner for five students at the Berufsakademie Sachsen (Saxony University of Cooperative Education) studying “Computer Science”, “Controlling” and “Laboratory and Process Engineering – Environmental, Chemical and Radiation Technology”.

“What I particularly like about my training is supervising events where researchers from all over the world are working to make our world a better place.”

Noel Gunia
Trainee

➔ **Further information:**
www.dbfz.de/en/career/
www.dbfz.de/en/career/professional-qualification



Fig. 66: Noel Gunia, 1st year event management trainee

12.4 Certification/Audit

DIN EN ISO 9001

The DBFZ has been certified in accordance with DIN EN ISO 9001 since the institute was founded in 2008. The focus is on quality assurance of scientific work, regular review and optimisation of internal and external processes and supporting staff in the implementation of internal quality standards. The DBFZ successfully completed recertification in 2023 without any deviations. As part of the audit, the DBFZ regularly receives suggestions for improvement, which the DBFZ continuously and consistently implements and develops further. An annual audit is carried out to check whether the quality management system continues to meet the requirements.

Work and family

The DBFZ has held the berufundfamilie (work and family) certificate since 2014. The award of this certificate certifies that the employer has successfully undergone the auditing process and has developed company-specific goals and measures for the design and further development of a family- and life-phase-conscious personnel policy.

The audit cycle was completed in 2023 with the successful conclusion of the dialogue process. As a result, a programme of action was developed with the aim of ensuring that the DBFZ's existing and future HR policy measures continue to strike a balance between the employer's operational interests and the family, professional and private interests of employees. Future measures include stabilising the adaptation of flexible working conditions and establishing a permanent workplace health promotion programme.



13

Appendix: Projects and Publications

Major projects and publications from 2023 are listed below to illustrate the current working areas of the DBFZ. The language of the title reflects the language of the projects/publication.

Projects (a selection)

Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL)

ABiOx – Thermochemische Umwandlung von siliziumoxidgehaltenen Biomasse-Rückständen zur Erzeugung von Wärme und Strom sowie der gekoppelten Erzeugung von mesoporösem biogenem Silica für die Materialanwendungen, Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft, 01.10.2019–31.05.2023 (FKZ: 2819DOKA05)

AntbioHK – Auswirkungen des verstärkten Einsatzes von Geflügelexkrementen in BGA auf die Belastung der Gärreste mit Antibiotika, Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft, 01.05.2022–30.11.2024 (FKZ: 2221WD002A)

BCLOOKUP – Pyrolyse sekundärer landwirtschaftlicher Biomassen: Datenbank zu Pflanzenkohle-Eigenschaften und agronomische Bewertung, Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft, 01.09.2023–31.08.2029 (FKZ: 2823HUM005)

BiberZym – Vergärung von lignifizierter Biomasse durch den Einsatz von Enzymkombinationen aus dem Verdauungstrakt des eurasischen Bibers, Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft, 01.02.2023–31.07.2025 (FKZ: 2221NR031A)

BioSim – Nachwuchsforschergruppe zur modellbasierten Zustandsüberwachung und Prozessführung an Biogasanlagen, Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft, 01.11.2020–31.12.2025 (FKZ: 2219NR333)

BIOSTRAT – Bausteine für eine Biomassestrategie: Biomassepotenziale und Erwartungen an ihre künftige Nutzung, Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft (Inhouse), 20.01.2023–30.09.2023

Effektor – Kontinuierliche Überwachung der technischen Effizienz von Biogasanlagen, Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft, 01.10.2019–30.06.2023 (FKZ: 22038018)

ELEVATOR – Elektrochemische Valorisierung furanreicher Prozessströme aus dem hydrothermalen Aufschluss landwirtschaftlicher Reststoffe, Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft, 01.05.2023–30.04.2026 (FKZ: 2221NR027B)

EmMinA – Emissionsminderung bei der Biogasaufbereitung, -verdichtung und -einspeisung. Teilvorhaben1: Quantifizierung und Minderung von Methanemissionen an Biogasaufbereitungsanlagen in der Praxis, Bundesministerium für Ernährung und

Landwirtschaft, 01.09.2021–29.02.2024 (FKZ: 2220NR151A)

FlexApp – Fütterungsmanagement für flexible Biogasanlagen im Praxisbetrieb; Teilvorhaben 1: Anlagesimulation und ökonomische Bewertung, Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft, 01.01.2023–31.12.2024 (FKZ: 2221NR043A)

FlexiMod – Weiterentwicklung eines modellbasierten Prognosetools für die flexible Biogaserzeugung in großtechnischen Biogasanlagen; Teilvorhaben 2: Datenaufbereitung und Weiterentwicklung bestehender Simulationsmodelle unter Berücksichtigung praxisnaher Prozessüberwachungstechnik, Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft, 01.08.2020–31.03.2023 (FKZ: 2219NR313)

GülleKOM – Kombiverfahren zur Gülleaufbereitung, Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft, 01.11.2021–31.10.2024 (FKZ: 2220WD004)

Güllemon – Wirkungsmonitoring der BMEL/FNR Investitionsförderrichtlinie-Wirtschaftsdünger, Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft, 01.08.2022–31.12.2024

GÜLLEPROSPEKT – Entwicklung und Erstellung eines Manuskripts zur Herstellung einer Broschüre zur Vergärung von Wirtschaftsdüngern in landwirtschaftlichen Biogasanlagen, 01.12.2023–30.06.2024 (FKZ: 223WD002A)

HYTORF2 – Herstellung und Bewertung von Torfersatzstoffen auf Basis der hydrothermalen Umwandlung aus biogenen Reststoffen, Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft, 01.11.2022–31.10.2025 (FKZ: 2221MT014A)

KIDA – Umsetzung der Maßnahme „KI- und Daten-Akzelerator“, Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft, 01.03.2022–31.12.2025

LangEFel – Langzeitmonitoring und Funktionalität von Staubabscheidern für Einzelraumfeuerungen im Feld, Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft, 01.01.2023–31.12.2025

MeBiKo – Metastudie Biokohle, Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft, 18.7.2022–31.12.2023 (Inhouse)

MEMO – Methanemissionsmodell für offene Gärprodukt-/Güllelager, Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft, 01.11.2021–31.10.2024 (FKZ: 2220WD003X)

MethaMin – Minimierung von Methanemissionen bei der Lagerung von Wirtschaftsdüngern; Teilvorhaben 1: Anlagenauswahl, Emissionsmessungen und Bewertung, Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft, 01.10.2022–30.09.2025 (FKZ: 2221WD004A)

MoBi_II – Aufbau eines systematischen Monitorings der Bioökonomie – Konsolidierungsphase; Teilvor-

haben 2: Aktualisierung Reststoffmonitoring, Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft, 01.11.2021–31.10.2024 (FKZ: 2221NR062B)

Nährwert – Technisch unterstütztes Nährstoffmanagement im Verbund mit Biogasanlagen und Anbauregionen, Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft, 01.07.2021–30.06.2024 (FKZ: 2220NR255A)

Nred – Verstärkte energetische Nutzung stickstoffreicher landwirtschaftlicher Abfallstoffe durch biologische Stickstoffreduzierung, Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft, 01.11.2019–30.04.2023 (FKZ: 22042118)

oNIRedu – Emissionsminderung durch angepasste Kesselsteuerung auf der Basis von Daten aus der kontinuierlichen inline-NIR-Brennstoffanalyse, Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft, 01.07.2019–31.01.2023 (FKZ: 22033218)

PapIGas2 – Biomethan & Torfersatzstoff aus Pappelholz – 2. Phase, Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft, 01.12.2021–30.11.2023 (FKZ: 2221MT017A)

Sensomix – Entwicklung und Erprobung sensorbasierter Rührsysteme in Biogasanlagen zur Steigerung der Effizienz und Prozessstabilität bei einer lastflexiblen und bedarfsgerechten Biogasproduktion, Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft, 01.05.2020–31.12.2023 (FKZ: 2219NR387)

TRANSBIO – Transferarbeitsgruppe für Bioenergieanlagen im zukünftigen Energiesystem, Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft, 01.05.2021–30.04.2024 (FKZ: 2220NR128A)

WDSonic – Steigerung der Effizienz der Wirtschaftsdüngervergärung durch Einsatz von Ultraschall-Desintegrationsverfahren, Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft, 01.05.2023–30.04.2025 (FKZ: 2222WD105B)

Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK)

BeForce – Begleitforschung Bioenergie, Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Klimaschutz, 01.04.2021–31.03.2025 (FKZ: 03EI5400)

BEInVer – Verbundvorhaben: Begleitforschung Energiewende im Verkehr – Teilvorhaben: Ermittlung von Rohstoffpotentialen strombasierter Biokraftstoffoptionen und ökologische Bewertung von biokraftstoffbasierten Referenzszenarien, Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Klimaschutz, 01.06.2018–31.03.2023 (FKZ: 03EIV116C)

BioBeton – Biomassebasierte und nachhaltige Herstellung von Betonprodukten, Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Klimaschutz, 01.01.2021–30.06.2023 (FKZ: KK5045102KI0)

BioFeuSe – Neue Sensorik für die Prozessoptimierung von SCR-Verfahren und Partikelabscheidung an Biomasseverbrennungsanlagen, Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Klimaschutz, 01.07.2021–30.06.2024 (FKZ: 03EI54346A)

BIOKRAFT – Rohstoffverfügbarkeit von holzartiger Biomasse zur Produktion von Biokraftstoffen in DE und EU, Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Klimaschutz, 20.01.2020–31.03.2023

CapUp – Verbundprojekt: Chemikalienproduktion an Biogasanlagen – Upscaling eines Verfahrens zur Herstellung mittelkettiger Carbonsäuren aus regionalen Reststoffen, Teilvorhaben: Up-Scaling und Bewertung der Downstream-Kaskade, Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Klimaschutz, 01.02.2023–31.07.2023 (FKZ: 13BDA30012)

CarboFe – Entwicklung und Validierung eines innovativen Eisen-Kohlenstoff Präparates zur Gasreinigung und Effizienzsteigerung des Biogasprozesses, Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Klimaschutz, 01.01.2023–31.12.2025 (FKZ: 03EI5453)

FLXsynErgy – Flexible und vollenergetische Nutzung biogener Rest- und Abfallstoffe: Faulungen und Biogasanlagen als Energieverbraucher, -speicher und -erzeuger, Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Klimaschutz, 01.10.2020–30.09.2023 (FKZ: 03EI5420C)

Greenfee – Green Feedstocks for a Sustainable Chemistry – Energiewende und Ressourceneffizienz im Kontext der dritten Feedstock-Transformation der chemischen Industrie (GreenFeed), Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Klimaschutz, 01.03.2022–28.02.2025 (FKZ: 03EI5003C)

H2Verg – Wasserstoff aus der Vergasung von Biomasse-Feldmessungen, Ermittlung von Anwendungsbedingungen und Prozessbewertung, Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Klimaschutz, 01.08.2022–31.07.2025 (FKZ: 03EI5445A)

HanfNRG – Untersuchungen der energetischen Nutzungsoptionen von Hanffaserreststoffen zur exemplarischen Einbindung in das Energiekonzept eines Verarbeitungsstandorts, Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Klimaschutz, 01.10.2022–30.09.2025 (FKZ: 03EI5448)

KeVergAv – Bestimmung von brennstoffspezifischen Kennzahlen zum Vergasungs- und Ascheverhalten, Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Klimaschutz, 01.02.2021–31.03.2024 (FKZ: 03EI5416)

KonditorGas – Industrielle Prozesswärmeerzeugung durch katalytische Konditionierung von biomassenbasierten Synthesegasen; Teilvorhaben II: Katalytische Konditionierung von Synthesegasen aus der autothermen Vergasung, Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Klimaschutz, 01.09.2020–31.05.2024 (FKZ: 03EI5417B)

MeKat – Entwicklung eines Methanoxidationskatalysators auf Basis von biogenem Silika für die Entfernung von Methan im Abgas von Biogas-BHKW, Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Klimaschutz, 01.01.2023–31.12.2025 (FKZ: 03EI5456A)

MoBiFuels – Analyse und Beseitigung von Markthemmnissen von technisch modifizierten Bioenergieträgern, Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Klimaschutz, 01.11.2018–30.04.2023 (FKZ: 03KB136A)

OBEN – Öl-Ersatz Biomasse Heizung, Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Klimaschutz, 01.09.2019–31.10.2023 (FKZ: 03KB156)

OpToKNuS – Entwicklung einer „Toolbox“ basierend auf numerischen Modellen und Praxismessungen zur Auslegung bzw. Optimierung von thermochemischen Anlagen zur Energiebereitstellung aus alternativen Brennstoffen; Teilvorhaben: Untersuchungen am DBFZ-Festbett-Laborvergaser, Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Klimaschutz, 01.01.2020–30.06.2023 (FKZ: 03KB163B)

PaCoSil – Verbrennung regionaler Reststoffe zur energetischen Nutzung von Biomasse mit gekoppelter Erzeugung von biogenem Silika für Feinstaubfilter-Prozesse, Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Klimaschutz, 01.07.2021–30.06.2024 (FKZ: 03EI5436A)

Pülpegas – Verbundvorhaben Pülpegas – Entwicklung einer Pilotanlage zur Vollverwertung von Weizenpülpe und automatisierte Systemintegration in die industrielle Stärkeproduktion, Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Klimaschutz, 01.05.2022–31.10.2025

TRANSBIB – Nationales Transfer- und Beschleunigungsnetzwerk Industrielle Bioökonomie, Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Klimaschutz, 01.10.2023–30.09.2026, (FKZ: 13BDI10019)

Federal Ministry for Education and Research (BMBF)

AltCell – Alternative Cellulosequellen für künstliche Cellulosefasern, Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung, 01.08.2023–31.07.2025 (FKZ: 03WIR3806C)

BiogeniV – Starterprojekt BV-3 Basiskonzept Bioraffinerie: Analyse und Bewertung der Reststoffe zur Nutzung in einer Vergasungsanlage, Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung, 01.12.2022–30.11.2023 (FKZ: 03WIR4903C)

Biolube – Entwicklung biobasierter und biologisch abbaubarer Hochleistungsschmierstoffe auf Basis von Insektenfett für die industrielle Anwendung, Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung, 01.05.2021–30.04.2024, (FKZ: 031B1111B)

BioNET – Biomasse-basierte Negativ-Emissions-Technologien, Bundesministerium für Bildung

und Forschung, 01.01.2022–31.12.2024 (FKZ: 01LS2107B)

BioZ-RP – Rahmenprojekt III: Life Cycle Assessment/ Nachhaltigkeitsbewertung & Wirksamkeitsanalyse, Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung, 01.09.2022–31.08.2025 (FKZ: 03WIR5303)

E-Boot II – Entwicklung einer Ernteprozesskette mit Erntetechnologie zur umweltschonenden Ernte von Wasserpflanzen, Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung, 01.08.2021–30.07.2024 (FKZ: 031B1095)

LabTogo – Aufbau von Forschungskapazitäten und Demonstration von Technologien zur Nutzung der Biomassepotenziale in Togo, Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung, 02.01.2020–31.12.2023

MycoForm – Formteile und Dämmstoffe auf Basis von organischen Reststoffen und Speisepilzen, Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung, 01.01.2023–31.12.2023 (FKZ: 031B1323)

ProPec – WIR! – BioZ Maßgeschneiderte Pektine aus Zuckerrüben, Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung, 01.04.2023–31.03.2024, (FKZ: 03WIR5312C)

STROHase – Silierung Trockener Restströme: Optimierung der Hydratisierung durch NSPasen, Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung, 01.04.2023–31.03.2026 (FKZ: 031B1373C)

SYMOBIO2 – Konsolidierung des Systemischen Monitorings und der Modellierung der Bioökonomie, Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung, 01.01.2022–31.12.2024 (FKZ: 0311129C)

VFAsense – Entwicklung eines praxistauglichen mikrobiellen elektrochemischen Sensormoduls zur hochaufgelösten Prozessüberwachung anaerober Bioprozesse, Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung, 01.10.2022–30.09.2023 (FKZ: 031B1312)

WaSSGhan – Hybrid Waste to energy as a sustainable Solution for Ghana, Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung, 01.01.2020–31.12.2023 (FKZ: 03SF0591D)

ZirkulierBar – Interkommunale Akzeptanz für nachhaltige Wertschöpfung aus sanitären Nebenstoffströmen Nährstoffwende – von linearer Sanitärspülung zur zirkulären Nährstoffverwertung, Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung, 01.07.2021–30.06.2024 (FKZ: 033L242H)

Federal Ministry for Digital and Transport (BMDV)

Pilot-SBG, Phase 1a – Forschungs- und Demonstrationsvorhaben | Bioressourcen und Wasserstoff zu Methan als Kraftstoff – Konzeptionierung und Realisierung einer Anlage im Pilotmaßstab, Bundesministerium für Digitales und Verkehr, 01.09.2018–31.12.2023

Pilot-SBG, Phase 1b – Forschungs- und Demonstrationsvorhaben I Bioressourcen und Wasserstoff zu Methan als Kraftstoff – Forschungsbetrieb und Konzeptoptimierung einer Anlage im Pilotmaßstab, Bundesministerium für Digitales und Verkehr, 01.01.2023–31.12.2026

REF4FU – Erneuerbare Kraftstoffe aus grünen Raffinerien der Zukunft; Teilvorhaben 3, Bundesministerium für Digitales und Verkehr, 01.12.2022–30.11.2025 (FKZ: 16RK24001C)

INNOFUELS – Vernetzung, Weiterentwicklung und Rahmenbedingungen zum Hochlauf strombasierter Kraftstoffe und fortschrittlicher Biokraftstoffe, Bundesministerium für Digitales und Verkehr, 01.02.2023–31.08.2026 (FKZ: 16RK34002F)

EU Projects

BIOMETHAVERSE – Demonstrating and Connecting Production Innovations in the Biomethane Universe, European Commission, 01.10.2022–31.03.2027 (GA 101084200)

BRANCHES – Boosting Rural Bioeconomy Networks following multi-actor approaches, European Commission, 01.01.2021–31.12.2023 (GA 101000375)

CAFIPLA – Pretreatment of organic waste for application of the carboxylic acid and fiber platform, European Commission, 01.06.2020–31.05.2023 (GA 887115)

CARINA – CARinata and CamelINA boosting the sustainable diversification in agricultural production systems, European Commission, 01.11.2022–31.10.2026 (GA 101081839)

GreenMeUp – GREEN bioMethane market Uptake, European Commission, 01.08.2022–31.07.2025 (GA 101075676)

HARMONITOR – Harmonisation and monitoring platform for certification schemes and labels to advance the sustainability of bio-based systems, European Commission, 01.06.2022–31.05.2025 (FKZ: GA 101060133)

ICARUS – International cooperation for sustainable aviation biofuel, European Commission, 01.10.2023–30.09.2026 (FKZ: 101122303)

MUSIC – Market Uptake Support for Intermediate Bioenergy Carriers, European Commission, 01.09.2019–28.02.2023 (GA 857806)

SEMPRE-BIO – SEcuring doMestic PROduction of cost-Effective BIOmethane, European Commission, 01.10.2022–30.04.2026 (GA 101084297)

SUSTRACK – Supporting the identification of policy priorities and recommendations for designing a sustainable track towards circular bio-based systems, European Commission, 01.11.2022–31.10.2025 (GA 101081823)

Other funding bodies

ABBER – Recherche des Nachrüstungspotentials zur Partikelminderung bei Kaminöfen, Marktprojekt, 01.04.2023–30.06.2023

AGEEstat – Wissenschaftliche Analysen zu ausgewählten Aspekten der Statistik erneuerbarer Energien und zur Unterstützung der Arbeitsgruppe Erneuerbare Energien Statistik, Marktprojekt, 01.04.2019–15.10.2024

bEONergy – Rolle von Bioenergie in einem dekarbonisierten Energiesystem, Marktprojekt, 01.12.2023–31.05.2024

Bio2x – Metaanalyse zu nachhaltigen Biomassepotenzialen für die Mineralölwirtschaft, Marktprojekt, 01.06.2023–31.12.2023

BioEL – Biomassepotenziale für eine nachhaltige Energieversorgung, Marktprojekt, 14.09.2022–31.07.2023

BiogasN – Potentiale einer reststoffbasierten Biogasproduktion für einen klimaverträglichen, nährstoffeffizienten und strukturvielfältigen Ackerbau, Marktprojekt, 01.06.2023–31.12.2023

BioS – Transferwerkstätten „Innovationspotenziale der Bioökonomie in Sachsen“, Sächsische Aufbaubank – Förderbank (SAB), 01.05.2021–31.10.2023

BiPowInd – Training on the thermal conversion of coal-fired power plants to biomass firing, Marktprojekt, 18.08.2023–10.10.2023

BOGOTA-1 – Strategisches Management organischer Abfälle in Bogotá, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), 01.12.2020–28.02.2023

BÖ-STRBB – Erarbeitung wesentlicher Schwerpunkte einer Bioökonomie-Strategie für das Land Brandenburg, Marktprojekt, 01.12.2022–15.12.2023

BÖStrBB2 – Begleitung der Bioökonomie-Strategie für das Land Brandenburg, Marktprojekt, 01.09.2023–31.05.2024

CharMeth – Concept study for gas cleaning and methane synthesis applying gas from wood pyrolysis, Marktprojekt, 24.04.2023–15.08.2023

CoFire3 – Begutachtung der Biowärmebereitstellung, Marktprojekt, 01.05.2019–31.12.2023

EBCNAM – Assessment of the Namibian NUST laboratory in order to introduce EBC aligned testing services for producers of biochar, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), 15.12.2022–31.10.2023

EEGMON – EEG-Monitoring Erfahrungsbericht, Marktprojekt, 06.08.2020–05.08.2023

ETH-Soil – Bodenverbesserung in Äthiopien durch die energetische und materielle Nutzung landwirtschaftlicher Rückstände mit besonderem Schwerpunkt auf Bildung und Ausbildung, Bundesminis-

terium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (BMZ), 01.07.2021–31.12.2026

Grundi – Literaturstudie zu Speicherfeuerstätten, Marktprojekt, 21.02.2022–31.12.2023

H2India – Einordnung der Wasserstoffherzeugung aus Biomasse in Indien, Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit, 01.08.2022–31.01.2023

IEA-LLBF – Report IEA Task 39 – TCP Bioenergy-Lessons learned biofuels, 01.04.2021–31.10.2023

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