

# Monitoring and mitigating methane: Danish lessons for global action

27/06/2023

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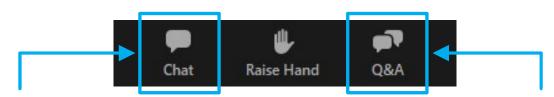


### WEBINAR INFORMATION

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### WEBINAR INFORMATION



- 'Chat' box: please use this for general requests and for interactive activities.
- 'Q&A' box: please use this to send questions to the panelists.
  - (We will answer these during the discussions and in post-webinar materials.)

Please Note: Attendees' microphones are muted. We cannot respond to 'Raise Hand'.



### AGENDA

Welcome and introductions

### Amanda Lake (moderator)

Introduction to the Danish methane national monitoring programme

Charlotte Scheutz, Danish Technical University

### Q&A

Legislation and rules implemented based on the national monitoring programme

Thomas Sørensen, Danish Water and Wastewater Association

### Q&A

Case study – mitigating methane from PRVs

Anders Fredeslund, DTU

### Q&A

Case study – the methane journey at VCS Denmark

Per Henrik Nielsen, VCS Denmark

- Q&A Discussion
- Final remarks and conclusion inspiring change



# **MODERATORS & PANELISTS**



Amanda Lake Jacobs, United Kingdom







Thomas Sørensen DANVA Denmark



Anders Fredeslund Danish Technical University Denmark



Per Henrik Nielsen VandCenter Syd Denmark



# Introduction to the Danish methane national monitoring programme

ANDERS FREDENSLUND & CHARLOTTE SCHEUTZ, DTU, DENMARK





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### SHARE OF BIOMETHANE IN THE DANISH GAS SYSTEM

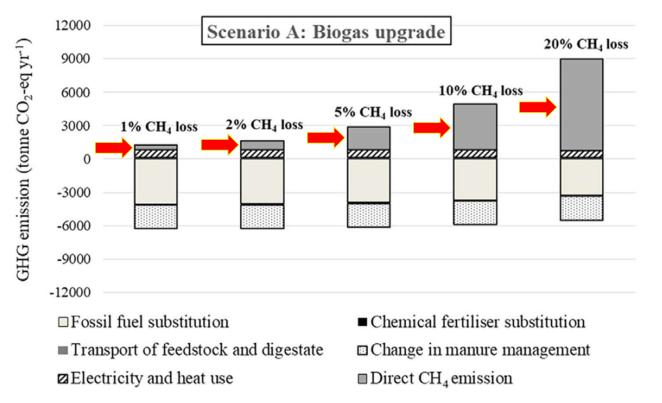
40 % 38,3 % ~ 40% 31 30 % 26 20% 17,0 % 17.0 % 10 % 10,9 % 0% January ebruary March April June August April May May June July June August July September October March August October November March May July March September December April September October December January February April May December February February Novembei January Januar Novembe 2020 2021 2022 2023 ENERGINET Daily Basis Monthly basis

Share of biomethane in relation to the last 12 months of production and gas consumption

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### **METHANE LOSS AND CLIMATE IMPACT**



Scheutz & Fredenslund, 2019. Total methane emission rates and losses from 23 biogas plants. Waste Manage. 97, 38-46

## **PROJECT OBJECTIVE**

### **Biogas plants:**

- Assistance in self-control monitoring program
- Assistance in leak finding
- Quantification of methane loss from the plant
- Assistance in minimizing leaks/methane loss

### Industry and government:

- Improved knowledge in the field
- Reduction of the total methane loss from biogas to 1%
- Revision of national emission factors for Danish biogas



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**DTU Miljø** Institut for Vand og Miljøteknologi







### **PROJECT CONTENT**

### Task 1: Build and disseminate knowledge to reduce methane loss

- Development of self control programs for biogas facilities and determination of BAT
- Guidance materials for the biogas industry to reduce methane loss
- Facilitate experience between biogas producers on reduction options
- Feasibility studies, individual plants

### Task 2: Measurement program

- Development, QA, best practice regarding measurements of methane emission
- Leak search on biogas plants
- Quantification of methane emissions (total emission and selected point sources)
- Establishment of a national database on emissions for national GHG reporting
- Contribute with suggestions regarding regulation / conditions for subsidies in the future



### **PARTICIPATING BIOGAS PLANTS**

- 60 biogas plants 35 agricultural plants and 25 wastewater treatment (WWTP) and industrial plants
- 45% of the Danish biogas production
- Previous measurements from additional nine plants included in calculating emission factors
- Variety of plants:
  - Type of plant (agricultural, WWTP)
  - Size (magnitude of gas production)
  - Gas utilization (CHP, biomethane, off-site utilization)
  - Construction year



### **METHANE LEAK SEARCH**





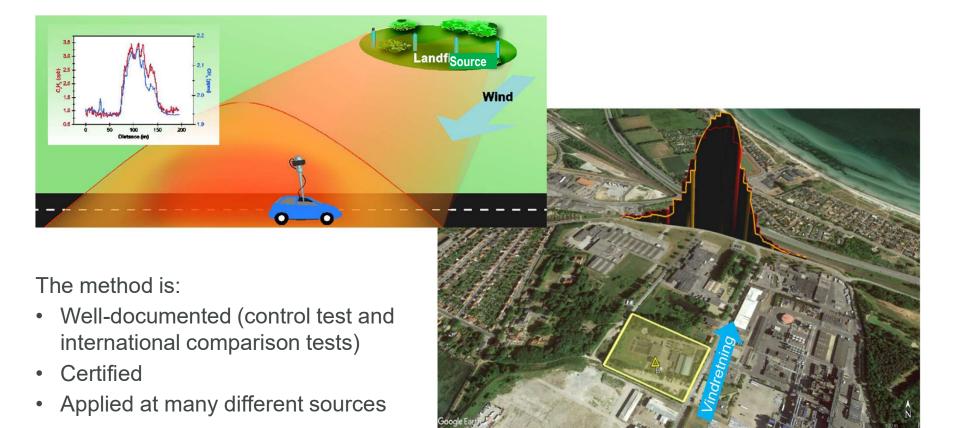
Methane sniffer





### **QUANTIFICATION OF WHOLE SITE METHANE EMISSION**



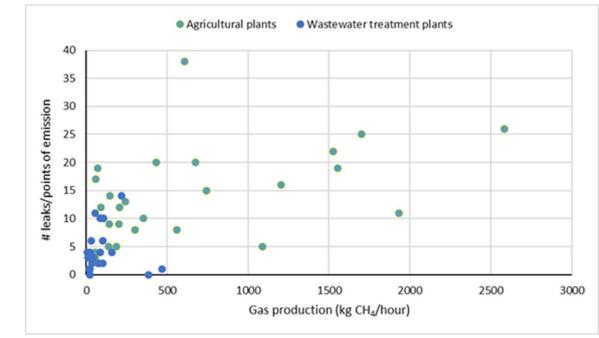




### **IDENTIFIED METHANE LEAKAGES**

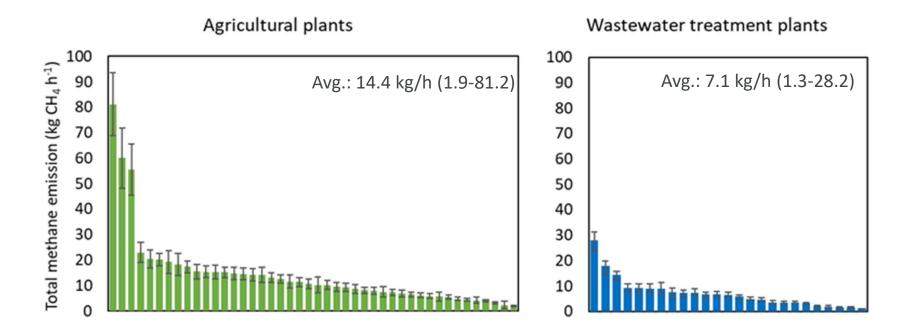
Most common leaks

- Pressure relief valves on digesters
- Biomass storage w/o gas collection (especially WWTP)
- Leakages at gas bearing components (gas storage, piping, inspection hatches and more)



Fredenslund, A.M., Gudmundsson, E., Falk, J.M., & Scheutz, C. 2023. Waste Manage. 157, 321-329.

### WHOLE PLANT METHANE EMISSIONS (KG CH<sub>4</sub>/H)

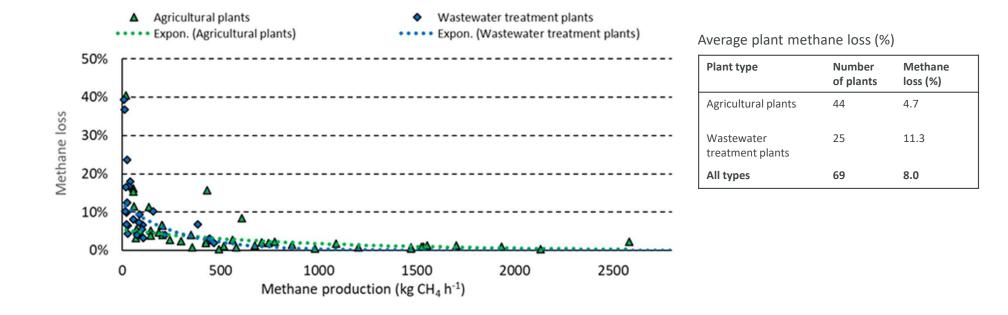


Fredenslund, A.M., Gudmundsson, E., Falk, J.M., & Scheutz, C. 2023. Waste Manage. 157, 321-329.



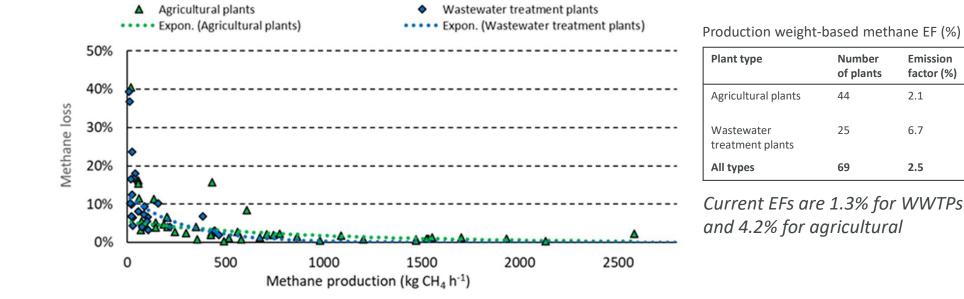


### **PLANT METHANE LOSS (% OF METHANE PRODUCTION)**



Fredenslund, A.M., Gudmundsson, E., Falk, J.M., & Scheutz, C. 2023. Waste Manage. 157, 321-329.

# **METHANE EMISSION FACTOR (%, WEIGHT-BASED PRODUCTION)**



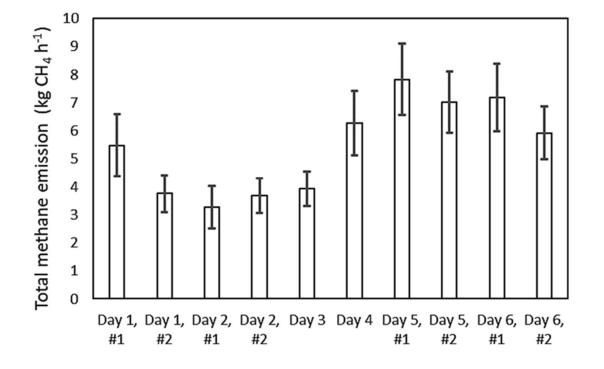
CLIMATE

SMART UTILITIES

Fredenslund, A.M., Gudmundsson, E., Falk, J.M., & Scheutz, C. 2023. Waste Manage. 157, 321-329.

### **METHANE EMISSION DYNAMICS AT A WWTP**





Fredenslund, A.M., Gudmundsson, E., Falk, J.M., & Scheutz, C. 2023. Waste Manage. 157, 321-329.



### CONCLUSIONS

- High variation in methane emissions (kg CH<sub>4</sub>/h) and methane loss (% of production) between biogas plants
- Smaller plants had higher losses than bigger and more recently built plants
- WWTPs had higher methane losses than agricultural plants
- Important contributors to methane emission from biogas production:
  - Pressure relief valves on digesters
  - Biomass storage w/o gas collection (especially WWTP)
  - Leakages at gas bearing components (gas storage, piping, inspection hatches and more)
- Methane losses were higher than expected
- It is technically possible to operate a plant with a loss less than 1% (national target set by Danish biogas producers)
- More insight into methane emission dynamic is needed

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**





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Charlotte Scheutz

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#### What to know more

- Fredenslund, A. M., Gudmundsson, E., Falk, J. M., & Scheutz, C. 2023. The Danish national effort to minimise methane emissions from biogas plants. Waste Management, 157, 321-329.
- Scheutz, C., Fredenslund, A.M. 2019. Total methane emission rates and losses from 23 biogas plants. Waste Management, 97, 38-46.
- Delre A., Mønster J., Scheutz C., 2017. Greenhouse gas emission quantification from wastewater treatment plants, using a tracer gas dispersion method. *Science of the Total Environment*, 605–606, 258–268.
- Samuelsson, J., Delre, D., Tumlin, S., Hadi, S., Offerle, B., Scheutz, C. 2018. Optical technologies applied with on-site and remote approaches for climate gas emission quantification at a wastewater treatment plant. *Water Research*, 131, 299-309.
- Delre A., Mønster J., Samuelsson J., Fredenslund A. M., Scheutz C., 2018. Emission quantification using the tracer gas dispersion method: the influence of instrument, tracer gas species and source simulation. *Science of The Total Environment*, 634, 59-66.
- Delre A., ten Hoeve M., Scheutz C., 2019. Site-specific carbon footprints of Scandinavian wastewater treatment plants, using the life cycle assessment approach. *Journal of Cleaner Production*, 211, 1001-1014.
- Yoshida, H., Mønster, J., Scheutz, C. 2014. Plant integrated measurement of methane and nitrous gas from a municipal wastewater treatment plant. *Water Research*, 61, 108-118.

Link to the report on methane losses from Danish biogas plants: <u>https://ens.dk/presse/ny-rapport-om-metantab-fra-danske-biogasanlaeg</u>







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# LEGISLATION AND RULES IMPLEMENTED BASED ON THE NATIONAL MONITORING PROGRAMME

THOMAS SØRENSEN, DANISH WATER AND WASTEWATER ASSOCIATION (DANVA)



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# **Danish Watersector**

www.danva.dk/waterinfigures

Drinking water sold to customers5: Approx. 310 million m<sup>3</sup> Total distribution network for drinking waters: 60,000 km

Number of waterworks in Denmark<sup>2</sup>: Approx. 2,600 Municipally owned water companies5: 87 Waterworks owned by municipal water companies5: Approx. 340 Own water supply to individual households2: Approx. 50,000

Volume of water (drinking water) abstracted<sup>2</sup> By general waterworks: 379 million m<sup>3</sup> Commercial irrigation: 239 million m<sup>3</sup> Companies with own abstraction: 51 million m<sup>3</sup> Surface water: 18 million m<sup>3</sup>

⊖ DANVA WATER IN FIGURES





level1: 770 mm Average rainfall in the last 10 years2: 759 mm Total sewer network, incl. connectors3: 85,850 km Pumping stations<sup>3</sup>: 37.700 Total number of rainwater

Precipitation at country

discharges1: 16,219

Total number of overflow structures from common sewer systems1: 4,222

Wastewater treatment plants 701 Treatment plants over 30 PF3 643 Total wastewater treatment plant capacity1: 12.2 million PE Total effective load of wastewater treatment plants1: 7.5 million PE Share of wastewater purified

by means of tertiary treatment': 95% Discharged treated wastewater1: 683 million m<sup>3</sup>

Municipally owned wastewater companies<sup>5</sup> 109 Discharge from dwellings and holiday homes without public sewerage<sup>1</sup>: 281.465 Number of industriel discharges with own

150

wastewater treatment':

• 2.3 billion euro

> 100 % public owned •

Financed exclusively through tariffs •

CLIMATE SMART UTILITIES ter association

Inhabitants in Denmark: ~ 5.8 million

### **Drinking water:**

Number of waterworks: 2.400 Annual extraction ~ 370 million 100% groundwater, simply treated, no chlorine added

#### Wastewater:

- 102 Companies ٠
- 643 WWTP above 30 PE •
- Annual treatment of Wastewater: • 7-800.000.000 m3
- Biogasplants situated at WWTP: ~ 50 •

Total annual turnover water services:



### **STORYLINE FOR METHANE REGULATION**

- 2020: The Danish government has set a target of a 70% reduction in CO2 in 2030, based on the state's national climate accounts.
- 2021: The Danish Minister of the Environment set a goal of energy and climate neutrality in 2030 for the Danish water sector. The biggest scope 1 emission is nitrous oxide, followed by methane.
- 2021: New methane report on biogas plants: Average emission: 7,7 % based on 25 WWTP. National CO2 accounting: Emission from biogas plants set to 1,3 % of production.
- 2021: COP 26 Glasgow: Agreement om methane reduction by 30 % signed by the Danish Minister of energy.
- 2022: Climate agreement on green electricity and heat 2022: "Denmark Can Do More II":
  - The government will advance and increase biogas production.
  - A regulation of methane loss from biogas production is introduced, which limits methane loss as much as possible.
- 2023: On January 1. new rules for methane loss from biogas plants were implemented



### **LEGISLATION AND RULES**

The Ministry of Climate, Energy and Supply implemented a new set of requirements starting from 1. january 2023.

- Requirements for a self-monitoring program
- An annual review and leak detection of all biogas plants in Denmark
  - There is a requirement for the rectification of errors/leaks that are listed in the report.

And maybe later:

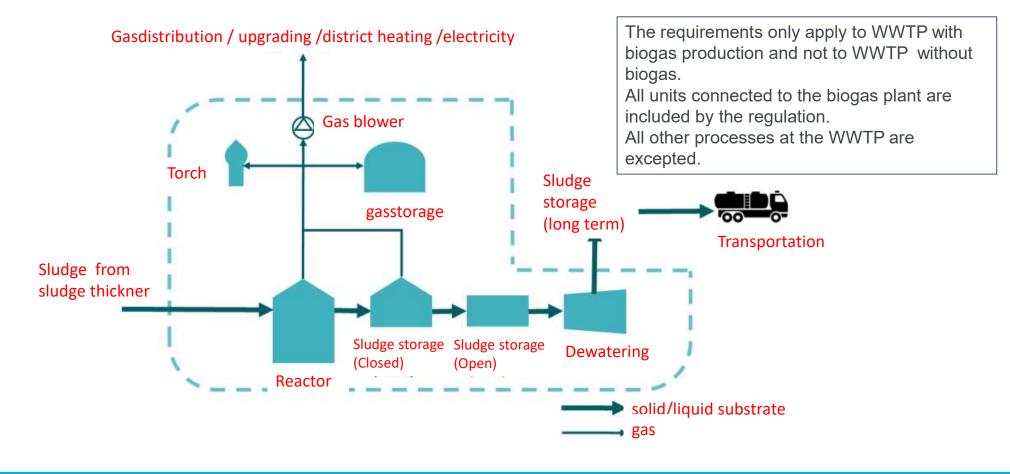
The emission from gas engine and methane upgrading plants: max. 1 %

The goal is to manage the operation and maintenance of facilities and thereby not to have a specific measurement from each plant.

The goal is an emission of 1 % of production from the biogas plants in Denmark.



### **BOUNDARY AT THE WWTP**



### **REQUIREMENTS FOR A SELF-MONITORING PROGRAM:**



Minimizing methane loss by Weekly, monthly and annual selfmonitoring program.

A template has been prepared to help the Biogas plant who did not already have an adequate self-monitoring program.

The program must be prepared in collaboration with an external company

### Focus points:

- Coverings
- Pipe penetrations
- Valves
- Fittings

Methods:

- Gas sniffer
- Gas chamber
- Visual and auditory control
- Soapy water
- Closeness



LIMATE

UTILITIES





The annual review should be carried out by <u>an external independent company</u> The companies shall be pre-approved by the Danish Energy Agency.

• There is a list of approved companies at the Agency's website. (7 companies)

The Agency has published a template for reporting and a guidance on how the review should be carried out.

The review results in a report on methane emissions and requirements for improvement.

The report shall be sent to the WWTP and to the Danish Energy Agency.

The review must be carried out every year - however with the possibility of a reduced frequency if the WWTP are doing well.

### AN ANNUAL REVIEW AND LEAK DETECTION PROGRAM

An annual review and leak detection program of all biogas plants by an external company:

- Leak detection on all gas-carrying components
  - Valves, pipes, covers, fittings
- Identifying any other sources of methane loss
  - Open sludge storage is probably the biggest problem on WWTP

The report must contain:

- That the self-control program has been reviewed and checked
- Findings below the "signifikant limit" added to the self-monitoring program.
- Findings above the "signifikant limit and recommendations for rectifying these.
- Other sources and recommendation for improving these.
- The WWTP is obliged to implement the listed leakage/findings/errors.

Issues:

- Definition of "Signifikant limit"
- Responsibility for recommendations





### **EMISSION FROM GAS ENGINE AND UPGRADING PLANTS**

In the initial legislative work, there was a desire to set requirements for the emissions from the gas engine and methane upgrading plants to maximum 1 % of the gas production.

Problems:

- The goal was very ambitious because it is almost impossible to have a gas engine with emission below 1 %
   applies to both for new or newly refurbished engines.
- Two different agencies will set different requirements for the same emission from the same gas engine:
  - The Danish Energy Agency will set requirement for methane (new requirement)
  - The Danish Environmental Agency already have requirement for Nox (existing requirements)

The 2 agencies have to discuss in more details how a claim can be made. Requirement will be introduced later.

From 1. January 2024 a requirement is introduced for upgrading plants on maksimum 1 % emission.

Only one or two WWTP have upgrading plants for biogas.



### **SUMMARY: LEGISLATION AND RULES**

- The new regulation is based on the concept that a maintained plant and on-going review of the facilities will ensure as little methane leakage as possible.
- It is chosen not to make a requirement for measuring "The total methane emission from the plant".
- Point sources:
  - Upgrading plants: < 1%, Gas engine: Demands are coming later
  - Open sludge storage: Perhaps a requirement for cover

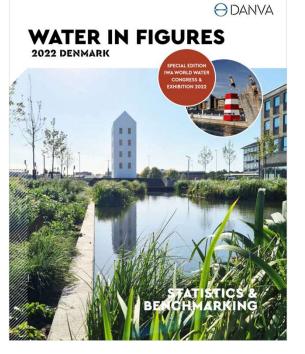
The Danish Energy Agency has a website with the related material as "Guideline for review and leak detection", "Template for reporting the review" and "Template for self-monitoring program". And the list of pre-approved external independent companies. Link (only in Danish)

# **QUESTIONS?**



Thomas Sørensen Manager of data and Benchmarking Mail: TS@danva.dk





### Water in figures

(always latest version):

www.danva.dk/waterinfigures

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he international water association





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# Case study – mitigating methane from PRVs

ANDERS FREDENSLUND & CHARLOTTE SCHEUTZ, DTU, DENMARK

DTU

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# AGENDA

- 1. What are pressure relief valves (PRVs), and why are they a focus point?
- 2. Methods and results regarding PRVs Danish national effort to minimise CH<sub>4</sub> emissions from biogas plants
- 3. Observed emission rates from installed PRVs
- 4. Tested leakage from new valves
- 5. Conclusions
- 6. Additional information



### WHAT ARE PRVS, AND WHY ARE THEY A FOCUS POINT?

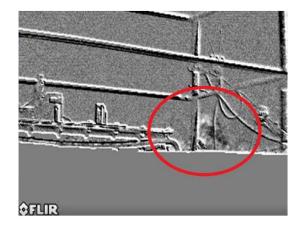
- PRVs (or "breather valves") ensure a set, maximum pressure difference between a tank and the atmosphere to prevent rupture or implosion
- Ensures that air can flow in or out, when liquid levels are changed, or relieve pressure, in case of excess gas production
- Two types of gaseous emission: (1) functional and (2) leakage
- An often-observed cause of leakage from top of biogas reactors
- Leakage of CH<sub>4</sub> contributes to climate change, and reduces energy production (and thus revenue)



#### **NATIONAL EFFORT – PRV RELATED RESULTS**







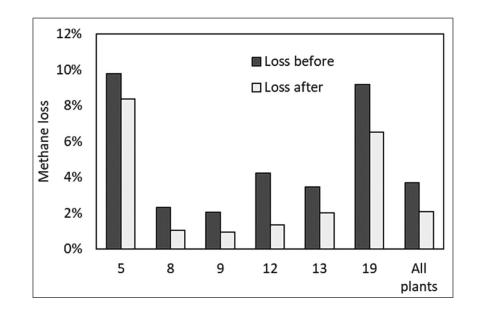
- Leak search was done at 50 biogas plants using gas cameras (FLIR GF320) and "sniffers" in combination
- Leakage from PRVS was observed at 53% of facilities (89 times observed)
- Rates of leakage were not quantified

| Location of observed<br>leak/<br>point source of emission | Times<br>observed | Frequency of observation among plants |
|---|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Pressure relief valves                                    | 89                | 53 %                                  |
| Reactors – other leaks <sup>a</sup>                       | 100               | 59 %                                  |
| Biomass storage tanks <sup>b</sup>                        | 129               | 67 %                                  |
| Gas storage units   | 7                 | 12 %                                  |
| Other gas bearing<br>components <sup>c</sup>              | 137               | 65 %                                  |



#### METHANE LOSS BEFORE AND AFTER MITIGATING ACTIONS

- At six plants, methane emission was measured both before and after GHG mitigation actions
- Loss before: 3.7%, loss after: 2.1%
- Avoided GHG: 29,400 ton CO<sub>2</sub> eq./yr.
- Avoided loss of CH<sub>4</sub>: 1.5 million Nm<sup>3</sup>/yr.
  (≥ production increase)
- At all six plants, PRVs were replaced, but other mitigation actions were also taken

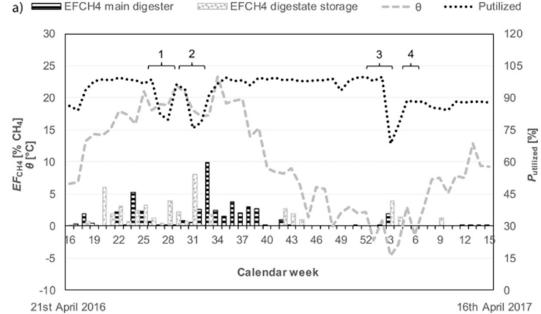


Source: Fredenslund, A. M., Gudmundsson, E., Falk, J. M., & Scheutz, C. (2023). The Danish national effort to minimise methane emissions from biogas plants. *Waste Management*, *157*, 321-329



#### **OBSERVED EMISSION RATES FROM INSTALLED PRVS**

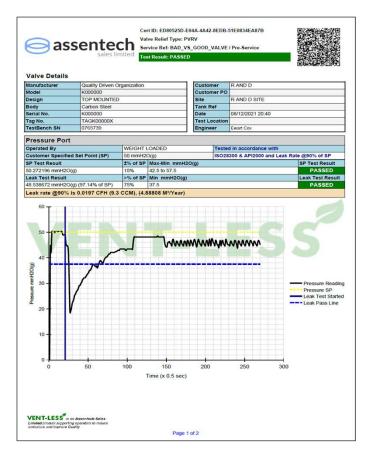
- DBFZ study by Torsten Reinelt & Jan Liebetrau: 2-years, continuous measurement of leakage from PRVs
- Emission rate measured using flowmeter on PRV's exhaust combined with measured gas composition
- Emission factor varied up to 10% loss in connection to maintenance works, and affected by fast temperature change
- Overall emission factors: 1.8% and 0.6% for the first and second years, respectively
- Emissions lowered after mitigation effort



Source: Reinelt, T., Liebetrau, J. (2020). Monitoring and mitigation of methane emissions from pressure relief valves of a biogas plant. Chemical Engineering & Technology, 43, 1, 7-18



#### **TESTED LEAKAGE FROM NEW VALVES**



- Test results provided by Ewart Cox, Assentech
- Two new PRVs were tested for leakage: "good PRV" and "bad PRV"...
- Leakage measured at 90% of SP
- Leakage from "good PRV": 4.9 M<sup>3</sup>/yr.
- Leakage from "bad PRV": 1700 M<sup>3</sup>/yr.

#### Example of financials provided:

"The cost of the cheap valve was £3000. That was a 12 inch size unit in carbon steel from a British manufacturer. The replacement valve cost £6500 from a high quality international manufacturer.

The saving from one valve position was over £8000 in 1 year so **payback was approximately 10 months**." (Ewart Cox)



# CONCLUSIONS

- Leakage from PRVs is an often observed source of CH<sub>4</sub> emission from biogas production
- Emission can be both a result of the PRVs function and from leakage
- Rate of leakage varies highly between valves, where "good PRVs" can have near 0 leakage
- Leakage from PRVs can cause significant loss of revenue and greenhouse gas emission



#### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

#### **Research paper:**

 Fredenslund, A. M., Gudmundsson, E., Falk, J. M., & Scheutz, C. (2023). The Danish national effort to minimise methane emissions from biogas plants. *Waste Management*, *157*, 321-329. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wasman.2022.12.035

#### **Research paper:**

 Reinelt, T., Liebetrau, J. (2020). Monitoring and mitigation of methane emissions from pressure relief valves of a biogas plant. *Chemical Engineering & Technology, 43, 1,* 7-18. <u>https://doi.org/10.1002/ceat.201900180</u>

#### **Emission calculator + services:**

<u>http://www.assentech.co.uk/anaerobic-digestion-biogas-pressure-and-vacuum-relief-valves-with-flame-arresters/#breatherventleakagebiogas</u>

#### **Contact:**

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Charlotte Scheutz: chas@dtu.dk







## Case study – the methane journey VCS Denmark

#### PER HENRIK NIELSEN VCS DENAMRK









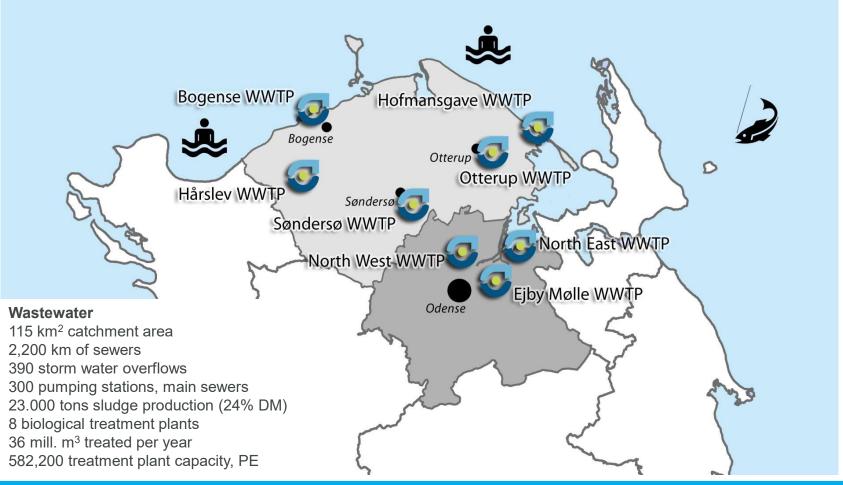
- Established 1853
- Odense 3<sup>rd</sup> largest city in Denmark
- 6 WTPs ~180,000 customers
- 8 WWTPs ~235,000 customers
- Energy neutral utility since 2019
- Committed to innovation









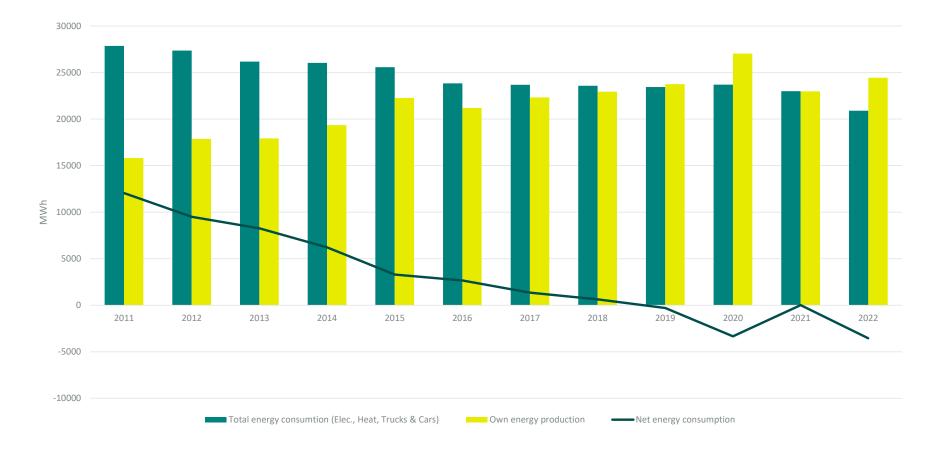






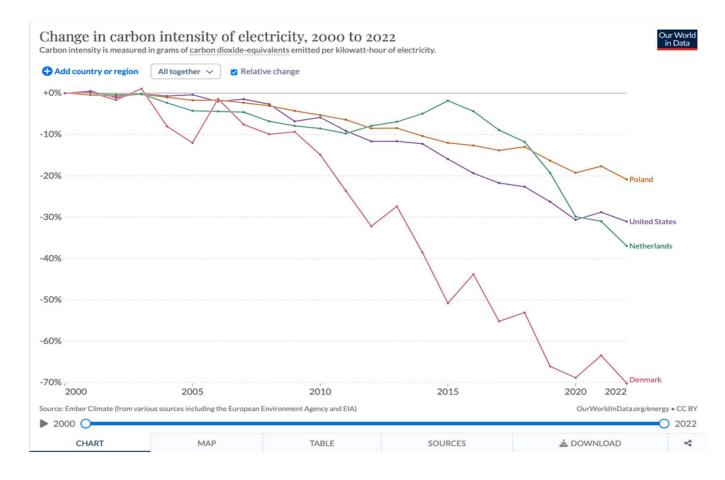


#### **ENERGY BALANCE**





#### **ENERGY MIX**



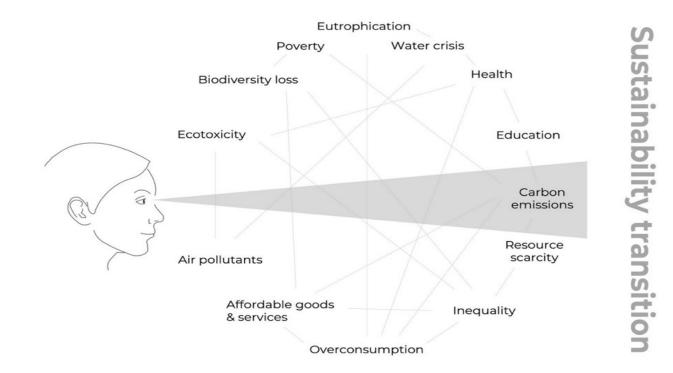
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|               |               | total 36.306 ton | Outside scope   |
|---------------|---------------|------------------|---|
| Scope 1       | Scope 2       | Scope 3          | Udenfor scope   |
| 6.314 ton CO₂ | 2.359 ton CO₂ | 24.930 ton CO₂   | <b>7.551 ton CO<sub>2</sub></b><br>Biogenic CO <sub>2</sub> from biogas |
|               |               |                  | Energy production from biogas<br>Afforestation                          |



#### **Carbon Tunnel Vision**

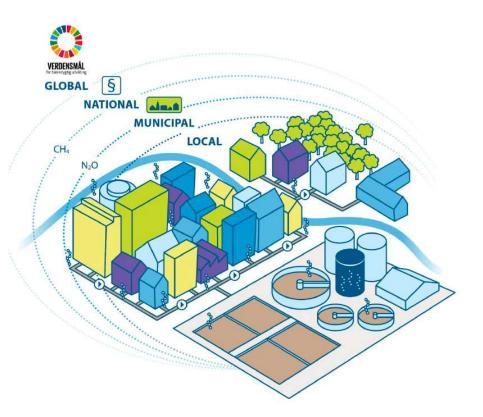


Graphic by Jan Konietzko



#### ARES

- Project goal Reduced emissions from wastewater treatment
- Methane CH4 and Nitrous oxide N2O are the main problems
- A co-operation between leading utilities, universities, consultant and partly funded by the EPA
- The project includes:
  - New advanced sludge handling
  - Advanced measurements at treatment plants
  - Advanced measurements in sewer systems
  - Pilot plant testing of new and enhanced control strategies
  - Online measurement new approach

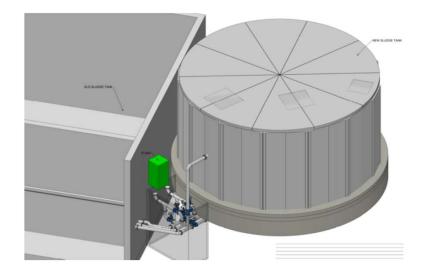




#### **REDUCTION OF EMISSION FROM SLUDGE STORAGE**

Development and test of closed sludge storage tank including vacuum technology for maximized methane extraction

- New closed sludge storage.
- Maximizing gas production from the plant



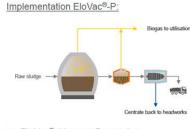




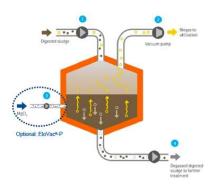


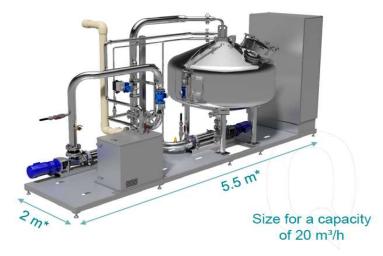
#### **VACUUM ENHANCED SYSTEM - ELIQUO**

- Inclusion of vacuum technology to remove dissolved methane from the sludge
- Possible addition of magnesium or iron to enhance controlled phosphorus precipitation



 EloVac®: Vacuum Degassing
 EloVac®-P: Vacuum Degassing with simultaneous P-precipitation











# **FINDING THE EMISSIONS**

- Identification and quantification of emissions of methane and N2O from WWTP using trace gas method
- Measurement of methane and N2O from the sewer system in Odense using trace gas method



#### CONCLUSION

- The project will put focus on emissions from our industry
- Minimizing a well-known source of methane emissions
- Give new insights on overall emissions from treatment plants and sewer systems
- Test of new control strategies and low emission operation
- New approach for measuring N2O emissions
- Evaluate validity of Denmark's IPCC reporting







#### A GREAT TEAM



### Miljøministeriet Ecoinnovation - MUDP







DTU Environment Department of Environmental Eng













<u>The case of VCS Denmark –</u> progress beyond net energy production - The Source (thesourcemagazine.org)</u>



# Delay and a lake



#### WHAT NEXT: 2 FURTHER WEBINARS

# Monitoring and mitigating nitrous oxide: Danish lessons for global action- Anna Katrine, Envidan

• 04 September

## **Climate Smart Water Futures within Planetary Boundaries**-IWA GHG working group

03 October

#### **UPCOMING IWA WEBINARS & EVENTS**





WEBINAR Advanced control systems for nitrogen removal in full-scale water facilities

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