

# Task 39, Biofuels to Decarbonize Transport

Oplæg ved:

“Bioenergi til hele verden – nyt fra Danmarks repræsentanter i IEA Bioenergy”

22-01-2025

**Sune Tjalfe Thomsen**, Lektor  
Institut for Geovidenskab og  
Naturforvaltning, Københavns Universitet



KØBENHAVNS UNIVERSITET

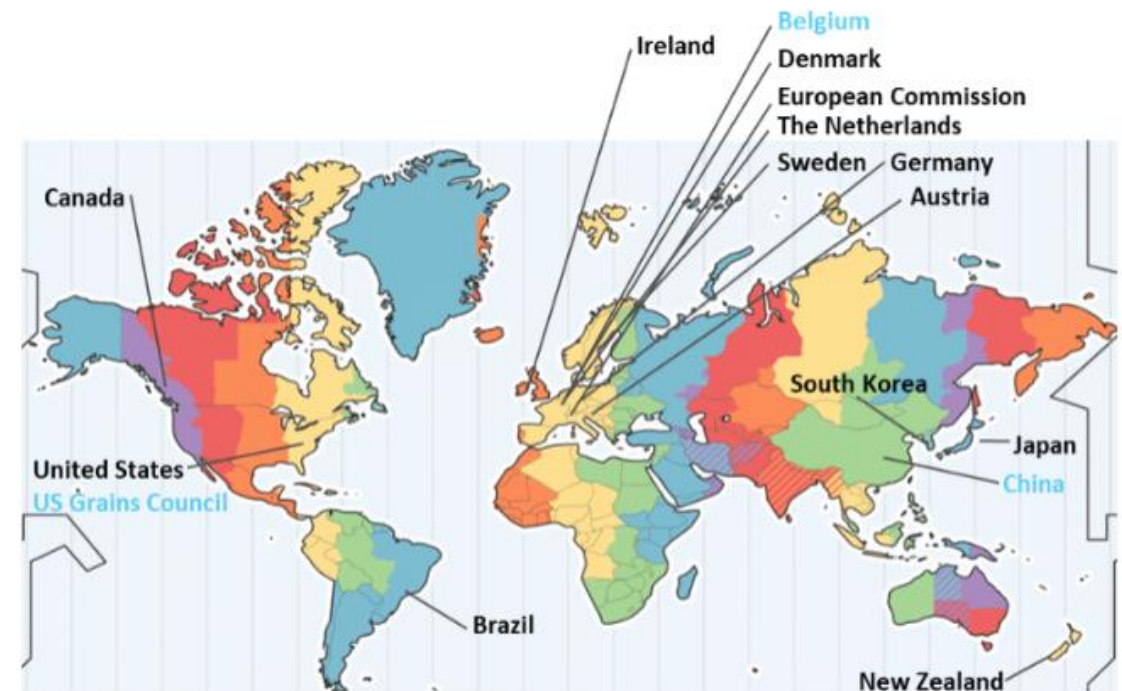


# IEA Bioenergy Task 39 - Biofuels to decarbonise transport

16 participants/member countries

Analyses policy, technology, markets and sustainable biofuel implementation

SAF/biojet	Drop-in fuels	Implementation Agendas
Marine fuels	Demonstration Facilities	Certification
Biofuel policies	Sustainability	Commercialisation on progress
Synergies with green hydrogen	Emerging countries	Cooperations



# IEA Bioenergy Task 39 - Reports

<https://task39.ieabioenergy.com/publications-new/>


IEA Bioenergy  
Technology Collaboration Programme

Progress in Commercialization of Biojet / Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF):  
Technologies and policies

IEA Bioenergy Task 39

**Task 39**  
IEA Bioenergy

January 2024



Technology Collaboration Programme  
by IEC

IEA Bioenergy  
Technology Collaboration Programme

Update on drop-in biofuel and co-processing commercialization

IEA Bioenergy: Task 39

**Task 39**  
IEA Bioenergy

June 2024



Technology Collaboration Programme  
by IEC

IEA Bioenergy  
Technology Collaboration Programme

Biofuels in Emerging Markets  
Potential for sustainable production and consumption

IEA Bioenergy: Task 39

**Task 39**  
IEA Bioenergy

February 2023



Technology Collaboration Programme  
by IEC


IEA Bioenergy  
Technology Collaboration Programme

Biofuels in Emerging Markets of Africa and Asia  
An overview of costs and greenhouse gas savings

IEA Bioenergy: Task 39

**Task 39**  
IEA Bioenergy

July 2024



Technology Collaboration Programme  
by IEC

IEA Bioenergy  
Technology Collaboration Programme

Implementation Agendas:  
Compare-and-Contrast Transport Biofuels Policies  
(2021-2023 Update)


IEA Bioenergy: Task 39

**Task 39**  
IEA Bioenergy

The BC-SMART Low Carbon Fuels Consortium

BC Bioenergy Network  
PARTNERS FOR A GREENER FUTURE

September 2023



Technology Collaboration Programme  
by IEC

# Task'ens aktiviteter og publikationer

**Technology Collaboration Programme**  
by IEA

**Task 39: Biofuels to decarbonize transport**

Database Contact Us Members

About Projects Publications Newsletters & Magazines Events

Assist with the development and deployment of transportation biofuels

ABOUT US

IEA Bioenergy TCP Task 39: Biofuels to Decarbonize Transport, is a group of international experts working to increase use of and to commercialize sustainable transportation biofuels. Bioenergy and biofuels are important components within a country's green energy portfolio. While there are numerous renewable energy options for heat and electricity generation, biofuels are currently the only means of displacing liquid fossil fuels such as gasoline, diesel, and aviation fuels.

MORE INFORMATION JOIN OUR NEWSLETTER

**News and Highlights**  
Issue 66: Biofuels Policies and Market in Canada

**Events**  
Webinar  
Nordic Pellets Conference  
28-29 January 2025  
Stockholm

**Latest publications**  
Case studies of CO2 utilization in the production of ethanol

The IEA Bioenergy Technology Collaboration Programme (TCP) is organised under the auspices of the International Energy Agency (IEA) but is functionally and legally autonomous. Views, findings and publications of the IEA Bioenergy TCP do not necessarily represent the views or policies of the IEA Secretariat or its individual member countries.

**Technology Collaboration Programme**  
by IEA

**Task 39: Biofuels to decarbonize transport**

Database Contact Us Members

About Projects Publications Newsletters & Magazines Events

Publications by year

2025

2024

- Development and Deployment of advanced biofuel demonstration facilities 2024
- Annex: Improvement opportunities for policies and certification schemes promoting sustainable biofuels with low GHG emissions
- Slide Deck: Improvement opportunities for policies and certification schemes promoting sustainable biofuels with low GHG emissions
- Progress in Commercialization of Biojet/Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF): Technologies and policies
- Update on drop-in biofuel and co-processing commercialization
- Biofuels in Emerging Markets of Africa and Asia
- Biofuels in Emerging Markets Factsheet G20

2023

2022

2021

2020



2019

2024

<https://task39.ieabioenergy.com/publications-new/>

-  Development and Deployment of advanced biofuel demonstration facilities 2024
-  Annex: Improvement opportunities for policies and certification schemes promoting sustainable biofuels with low GHG emissions
-  Slide Deck: Improvement opportunities for policies and certification schemes promoting sustainable biofuels with low GHG emissions
-  Progress in Commercialization of Biojet/Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF): Technologies and policies
-  Update on drop-in biofuel and co-processing commercialization
-  Biofuels in Emerging Markets of Africa and Asia
-  Biofuels in Emerging Markets Factsheet G20

2023

-  Implementation Agendas: Compare-and-Contrast Transport Biofuels Policies
-  Biofuels in Emerging Markets

Assessment of successes and lessons learned for biofuels deployment:

Vi har prioreret adgang til alle publikationer. Dvs. gennem den Danske Task-repræsentant (undertegnede) kan man tilgå alle publikationer så snart de er tilgængelige.

# Advanced Biofuels Demoplants Database

Technology Collaboration Programme  
by IEA

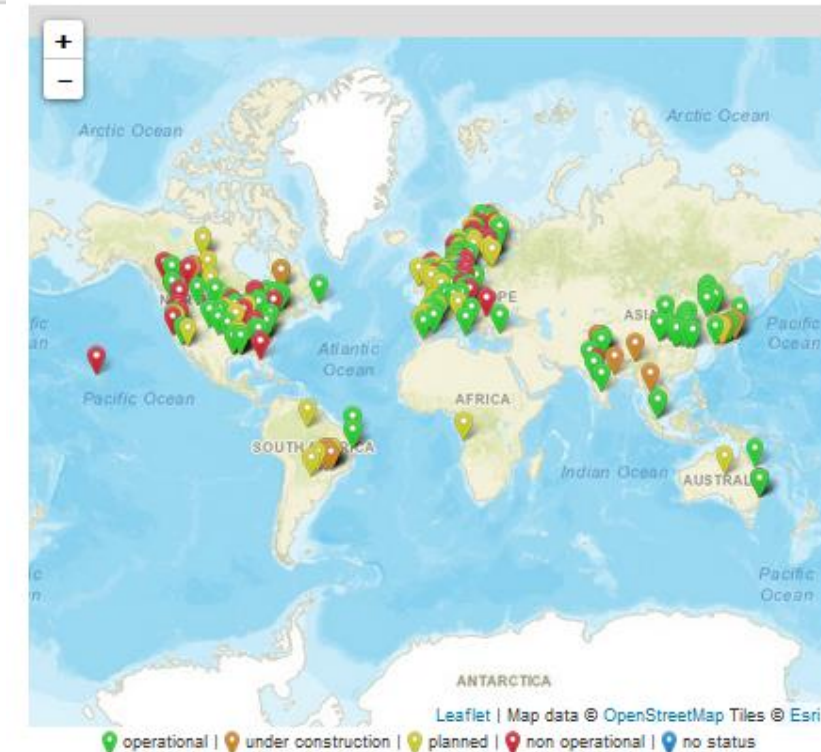
## Task 39: Biofuels to decarbonize transport

Database on facilities for the production of advanced liquid and gaseous biofuels for transport


Filter Projects

- | Type  | Technology   | Status                                      | Raw Material  | Output  |   |
|---|--|---|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> TRL 1-3 Research                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol-to-jet            | <input type="checkbox"/> no status          | <input type="checkbox"/> agricultural residues              | <input type="checkbox"/> bio-oil                      | <input type="checkbox"/> heat                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> TRL 4-5 Pilot                    | <input type="checkbox"/> E-Fuels Biomass Hybrids   | <input type="checkbox"/> planned            | <input type="checkbox"/> biomass / biomass coal blends      | <input type="checkbox"/> biogas                       | <input type="checkbox"/> hydrogen                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> TRL 6-7 Demonstration            | <input type="checkbox"/> Fast Pyrolysis            | <input type="checkbox"/> under construction | <input type="checkbox"/> forest residues                    | <input type="checkbox"/> butanol                      | <input type="checkbox"/> isobutene                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> TRL 8 First-of-a-kind commercial | <input type="checkbox"/> Fermentation              | <input type="checkbox"/> operational        | <input type="checkbox"/> lignocellulosics                   | <input type="checkbox"/> clean syngas                 | <input type="checkbox"/> methanol                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> TRL 9 Commercial                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Gasification              | <input type="checkbox"/> non operational    | <input type="checkbox"/> oilcrops, oils and fats            | <input type="checkbox"/> diesel-type hydrocarbons     | <input type="checkbox"/> other                          |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrothermal Liquefaction | <input type="checkbox"/> cancelled          | <input type="checkbox"/> organic residues and waste streams | <input type="checkbox"/> diesel with biogenic content | <input type="checkbox"/> pyrolysis oil                  |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrotreatment            | <input type="checkbox"/> idle               | <input type="checkbox"/> other                              | <input type="checkbox"/> DME                          | <input type="checkbox"/> renewable diesel (HVO)         |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Lignin Depolymerisation   | <input type="checkbox"/> on hold            | <input type="checkbox"/> sugar and starch crops             | <input type="checkbox"/> ethanol                      | <input type="checkbox"/> SNG                            |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Technology          |   | <input type="checkbox"/> unknown                            | <input type="checkbox"/> FT liquids                   | <input type="checkbox"/> sustainable aviation fuels SAF |
|   |  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> waste gases                        | <input type="checkbox"/> gasoline-type fuels          |   |

Map



<https://demoplants.best-research.eu/>

This database has been elaborated and is maintained by  BEST  
Bioenergy and Sustainable Technologies

# Examples of demonstration facilities

## Pyrocell plant in Sweden

BTG-BTL pyrolysis technology

Production capacity:  
25,000 t pyrolysis oil

Co-processing in existing refinery



## BEST - Syngas Platform Vienna

Biomass gasification and FT-Synthesis

1 MW demonstration facility in Austria



Slide adapted from Andrea Sonnleitner, T39 NTL Austria

# Danske eksempler der er blevet delt

## Stiesdal SkyClean Pyrolysis Plant

**World's Largest Pyrolysis Plant:**  
Located in Vrå, Denmark, the SkyClean facility is the largest of its kind globally (20 MW).

**CO<sub>2</sub> Capture Capacity:** The plant has the capability to capture and displace 42.000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> annually.

- The char is the main argument!



## Meliora Bio

**Commercial production of cellulosic ethanol** (mainly from wheat straw)

**Co-production of arabinoxylan**, as pre-biotic fiber food ingredient in partnership with Comet Bio Inc.

Meliora Bio have now acquired Comet





# Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF) production



Many plants with (planned) SAF capacity and many announcements

SAF fraction can be increased

- SAF is one of the possible products, favorable fraction depending on economics and policies

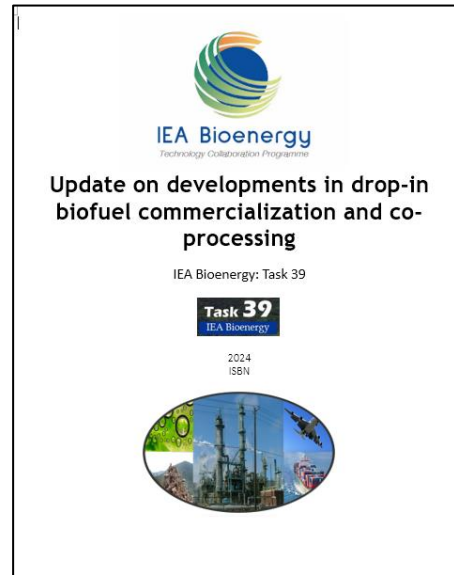
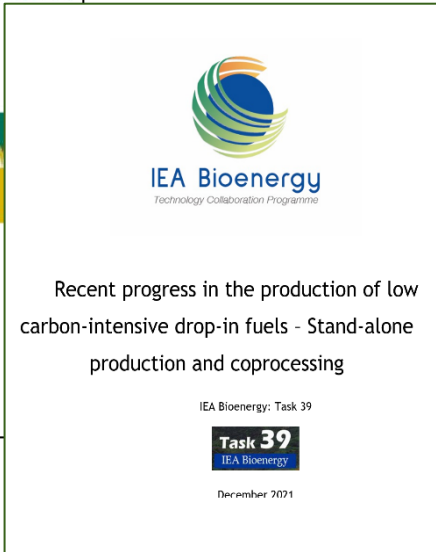
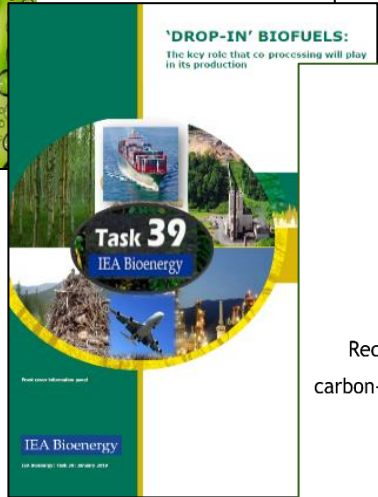
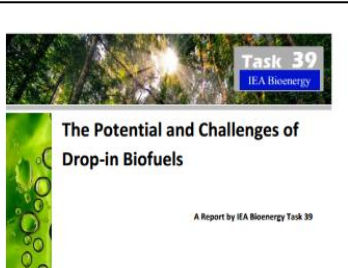
Technologies: **Hydrotreatment**, **Co-Processing**, Alcohol-to-Jet, Power to Liquid, Gasification

Examples of companies:

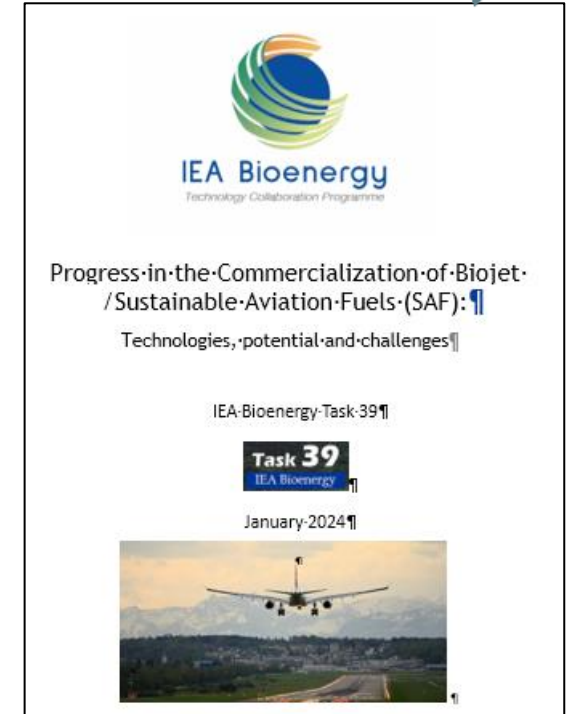
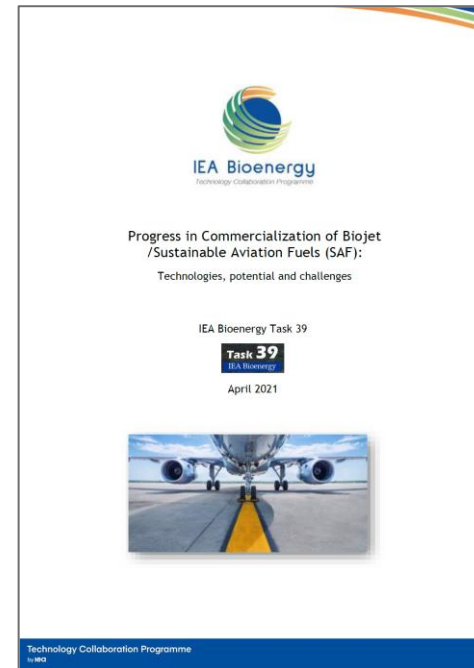
- World Energy, Neste, Eni, Cepsa, TotalEnergies, BP, ...



# IEA Bioenergy Task 39 - Drop-in biofuels and SAF reports (2014, 2019 & 2021, 2022, 2024)



## SAF reports:



Latest biojet/SAF report available for download  
<https://task39.ieabioenergy.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/37/2024/05/IEA-Bioenergy-Task-39-SAF-report.pdf>



Slide adapted from Jack Saddler and Susan van Dyke, T39 NTL Canada



# Key Takeaways from latest SAF report



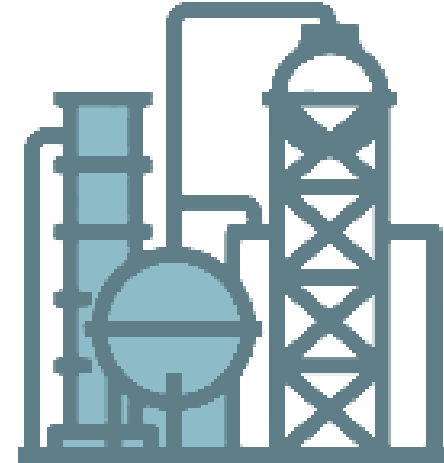
- Commitment to Net Zero by 2050 (ICAO & IATA).
- 62% of the emission reduction to come from SAF
- EU and USA policies accelerate SAF adoption
  
- Significant progress in SAF technologies.
- Challenges in sustainable feedstock and catalyst development.
- Policy certainty needed to boost investment.

# Key Takeaways from latest SAF report - technologies



## Main Technology Paths for SAF

- 1) HVO (Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil = HEFA)
  - Most commercially advanced, immediate impact.
  - Lack of sustainable lipids
- 2) Alcohol-to-Jet (AtJ)
  - Rapidly developing, near-term potential.
  - Potentially 2G
  - low overall yield
- 3) Gasification with Fischer-Tropsch
  - Significant advancements, medium-term impact. High costs
  - Environmental and Sustainability Concerns
- 4) Power-to-Liquids (PtL)
  - Emerging technology, long-term potential. High costs
  - The overall energy efficiency from renewable electricity to liquid fuel is relatively low



# Without policy, biofuels development will be limited

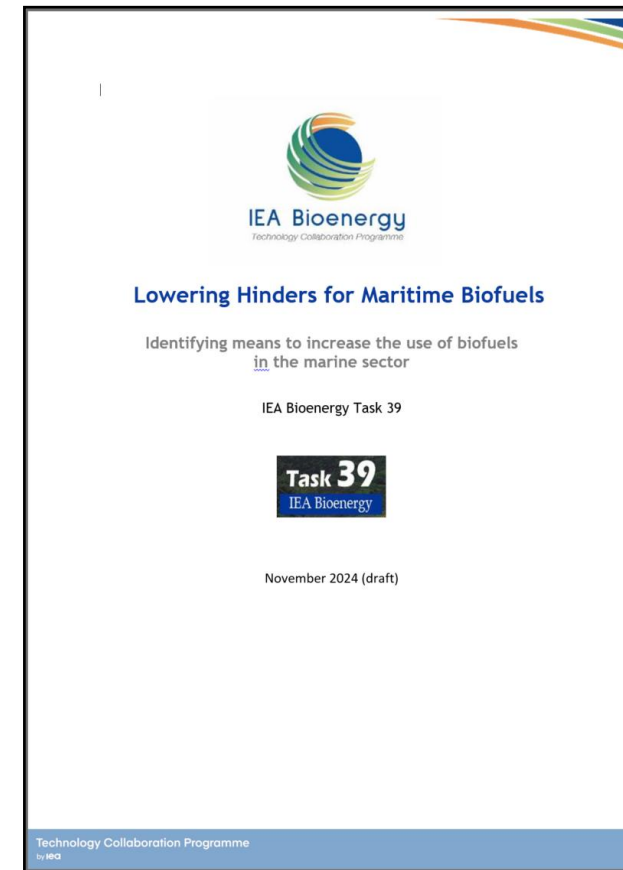
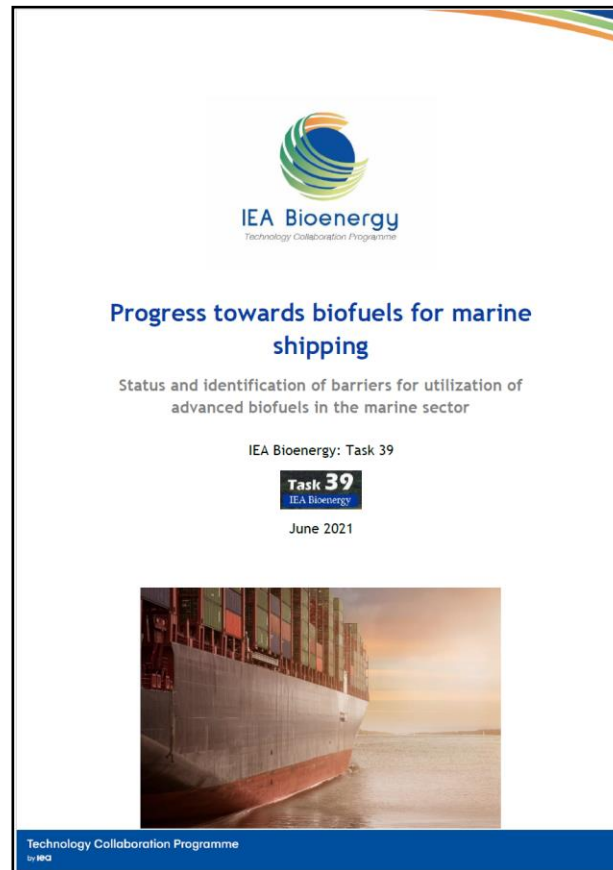
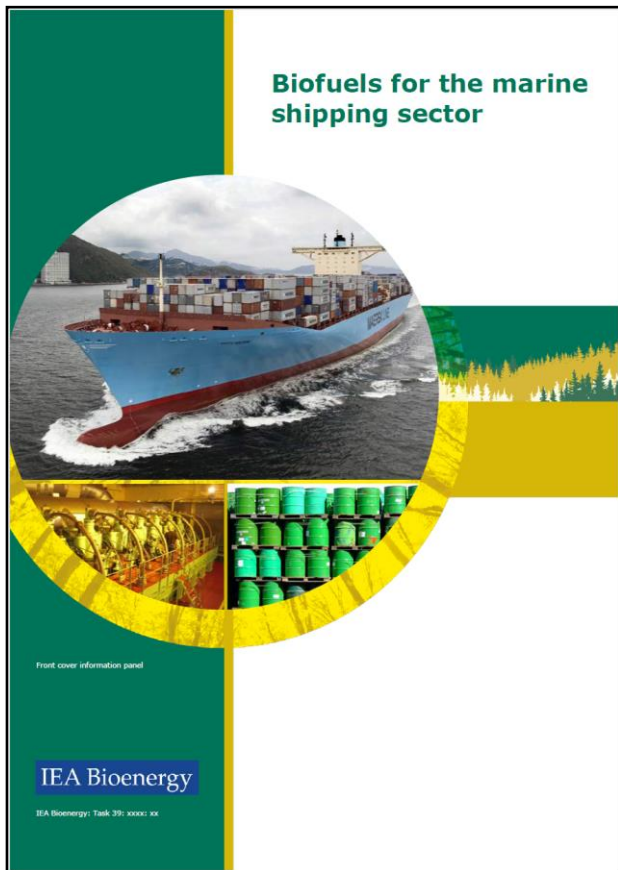


## Effective policy characteristics:

- Stable over a long period of time e.g. 10-20 years
- Bridge the high price gap - e.g. producer or blender incentives
- Address high capital cost e.g. loan guarantees or capital grants
- Derisk investment to allow technology commercialization and scale-up
- Increase production and availability
- Address competition with road transport
- Ensure sustainability and emissions reductions

# IEA Bioenergy Task 39 - Marine biofuels reports (2017, 2021 & 2025)

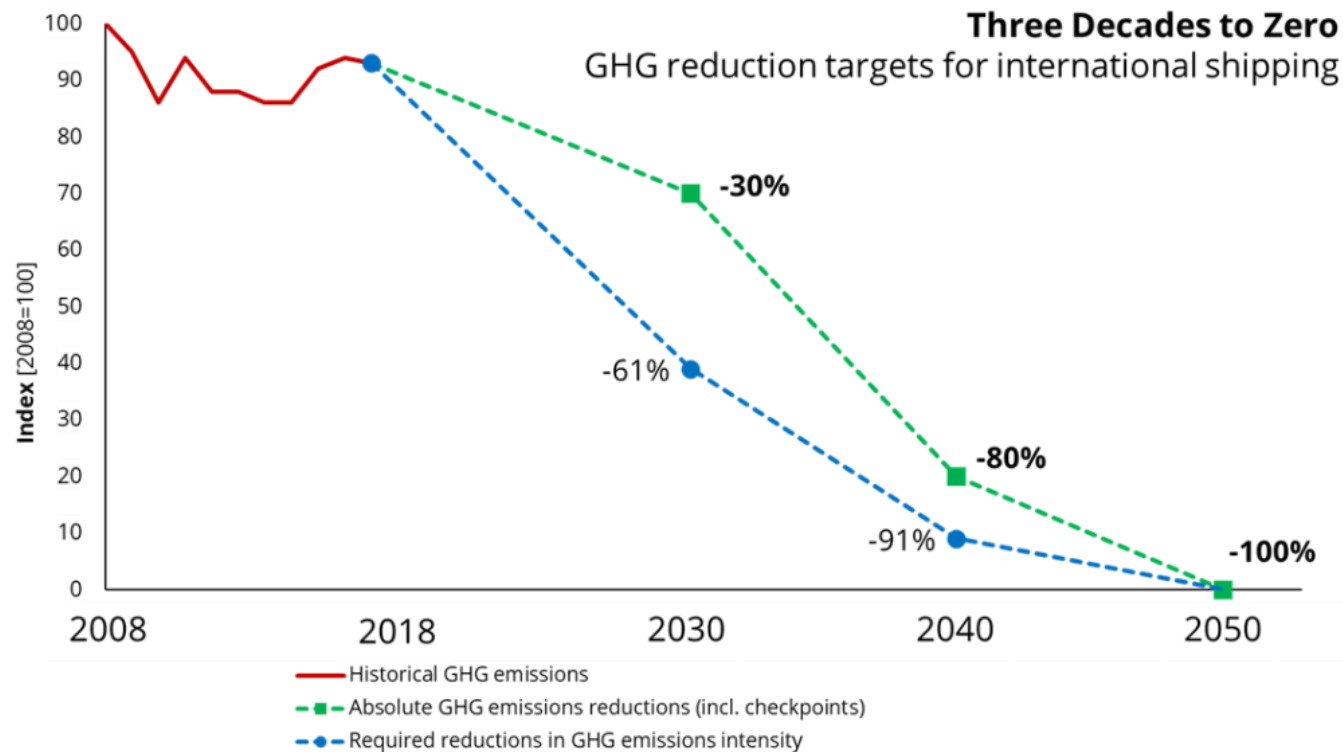
All reports with major contributions from Denmark



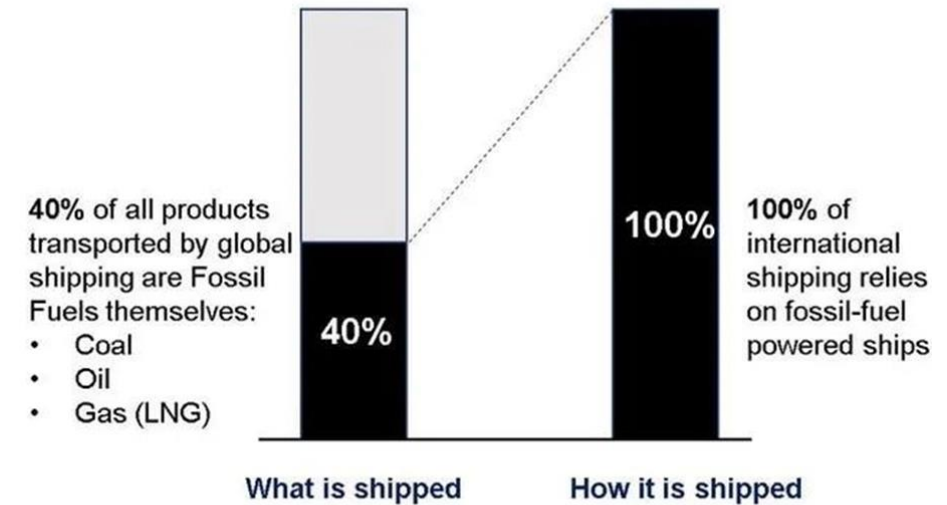


# Lowering Hinders for Maritime Biofuels – identifying means to increase the use of biofuels in the marine sector

## Task 39-T3 Project-Maritime Biofuels (med Dansk deltagelse)



### Global shipping has a big fossil fuels problem



Source: UNCTAD (2019), Degnarain (2020)

A new climate deal for shipping: Three decades to zero. (2023, June 13). World Bank Blogs. <https://blogs.worldbank.org/transport/new-climate-deal-shipping-three-decades-zero>



# List of fuel characteristics - fossil vs biofuels

## From Thomsen et al, IEA Task 39, 2021

Fuel type	Volumetric energy density [MJ/L]	Gravimetric energy density [MJ/kg]	Carbon intensity [TCO <sub>2e</sub> /TJ]	SO <sub>x</sub> Emissions
HFO	38	39	77-87	High
MGO	37	43	87	High
LNG (liquid)	21	49	63	None- Low
RNG (liquid)	21	49	~10 [72]	None- Low
Methane (gas)	0.034	50	< ~10 [72]	None
Ethanol	16	20	24, 34**	None
DME	21	27	NA	None
Biodiesel	19	29	60 (oil crops)[72]	None
Biocrude	35	38	NA	None-Low
Pyrolysis Oils	16	17-20	NA	NA
HVO	25	33	8-25	None
Methanol*	16	20	-0, ~10 (wood)[72]	None
H2* (liquid)	8.5	120	-0	None
Ammonia* (liquid)	13	19	-0	None
Batteries**	1.3	0.7	-0	None

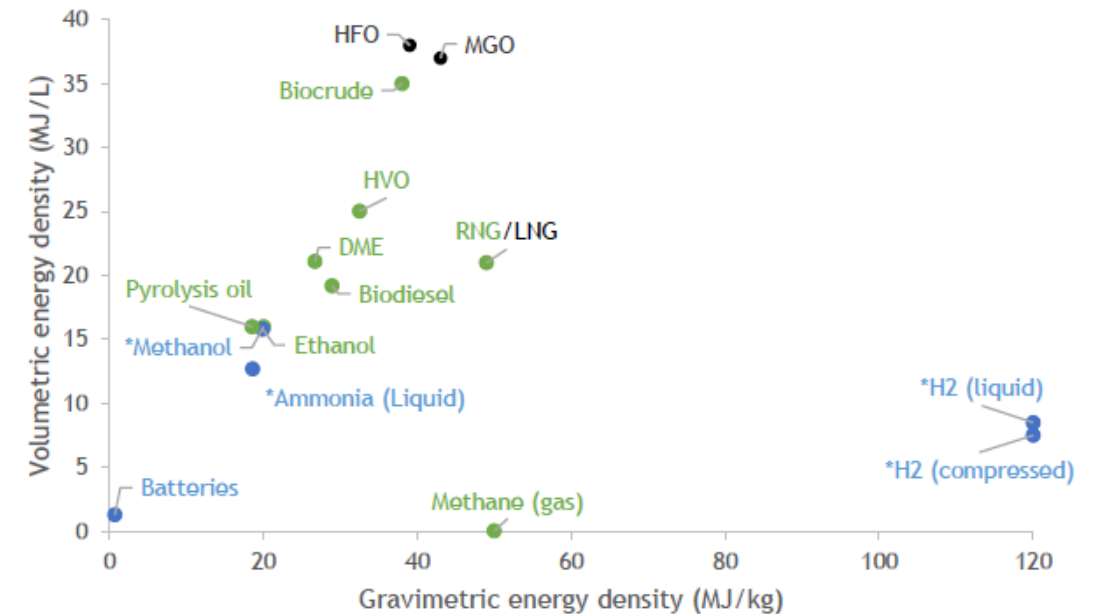
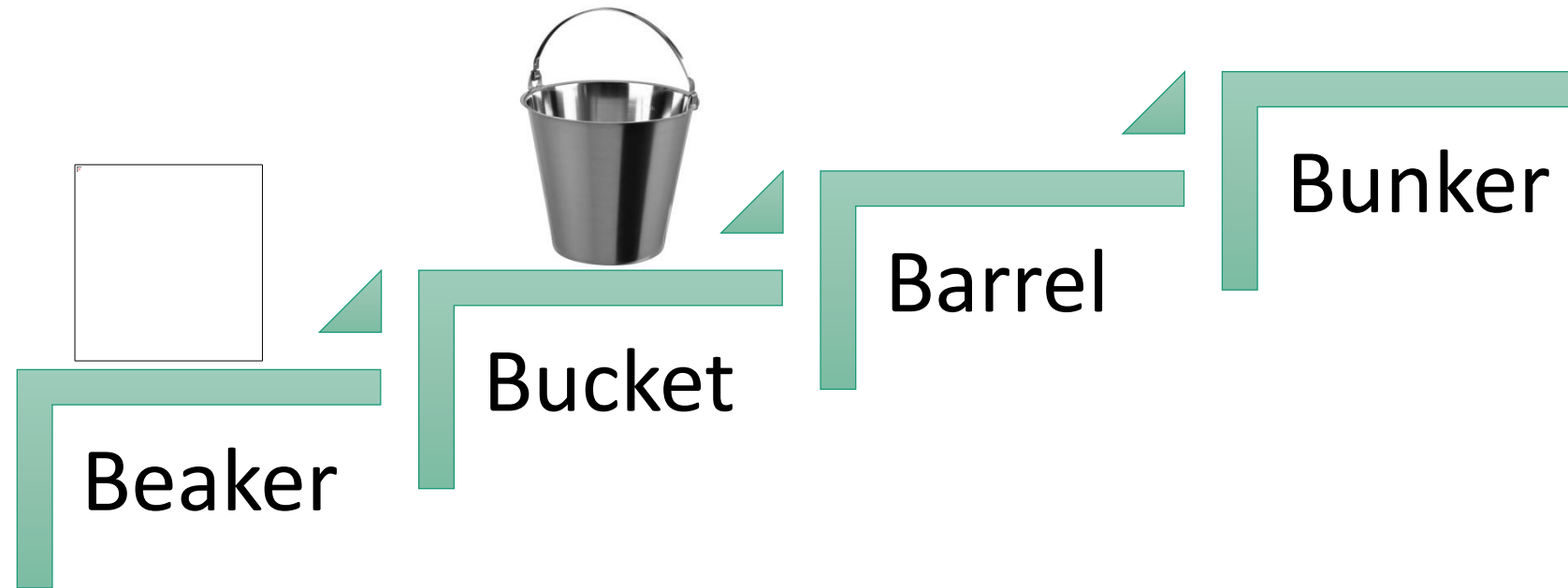


Figure 5.1 Gravimetric and volumetric energy density of fossil and renewable fuels. Color indicate primary energy source. Black: Fossil. Blue: Electricity. Green: Biomass.\*Ammonia, Methanol and hydrogen are currently primarily produced from fossil energy sources <sup>73-75</sup>.

Simonsen, Weiss, van Dyk, van Thuijl, and Thomsen (2021); *Progress towards biofuels for marine shipping; Status and identification of barriers for utilization of advanced biofuels in the marine sector*. IEA TASK 39, June 2021 ([here](#))



# Innovation ladder - from lab scale to commercial fuel use in engines



# Regulation



- IMO CII, EEDI, EEXI
- New Chapter 5 of MARPOL Annex VI containing regulations on the IMO net-zero framework, to include:
  - a goal-based marine fuel standard regulating the phased reduction of the marine fuel's GHG intensity; and
  - an economic mechanism(s) to incentivize the transition to net-zero.
- EU ETS (Emissions Trading System) for ships > 5000 gross tonnes
- FuelEU Maritime Directive – on-board ship GHG intensity
- European Energy Taxation Directive – bunker fuel tax
- Revision of RED II – 13% renewable by 2030
- Singapore Workshop Agreement 2:2022 (marine biofuel)
- ISO 8217, 2024 modification including non-fossil sources (methanol)
- International Sustainability and Carbon Certification (ISCC)

# EU Legislation to decarbonize transports and maritime



RES in transport: **14.5% reduction in GHG intensity**; or a share of at least **29% of energy**. RED III sets a binding combined **sub-target of 5.5% for advanced biofuels and RFNBOs** (min. 1%) by 2030

Recital 72 of **RED III** states that "Member States with maritime ports should endeavour to ensure that from 2030 the share of **RFNBOs** in the total amount of energy supplied to the maritime transport sector is at least 1.2%"

 Official Journal  
of the European Union

EN  
L series

---

2023/2413

31.10.2023

**DIRECTIVE (EU) 2023/2413 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL**  
of 18 October 2023  
amending Directive (EU) 2018/2001, Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 and Directive 98/70/EC as regards the promotion of energy from renewable sources, and repealing Council Directive (EU) 2015/652

**REGULATION (EU) 2023/1805 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL**  
of 13 September 2023  
on the use of renewable and low-carbon fuels in maritime transport, and amending Directive 2009/16/EC

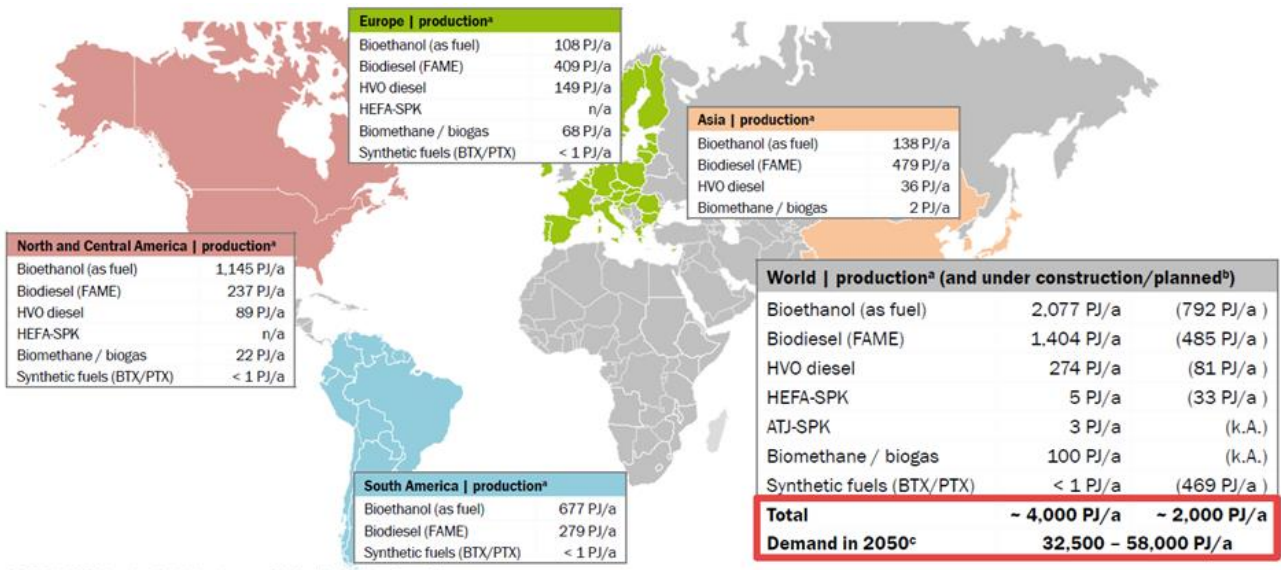
(Text with EEA relevance)

The eligible fuels under the **FuelEU Maritime Initiative** are **biofuels, biogas, RFNBOs and RCFs**, as well as **low-carbon gases** (e.g. fossil hydrogen + CCS). GHG accounting is the key element to define the sustainability and contribute to the EU targets.

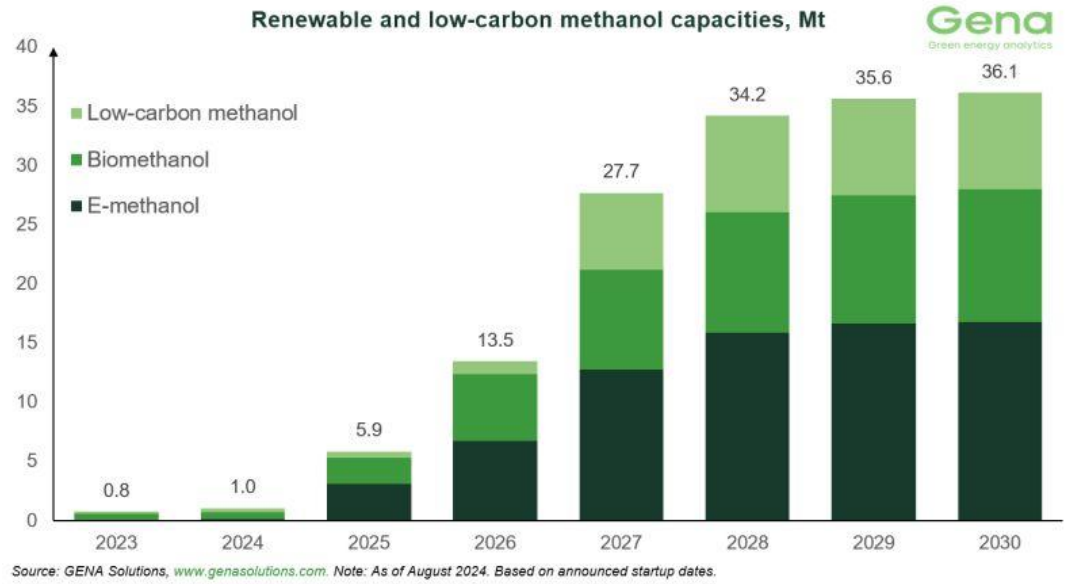
# Renewable fuel in the international market



To which extent can regionalization be fostered?



© DBFZ 10/2023 based on [Schröder, Naumann 2023], without claim of completeness  
 \* production in 2021 and biomethane capacities in 2019; <sup>a</sup> planned capacity; <sup>b</sup> demand according to IEA World Energy Outlook 2022 und IRENA Global Energy Transformation 2018



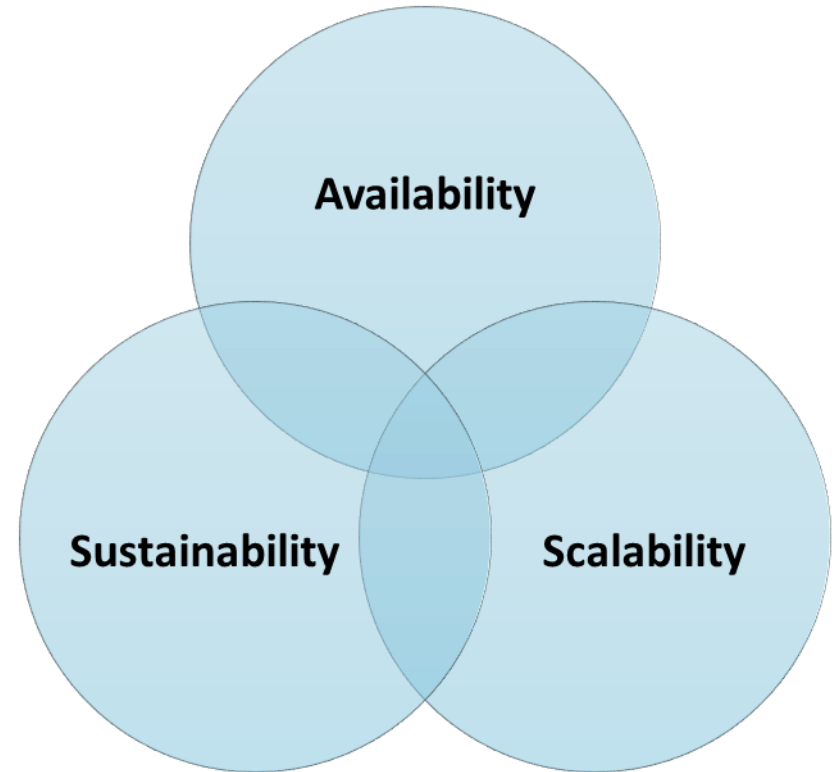
Source: GENA Solutions, www.genasolutions.com. Note: As of August 2024. Based on announced startup dates.

Renewable fuel in the international market projected upto 2050 (Source DBFZ (2023))

Coming green methanol pipeline globally as of August (MI, 2024)

# Conclusions (Marine)

- Availability, Scalability, Sustainability
- Innovation from Beaker to Bucket
- Green Corridors and Alliances expand the market
- 95% of projects are sitting before FID
- Barrell to Bunker is about Implementation (Funding, In-house R&D & Engineering)
- Drop-In Fuels has started (increasing from 1 million tons p a 2023), Dual fuel orders



# Ireland Report Update

- **Biomethane Strategy is launched May 2024 – 5.7 TWH by 2030 P.A. – reduction of 2.1 million tons of CO2 per annum – Slurry from 1.3 million cattle (20% of winter slurry volume) – 120,000 hectares of land (5% of available land) – 1 TWH of Biomethane by 2025**
- **2 Biomethane production facilities ( producing 75 GWH) and 43 biogas plants ( 580 GWH)**
- **90 to 250 AD plants by 2030 with grid injection ( 40 GWH)**
- **Capital Grant Scheme from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine – 40 million capex. – 20% of total capex. – planning secured – Offer Letters Sept. – 18 plants**
- **Gas Networks Ireland supporting rapid expansion of Biomethane production – 30% of primary energy supply**
- **3 Bn € network, 14,725 km of gas pipeline network – wrap around Irelands coastline 4 times – Mitchelstown CGI – planning, testing, trialing, safety**

# Afrunding

- Store mængder viden om transportbrændsler bliver dissemineret fra IEA Bioenergy t39
  - Adgang til rapporter, databaser, mm
- Der bliver holdt øje med Dansk udvikling
  - Især indenfor pyrolyse, biogas, og udviklingen i den marine sektor
- Jeg rapportere løbende fra møder og konference i IEA regi via LinkedIn
  - Tag endeligt kontakt
- Jeg Netværker på Danske interessenters vegne
  - Igen, ræk ud!

KØBENHAVNS UNIVERSITET

**Sune Tjalfe Thomsen**

IGN, Københavns Universitet

[stt@ign.ku.dk](mailto:stt@ign.ku.dk)

