

Reflecting on the 35bcm target: Assessing progress and future directions post RePowerEU

5th Biogas PowerON

27 September 2023

Anaïs Faucher, *Policy advisor*





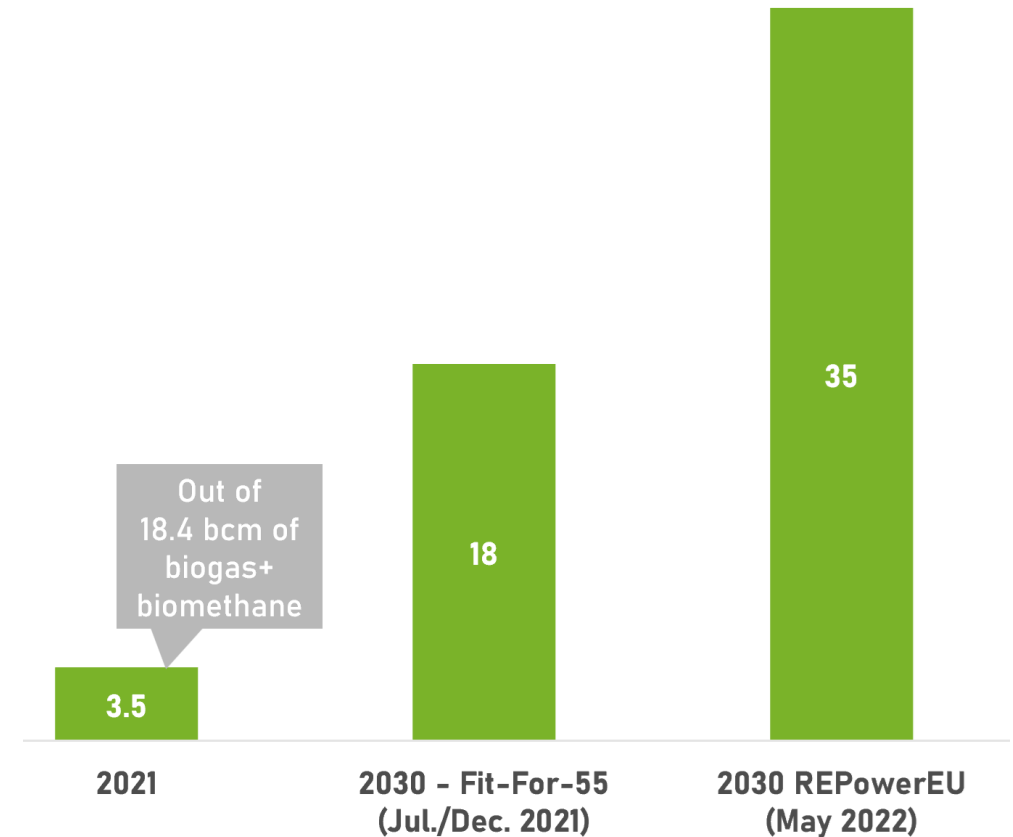
REPower EU plan and the 35bcm target

- › On 18 May 2022, the EU Commission presented its REPowerEU Plan, including new targets:

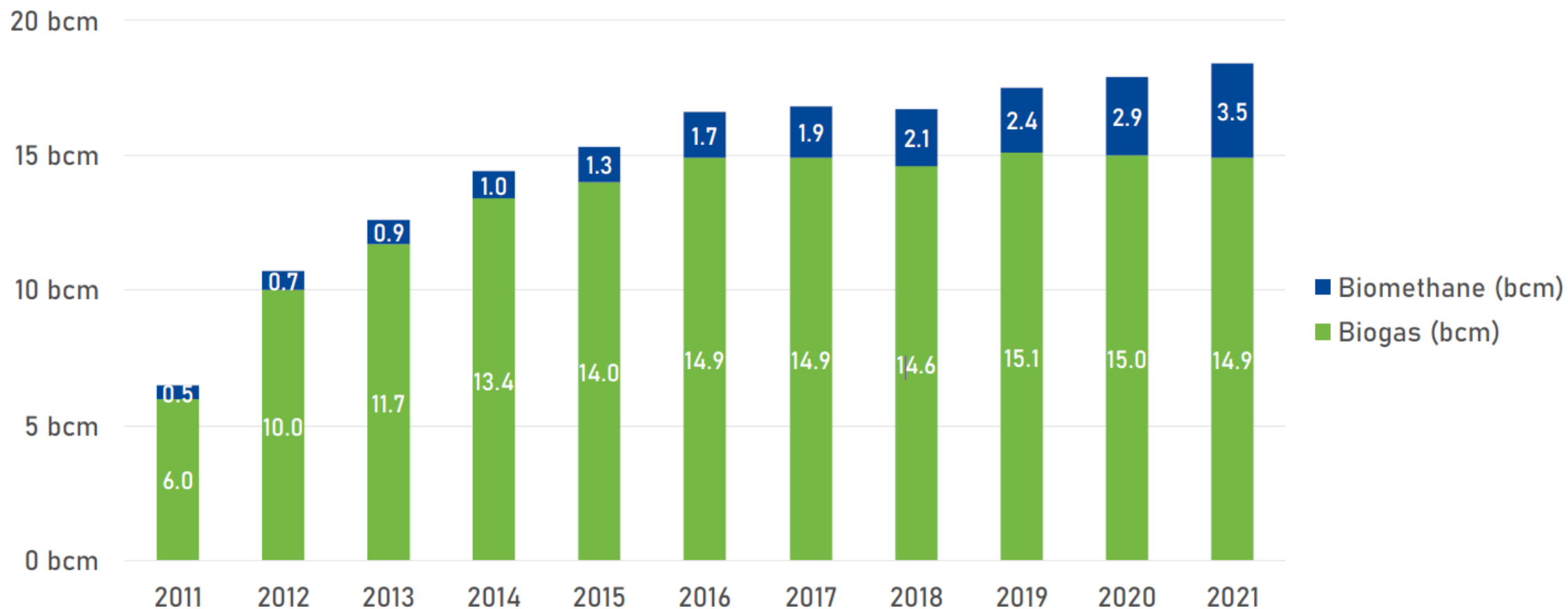


- › Next steps: Transform the REPowerEU ambition into concrete binding obligation:
 - Anchor the **35bcm biomethane** target in the EU Regulatory framework.

EU biomethane production (bcm)



Biogas and biomethane production in Europe



Source: EBA – Statistical Report 2022

A missed opportunity to include a binding target for biomethane in the RED III

- › The Renewable Energy Directive establishes a common framework for the recognition, production and promotion of energy from renewable sources in the EU, notably by including targets.



- › Inclusion of the RePowerEU biomethane target in Recital 9:

*The amendments set out in this Directive are also intended to support the achievement of the Union's target of an **annual production of sustainable biomethane of 35 billion cubic meters by 2030**, set out in the Commission staff working document of 18 May 2022 accompanying the REPowerEU Plan, entitled 'Implementing the Repower EU Action Plan: Investment needs, hydrogen accelerator and achieving the bio-methane targets', thereby supporting security of supply and the Union's climate ambitions.*

Gas Package: hope for a binding target?

- › **Trilogues:** Gas Regulation 28 September, Gas Directive 12 October. Then 27 November “open ended” trilogues.
- › **Presidency notes:** A compromise proposal for an indicative biomethane target:
 - Proposal to delete the Article 3b of the Reg. and replace it with a recital.
 - New Recital on the consideration of biomethane throughout Gas Regulation (could be mirrored in Directive).
 - Reference to the 35 bcm biomethane objective in the European supply adequacy outlook – addition in Article 23(4).
- › Once again, the EU institutions failed to dedicate a binding target for biomethane.

Net Zero Industry Act: an implicit exclusion of the biomethane RePowerEU target

› EC proposal published on 16 March 2023 as an answer to the US IRA which provides:

- A target of at least 40% of EU's annual deployment needs for strategic net-zero technologies by 2030.
- A CO₂ injection capacity target of 50 Mt per year by 2030.
- A list of 'strategic net-zero technologies':

1.	Solar photovoltaic and solar thermal technologies
2.	Onshore wind and offshore renewable technologies
3.	Battery/storage technologies
4.	Heat pumps and geothermal energy technologies
5.	Electrolysers and fuel cells
6.	Sustainable biogas/biomethane technologies
7.	Carbon Capture and storage (CCS) technologies
8.	Grid technologies

› An implicit exclusion of the RePowerEU biomethane target?

- Recital 5: “[...] *The REPowerEU plan [...] sets inter alia the targets to double solar photovoltaic capacity by 2025 and to install 600 GW of solar photovoltaic capacity by 2030; to double the rate of deployment of heat pumps; to produce 10 Mt of domestic renewable hydrogen by 2030; and to substantially increase production of biomethane.*”
- Recital 17: “[...] *For EU electrolyser manufacturers, the REPowerEU plan projects 10 Mt of domestic renewable hydrogen production and a further up to 10 Mt of renewable hydrogen imports by 2030.*”

→ Once again, no explicit nor binding mention to the 35 bcm biomethane target.

Hot topics for biomethane in the EU framework and beyond

- › Need to recognise the use of biomethane in EU transport and industry:
 - Implementation of **Emissions Trading System (EU ETS)**, Monitoring and Reporting Regulation, for shipping.
 - **CO₂ standards for light and heavy-duty vehicles, EURO VII/7, CountEmissions EU**: to finally recognise the contribution of biomethane and renewable fuels.
- › Ensure the creation of a traded market backed by robust certification system, notably with the **Union Database**
- › And beyond the EU policy framework, appropriate GHG accounting of biomethane use in global standards i.e. **GHG Protocol**



Thank you!

- > eurogas.org
- > @Eurogas_Eu
- > Rue d'Arlon 80, 1040 Brussels