



Governments around the world are seeking to lower greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the fight against climate change, to reduce waste to landfill, and to increase their utilisation of renewable energy in compliance with international agreements. Consequently, in many countries, subsidies have been made available to encourage the growth of the biogas sector.

According to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) a third of global power capacity is now based on renewable energy, and nearly two-thirds of all new power generation capacity added in 2018 was from renewables. Much of the recent growth was provided by solar and wind energy, but global bioenergy capacity has roughly trebled in the last 10 years.

The generation of biogas from wet putrescible wastes and crops produces a more reliable and predictable source of renewable energy than wind or solar. However, as these technologies become more efficient and subsidies are reduced, the biogas sector will have to focus on process optimization if it is to maintain profitability, compete with other forms of energy generation and become sustainable in the long term. In the following article, Antti Heikkila from Vaisala explains how a new in-line biogas monitoring technology enables the effective optimization of several processes at plants handling biogas from anaerobic digestion and landfill.



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