

The Biogas Bridge

From Waste Challenge to National Opportunity



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Programme

Day One: Thursday 17 July 2025

0900	Welcome from Day One Chair Jeffrey Clarke – <i>Chief Executive, GasNZ</i>
0910	Ministerial Address & Opening Hon Simon Watts – <i>Minister for Energy, Minister of Climate Change, Minister for Local Government, and Minister of Revenue</i>
0925	Keynote Presentation – Setting the scene – Biogas in the global context The World Biogas Association is the international trade organisation representing biogas stakeholders and dedicated to advancing the global adoption of biogas technologies for clean energy and sustainable development. This session sets the global scene for our forum, examining the role biogas plays in other countries' energy systems, and highlighting relevant global experience that New Zealand can now draw on as a "latecomer" to biogas. The WBA's recently released Global Biogas Regulatory Framework helps articulate this knowledge, and can help us accelerate our renewable gas transition Charlotte Morton OBE – <i>Chief Executive, World Biogas Association</i>
0945	Setting the scene – Biogas in the New Zealand context Anaerobic digestion has been described as a "win-win-win-win-win solution". What is the assessed potential of AD in New Zealand to reduce organic waste to landfill, produce biomethane, reduce emissions, and produce value through digestate, heat, and CO₂, together with creation of regional jobs, regional resilience, energy sovereignty? Ben Gerritsen – <i>General Manager Customer & Regulatory, Clarus</i>
1000	Morning Break and Networking Sponsored by 
1030	Presentation – Anaerobic Digestion 101 With proven technology, strong market drivers and commercial potential, anaerobic digestion presents a compelling opportunity for investment and sustainability. This presentation will explore the biogas value chain: how anaerobic digestion works, key economic drivers, and policy levers shaping the industry. We'll cover feedstock considerations (waste and other sources), energy resilience, repurposing gas infrastructure, and the rising demand for renewable gas and waste solutions. Alzbeta Bouskova Houghton – <i>Chief Technology Officer, Ecogas</i>



1130	Presentation – <i>The Economics of Anaerobic Digestion</i> Bioenergy professional Richard Bartlett of the Australian Gas Infrastructure Group will share an in-depth look at the financial landscape of anaerobic digestion, and the AD waste-to-value business case in New Zealand, exploring the key cost drivers, revenue streams, and investment opportunities that make biogas a viable and profitable solution. From feedstock sourcing to energy production and byproduct value, we'll break down the economic fundamentals driving project success, and what that means for different stakeholders. Richard Bartlett – AGIG Australian Gas Infrastructure Group
1200	Lunch and Networking <i>During lunch, there will also be presentations from sponsors on the main stage.</i>
1245	Virtual Tour – <i>Malabar Wastewater Treatment Plant</i> Explore <i>Jemena's Malabar Wastewater</i> Treatment Plant and see anaerobic digestion in action. This virtual tour will highlight how wastewater is converted into biogas, reducing emissions while generating renewable energy. Presentation – <i>AD opportunities for WWTP operators</i> Based on Jemena's real-world experience, Michael Baker reflects on opportunities, benefits and pitfalls that NZ WWTP operators should be thinking about today, as they evaluate AD's potential. Gain insights into the technology, operational efficiencies, and the role of biogas in sustainable wastewater management. Michael Baker – Business Operations Manager, Jemena
1315	Panel Discussion 1 – <i>Low Hanging Fruit: Unlocking Quick Wins from Brownfield Biogas</i> With an estimated 5 PJ of readily available but undervalued biogas potential, existing wastewater treatment plants, landfills, and anaerobic digestion facilities offer fast, low-cost pathways to generate revenue, reduce ratepayer costs, and strengthen energy security. This panel will explore how councils and operators can turn compliance requirements into commercial opportunities, optimise existing infrastructure, and access funding or partnerships to de-risk and accelerate biogas development. Industry and local government leaders will share insights on navigating consent renewals and leveraging emerging technologies to maximise returns. Facilitator: James Irvine – Clarus Hamish Waugh – Manawatu District Council, Nathan Clarke – Nelson City Council, Michael Baker – Jemena, Jarrod Irving – LMS Energy
1415	Presentations – <i>Biogas carbon and its role in the infrastructure business case</i> Unpacking the carbon dynamics of biogas, exploring its full lifecycle from production to use. Learn how biogas reduces emissions, contributes to carbon offset strategies, integrates into sustainability frameworks, and underpins a waste management business case. We'll cover practical considerations for tracking, verifying, and maximising the value of biogas-related carbon benefits, and how to consider these aspects when evaluating competing proposals. Insa Errey – Bioenergy Association, Eleanor Grant – Beca Hear how the World Biogas Association's Anaerobic Digestion Certification Scheme International can interact with the NZ Emissions Trading Scheme, and aims to unlock carbon value for certified operators. Charlotte Morton – World Biogas Association
1515	Afternoon Break and Networking Sponsored by 

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1545	Virtual Tour – Ecogas Reporoa Take a behind-the-scenes look at New Zealand's first commercial-scale anaerobic digestion facility. This virtual tour of the Ecogas Reporoa plant will showcase how organic waste is transformed into renewable energy and valuable byproducts. Gain insights into the technology, operations, and real-world impact of a working biomethane facility, demonstrating the potential for similar projects across Aotearoa.
1600	Panel Discussion 2 – Empowering regions through circular solutions This panel will delve into how regional biogas facilities can scale New Zealand's biomethane output from 5 PJ to 12 PJ, driving sustainable growth. Experts will discuss the balance between viable scale and feedstock transport distance, and outline key building blocks for a strong business case. The session will highlight circular opportunities, including waste-to-energy and carbon emissions management, while addressing the cost of business-as-usual emissions, and export challenges. By looking beyond short-term financial cycles, we'll show how long-term decarbonisation, and anaerobic digestion can shape a sustainable future for regions and the environment. Facilitator: Richard Bartlett – <i>Biogrid Consulting</i> Andy Bedford – <i>Ecogas</i> , Ben Smith – <i>Turners & Growers</i> , Parul Sood – <i>Auckland Council</i> , Jack Ballagh – <i>Fonterra</i> , Stephen Troughton – <i>Nova Energy</i>
1700	Reflections on Day One Jeffrey Clarke – <i>Chief Executive, GasNZ</i>
1715	Networking event Sponsored by  Join us at the end of the day for drinks and nibbles while you reflect on the days discussions

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0900	Welcome from Day Two Chair David Hendry – <i>Head of Renewable Gas, Powerco</i>
0905	Spotlight Address – Perspectives on the Future of Gas in Aotearoa As the energy landscape continues to evolve, Powerco's GM of Gas, Don Elers, will share insights on the role of gas networks in enabling New Zealand's low-carbon transition. This session will offer a distributor's perspective on opportunities, challenges, and the importance of preparing infrastructure and strategy for a renewable gas future. Don Elers – <i>General Manager Gas, Powerco</i>
0925	Presentation – Understanding and securing feedstock supplies Part of a successful business case for any AD plant is a secure, affordable, long-term feedstock supply. How much do we know about feedstocks in NZ? How can we increase certainty and availability?
0935	Panel Discussion 3 – Unlocking Scale in the New Zealand Context – How do we do it? What are the conditions needed to enable 20 PJ of biomethane by 2050 in New Zealand? In this panel experts will focus on feedstock distribution and availability, and how to maximise the value of waste. The discussion will cover the role of technology, building a clear investment case, attracting investment, and identifying the necessary components and changes to support biomethane at scale. Facilitator: David Henry – <i>Powerco</i> Trevor Stuthridge – <i>Cetogenix</i> , Paul Bennett – <i>Scion</i> , Daniel Gnoth – <i>Ara Ake</i> , Grant Bourke – <i>NZ institution of Gas Engineers</i>
1030	Morning Break and Networking
1100	Panel Discussion 4 – Unlocking scale in the New Zealand context – Policy as an Enabler Scaling biomethane in New Zealand requires more than technology and investment – it demands the right policy settings. In this panel, representatives from NZTE and Gas Industry Company, and other key agencies will share their perspectives on the policy levers that can help unlock scale, and seek your suggestions for policy change. The discussion will focus on how regulation, market design, and government support can accelerate the development of a viable, domestic AD/biomethane industry – and why coordinated action now is critical to realising New Zealand's renewable gas potential. Facilitator: Jeffrey Clarke – <i>Gas NZ</i> Andrew Knight – <i>Gas Industry Company</i> , Chris Burgess – <i>NZTE/InvestNZ</i> , Denis Collins – <i>Ministry for Primary Industries</i>
1145	Presentation – Waste minimisation policy in practice The Waste Minimisation Fund is a key policy tool to reduce waste and increase the recovery of useful resources – including through anaerobic digestion and biomethane production. An overview of the fund and how it is enabling policy. Conrad Lendrum – <i>Ministry for the Environment</i>
1200	Lunch and networking

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1245	Presentation – Gas Roadmap to Net Zero 2050 GasNZ Principal Policy Advisor, Chase Hancock, will outline the industry's draft Gas Roadmap to Net-Zero by 2050 – a strategic blueprint for accelerating the decarbonisation of New Zealand's gas sector. This session will cover key transition drivers, the role of renewable gases like biomethane and hydrogen, and the policy and infrastructure shifts that would support a low-emissions energy future. Attendees will gain insight into the opportunities and challenges ahead, and how industry, government, and communities can work together to benefit from a secure, sustainable, and scalable gas transition.
1300	Panel Discussion 5 – Crossing the Bridge: A Call to Action As momentum builds, what needs to happen next to turn ambition into action? In this final panel, leaders from the Bioenergy Association of NZ, GasNZ, the World Biogas Association, and the Gas Industry Company will outline steps needed to accelerate the growth of renewable gas in New Zealand. This panel discussion will highlight shared priorities, immediate opportunities, and the coordinated actions required across industry, government, and communities to realise the full potential of biogas. It's not just about what we've heard – it's about what we do next. Facilitator: Alzbeta Bouskova Houghton – Ecogas Eleanor Grant – Bioenergy Association, Ben Gerritsen – GasNZ, Andrew Knight – Gas Industry Company, Charlotte Morton – World Biogas Association
1345	Reflections and Wrap-up Where to from here? David Hendry – Head of Renewable Gas, Powerco

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