



Anaerobic digestion (AD) plants now power over a million UK homes

A new report by the [Anaerobic Digestion & Bioresources Association \(ADBA\)](#) finds that AD plants across the UK now have enough capacity to power over a million homes.

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[Robin Whitlock](#)

The Anaerobic Digestion & Bioresources Association's (ADBA's) July 2017 Market Report was launched yesterday (Wednesday 5th July) at the [UK AD & Biogas and World Biogas Expo 2017](#), a global biogas tradeshow taking place 5-6 July at the NEC in Birmingham.

The report shows that AD in the UK now has a capacity of 730 MWe-e, an increase of 18 percent over this time last year, with total energy generation of 10.7 TWh per year. Operational performance in the industry continues to improve, with load factors rising to 73 percent in 2016, up from 69 percent the previous year.

"The fact that AD can now power over a million homes is a great milestone to achieve" said ADBA Chief Executive Charlotte Morton. "However, while it's encouraging that the new Government has committed to the Paris Agreement and to meeting the UK's Carbon Budgets, there is currently a desperate lack of long-term policy support for AD, particularly in heat and transport, areas where AD can make a significant contribution to decarbonisation. While there are 437 AD plants in the planning stage, most of these are unlikely to be built without stronger government support for AD. This is a huge wasted opportunity – the Government needs to act now to provide both short- and long-term certainty for the AD industry to enable it to deliver the green energy the Government urgently needs both to meet its legally binding climate change targets and for the UK's energy security."

AD is currently reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 1 percent and employing more than 3,500 people in the UK, but with the right policy support has the potential to reduce emissions by 4 percent and employ 35,000 people.

Delays in the passing of legislation for the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI), which is set to restore tariff levels to 5.35 p/kWh, has meant that there are currently at least 13 AD plants on hold. Electricity generation from AD, meanwhile, is receiving next to no government support, with the Feed-In Tariff for >500 kW plants down to just over 2p/kWh.

50-80 new AD plants were commissioned in 2016 but this number is projected to fall to 19-64 in 2017 as a result of policy uncertainty.