

press release

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Biomethane, Bologna hosts leading conference on the green economy of gas

Attended by Italian and foreign companies and prominent figures, including the general director of ISPRA Alessandro Bratti, the conference held on Friday, 21 September and organized by Hera in collaboration with the Italian Gas Committee will take stock of the development of biomethane, the progress of its regulatory framework and future prospects

There are three ingredients: circular economy, renewable energy, and gas. But the outcome their combination has just one name, it is called biomethane and is the new way to protect the environment and economic growth. Its potential seems extremely promising. The regulatory scenario is improving, and this is exactly why a major conference will be held on Friday, 21 September in Bologna to enable companies, institutions and trade associations to meet and take stock of the situation.

It will be held at the Royal Hotel Carlton, hosted by the Hera Group with the collaboration of the Italian Gas Committee. Italian and international companies will participate, ready to share their experience and research, also in the light of the prospects and opportunities biomethane is opening up on several fronts: from treating organic waste to generating and distributing renewable energy, through the revival of sustainable mobility and the production of natural fertilizers that could give revitalize the entire agro-industrial sector.

In addition to the Executive Chairman of the Hera Group Tomaso Tommasi di Vignano, who will inaugurate the conference, the main speakers will include Alessandro Bratti, General Manager of ISPRA, and Giordano Colarullo, General Manager of Utilitalia, who will present the activities of the Bio methane Observatory.

The spotlights will also focus on many technical issues related to the production and use of biomethane, with in-depth studies on chemical and sensory research, on the characterization of biomethane, on its monitoring, on the management of the aspects most directly related to distribution, as well as on the matter of odorization, for which Hera and Italgas will present a study.

There is feverish activity in the field of biomethane, which can open a new page in the history of renewable energy. At the end of a decade in which the development of renewables has been driven – above all – by the electricity sector, biomethane is focusing on the near future, looking carefully at the gas distribution network, which in Italy is particularly widespread and can thus become an extraordinary carrier.

Finally, to highlight this sector's opportunities for development and circular economy, the Hera Group will present the case of its plant for the production of biomethane from organic waste in Sant'Agata Bolognese, which will come on stream in the coming months. With an investment of more than 30 million euro, the plant – the first of its kind built by a utility – is set to become a national excellence. When fully operational, every year it will produce 7.5 million m³ of biomethane and 20,000 tonnes of high-quality natural fertilizer, with positive effects on various economic sectors and especially on the environment, by saving about 6,000 tonnes of oil.