

## METHANE MOVES: Give poos a chance

Carbon News 15 May 2019



Human waste plant in Accra, Ghana

### **Technologies like turning human waste into electricity could meet a large chunk of the Government's 2030 methane reduction target.**

The zero carbon bill sets targets of a reduction in biogenic methane of 10 per cent on 2017 levels by 2030, and 24 per cent to 47 per cent by 2050.

That means a drop of 3.3 million tonnes by 2030 and between 7.8mt and 15.6mt by 2050.

While the vast majority of New Zealand's biological methane emissions comes from agriculture (29.1mt in 2017), the Bioenergy Association says the emissions from waste could deliver a large part of the 2030 target.

In 2017, the sector was responsible for 3.991mt of methane emissions.

### **More time**

Bioenergy Association chief executive Brian Cox says that cost-effective technologies available now could cut those emissions substantially, giving the agricultural sector more time to find effective ways of reducing methane from livestock.

**"The Government is failing to look at these technologies which are proven, economic and can be achieved by 2030," he told Carbon News.**

"We're talking about things like turning sewage into electricity. It's already being done in Palmerston North and Whangarei, and has a payback time of three to four years.

The zero-carbon bill's biogenic methane target does not distinguish between emissions from waste and from animals.



**Brian Cox**

## Waste emissions

Data from the Ministry for the Environment shows that while methane emissions from the agricultural sector have risen just over 2mt a year since 1990 (the Kyoto Protocol baseline year), methane from the waste sector has been falling since 2005.

Year	Emissions (kt CO <sub>2</sub> e)		
	Agriculture	Waste	Biogenic methane
2017	29,141.06	3,991.97	33,133.03
2016	29,178.29	3,987.07	33,165.36
2015	29,512.96	4,053.51	33,566.47
2014	29,984.53	4,097.52	34,082.05
2013	29,706.24	4,167.08	33,873.32
2012	29,523.63	4,244.60	33,768.23
2011	28,891.84	4,303.81	33,195.65
2010	28,469.17	4,413.26	32,882.43
2009	28,452.04	4,516.16	32,968.20
2008	28,292.95	4,576.41	32,869.36
2007	29,360.90	4,633.85	33,994.75
2006	30,150.29	4,646.55	34,796.84
2005	29,977.36	4,722.45	34,699.81
2004	29,744.63	4,699.93	34,444.56
2003	29,741.49	4,677.88	34,419.37
2002	29,343.45	4,734.18	34,077.63
2001	29,556.18	4,687.22	34,243.40
2000	29,245.37	4,624.04	33,869.41
1999	28,454.81	4,551.13	33,005.94
1998	28,357.75	4,496.19	32,853.94
1997	28,981.19	4,442.33	33,423.52
1996	28,268.84	4,369.74	32,638.58
1995	28,011.78	4,281.53	32,293.31
1994	27,728.56	4,197.63	31,926.19
1993	26,876.23	4,247.63	31,123.86
1992	26,741.94	4,149.84	30,891.78
1991	27,228.63	4,045.73	31,274.36
1990	27,112.19	3,937.79	31,049.98

The Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Bill was introduced into Parliament last week and is due to have its first reading on May 21.

Story copyright © Carbon News 2019

--- ends ---