

Input til Call for Evidence for an Impact Assessment: 2040 Climate Target

The EU should certainly adopt 2040 climate targets. This is absolutely crucial to ensure the private and public investments in research, development, demonstration and commercial activities. 2030 is just around the corner and the private sector who will be key in making the huge investments in the green transition needs clear targets and public commitment to be able to decide the needed investments. A 2040 target is crucial as a stepstone within a reasonable timescale towards the very distant and vague 2050 target.

However, the 2040 target should not only focus climate. The climate target must be integrated in a true and holistic approach to face the huge challenges we are facing, including the development of a sustainable food production, a resource efficient handling of residues and waste and an intelligent and stable energy supply.

Production and use of biogas/biomethane based on a sustainable and resource efficient utilization of residues from households, industry, agriculture, nature restoration/management etcetera is one important element in such a holistic approach. Not only can the biogas plants contribute to a stable energy supply based on renewable energy stored in the huge gas infrastructure they can also enable the green transition in those sectors that cannot be electrified within a foreseeable future such as the energy intensive industry and heavy-duty transportation. They can also contribute to recirculate and reuse the essential and critical nutrients such as phosphorous and hereby ensure the basis of the future food supply where the intrinsic emission of greenhouse gases from the biological production system can be reduced. In addition, the biogas plants will be a key factor in capturing carbon from the atmosphere enabling both storage of carbon in CCS and utilization as the basis for Power to X fuels.

The attached Biogas Outlook 2023 illustrates the current status and future possibilities in regard to climate, resource efficiency, sustainable food production, economy etcetera of a further development in production and use of biogas. Currently biogas has substituted more than 40 per cent of the Danish natural gas consumption and is on the track to a 100 per cent substitution by 2027 or 2030 at the latest. In addition, Danish biogas plants already handle 30 per cent of the Danish livestock manure and a major part of the organic residues from households and industry.

To ensure the necessary investments the private sector urgently needs a political commitment such as a 2040 climate target.