

Baltic Biogas Bus Newsletter

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The More Baltic Biogas Bus project is all about showcasing an increased availability of biogas as vehicle fuel, both through increased upgrading and more efficient use of biogas as fuel in public transport. One key step in the biogas bus development is to go hybrid. This was the topic of a More Baltic Biogas Bus conference in Bergen, Norway, on March 17th.

The main stage Baltic Biogas Bus project concluded that an increased efficiency in the use of biogas as fuel for buses is key to the continued success of green and clean public transports. Different hybrid solutions, pairing the environmental merits of biogas with the energy efficiency of electric motors, are a key step in this development.

On March 17th the Norwegian project partners HOG Energi and Skysst hosted a biogas hybrid bus conference in Bergen. The main focus was on operational experiences of biogas buses and the steps that lie ahead, focusing on biogas-electric hybrid buses to be tested within the extension stage More Baltic Biogas Bus.



Oddmund Sylta, Skysst, talked about the Van Hool buses to be tested on the streets of Bergen later this year.

To showcase different solutions the project feature investments in two different kinds of biogas-electric hybrid buses to be tested on the streets of Bergen, Norway and Västerås, Sweden. The whole process of procuring, implementing and testing the buses will be evaluated by the whole project partnership.



The 24-meter bi-articulated Van Hool biogas hybrid bus.

Skyss, which is the public transport authority in Bergen, has decided to invest in 24-meter bi-articulated serial hybrid buses from Belgian manufacturer Van Hool. The new Van Hool bus concept is called Exqui.City, pairing electric traction with a biogas engine, which generates power to the electric motor when battery capacity is insufficient. The biogas engine runs on a constant, optimized speed

(approx. 2200 rpm) further increasing the efficiency. The first out of two hybrid buses to be tested on the steep hills of Bergen is delivered in September of 2014.

In Västerås, the public transport authority Västerås Lokaltrafik has decided to invest in a more standard performance bus from Polish manufacturer Solaris. The 12-meter city bus is a biogas-electric hybrid, using electricity for propelling the bus, while the biogas is dedicated to on-board heating. Especially during winter times the heating requires as much as 50 per cent of the total energy input in the bus. By using renewable biogas for this, all of the 160 kW battery capacity is dedicated to propelling the bus, making the biogas heater an “indirect” range extender. The performance of the bus, which will be delivered in August of 2014, will also be compared with identical biogas buses from Solaris running the same routes.



Solaris Urbino 12-meter biogas electric bus to be tested in Västerås.

By testing and evaluating different biogas hybrid solutions and implementations, the project will get one step further on the way to sustainable public transport solutions with minimum impact on local environment and climate change in the Baltic Sea Region.

For more information on the Bergen event and other upcoming activities, please visit www.balticbiogasbus.eu.

Coming events:

Workshop, Tartu, Estonia, May 6th 2014

Event, Poland (location to be decided), June 2nd 2014

Final event, Kaunas, Lithuania, September 8th 2014