

Germany	Nicole Menzel
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<i>Institution</i>	Deutscher Verband für Landschaftspflege e.V. (DVL, Landcare Germany)
<i>Position</i>	Project leader of MULLE
<i>Field of work</i>	Biogas from landscape management material Project MULLE: "More landscaping material in existing biogas plants - multiplication of field-proven solutions for energy recovery of untapped potential from landscape management"

Experience

<i>About the feedstock, processing & conversion</i>	Landcare Germany (DVL) is the umbrella organization of at the moment 155 Landcare Associations (LCA) in Germany. These regional non-governmental associations link nature conservation groups with local farmers and local communities. Therefore the experiences about the material from landscape conservation and maintenance work is wide-ranging.
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The utilization of herbaceous material from typical landscape elements, like pastureland, marsh areas or grassland for biogas production competes with the use of this material as feed or litter for stables. Landcare Germany (DVL) makes sure that the use of this kind of biomass for livestock farming has priority over the use of biogas.

<i>Policies, finance tools and legal regulations</i>	The Renewable Energies Act (EEG) of 2014 eliminates the additional remuneration for renewable resources. Whether maize, clover grass or landscaping material - you will receive per kilowatt hour, only the basic salary to a maximum of 13.66 cents, with a rated power of 150 kW.
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The Biowaste Ordinance unsettle the biogas plant operators, so that partly they do not dare to use regionally accumulated landscaping material, in particular green cuttings, in the biogas plant. Loppings (green cuttings) from public and private areas are declared as waste (EEG/5.1), landscaping material from nature conservation and landscaping work not (BiomasseV Annex 3/5). There are uncertainties on the part of operators and authorities and many operators currently do not use these feedstocks.

<i>Difficulties & barriers</i>	At present, the substrate is not tested for hazardous substances. The feedstock is divided into groups e.g. corn as a renewable resource is not hazardous. Green waste is organic waste and the waste legislation must be complied. Whether the substance is actually contaminated, e.g. corn along a highway, is not examined.
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The main obstacle in the utilization of landscape material is the German Waste Management Law, because it declares green cuttings as waste. Biogas plants for landscaping material, e.g. from sports grounds etc., require different permission and must meet many requirements.

<i>Potential drivers & recommendations</i>	If this problem would disappear, more biogas plant operators would declare their willingness to ferment green cuttings.
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In an amendment to the EEG the focus should lie on remuneration for the energetic use of landscaping material.

To promote the use of landscape material in biogas plants test for harmful substances should be done in the digestate and not in the feedstock.

Also the provision of cheaper shredding technologies, like mobile shredding solutions, could make the material more attractive for biogas plants and increase its utilization.

Contact information

Interlink

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MULLE project & Advisory folder “From landscaping material to biogas”/DE