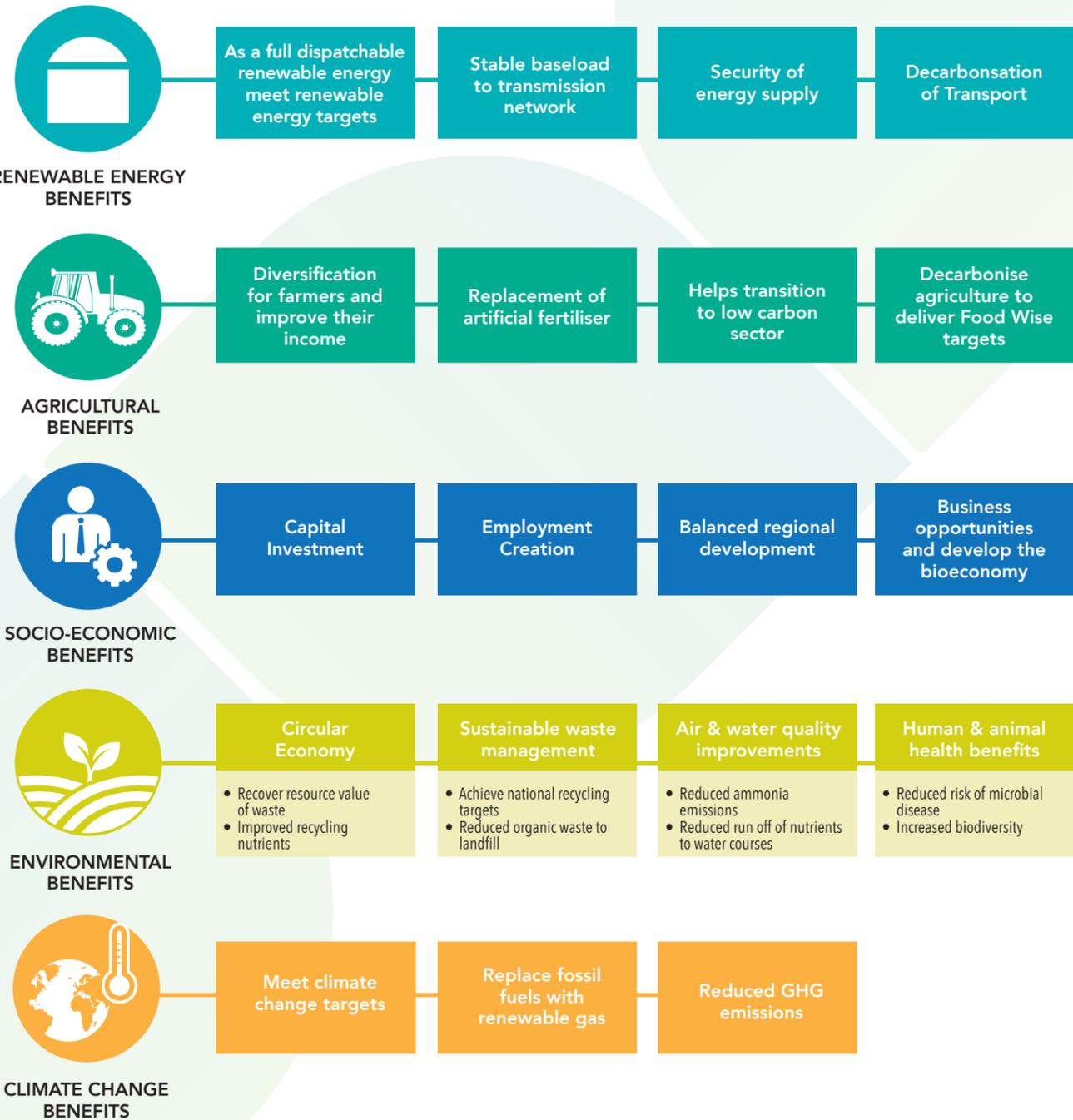


WHAT IS BIOGAS?

Anaerobic digestion (AD) technology produces a sustainable form of renewable energy through a naturally occurring biological process in which micro-organisms break down biodegradable material in the absence of oxygen in an enclosed system. The process produces a methane-rich biogas and a nutrient rich fertiliser known as 'digestate'. The biogas can be converted into renewable electricity for our homes and businesses or it can be upgraded to biomethane for use as a vehicle fuel or for injection directly into the gas network to provide a source of renewable heat.

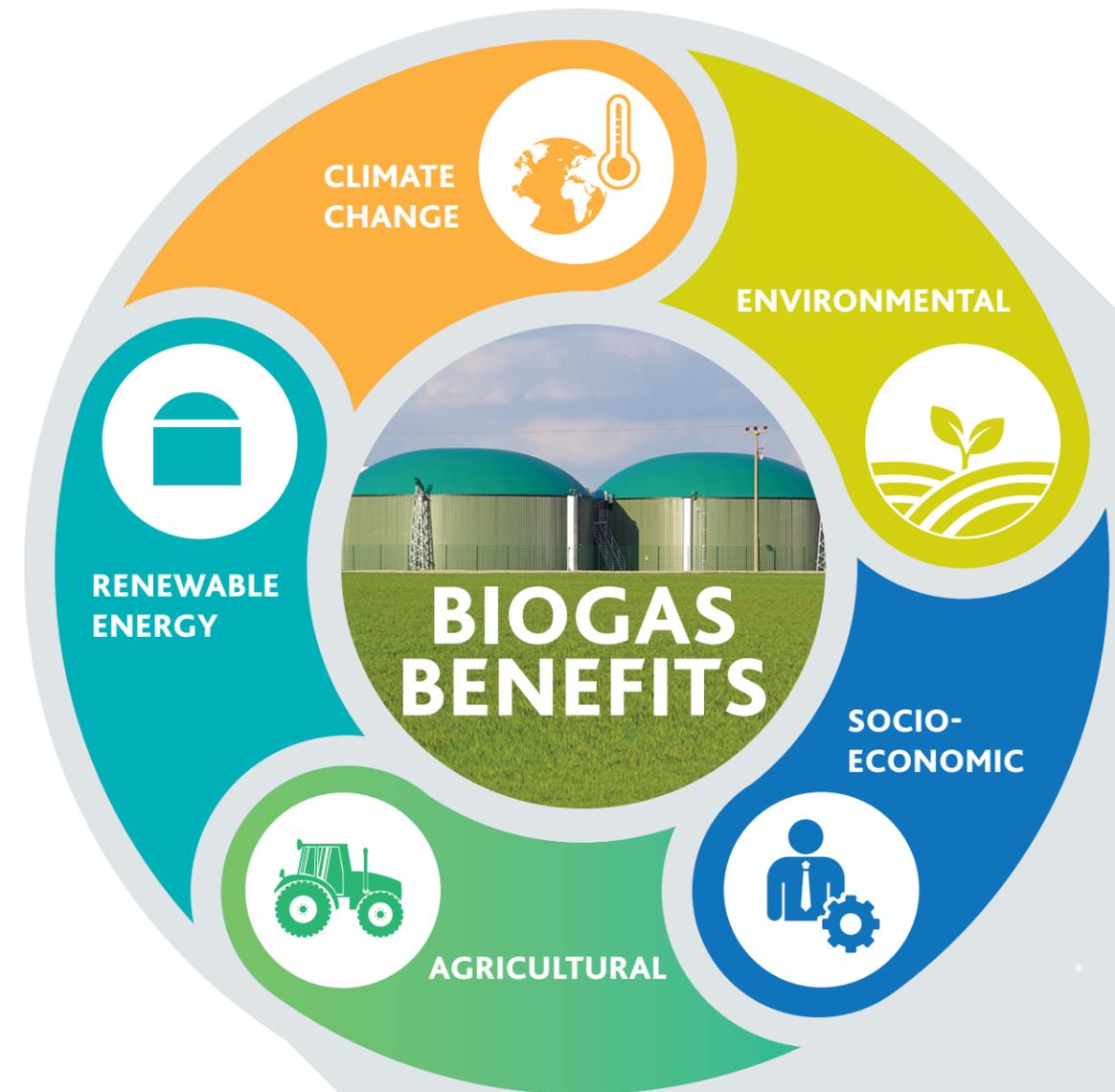
BENEFITS OF BIOGAS



This is a summary version of a detailed biogas policy document developed jointly between IrBEA and Cré which can be downloaded from www.irbea.org & www.cre.ie

BIOGAS SUPPORT SCHEME – SUMMARY DOCUMENT

MOBILISING AN IRISH BIOGAS INDUSTRY WITH POLICY & ACTION





Consultation – Members, Farm Organisations, Semi State sector, Statutory bodies.

Joint policy paper developed for Biogas Support Scheme

Objective - Mobilise 1.6TWh of Biomethane set out in the Government Climate Action Plan

Phased approach between 2020 to 2030

Other phases to follow between 2020 and 2030

Initial Phase in 2020

65MW Biomethane Equivalent in initial Phase

Vision

In the medium term 1.6Twh / 200MW of biogas would be incentivised on a phased basis over several years by provision of a biomethane support scheme from government.

Our document outlines a proposal to support 65MW of Biomethane in a first initial phase.

Deployment of 65MW of biomethane supported in a first phase will diversify land use, create 400 jobs, abate 500,000 tonnes of CO₂ annually, develop the agricultural circular economy, develop closed nutrient loops, reduce greenhouse gas emissions across many sectors including agriculture, transport, heat and electricity, support sustainable waste management and intensify agriculture and develop the bioeconomy.

65MW biomethane (Equivalent to 25MW electrical AD- 50% of budget for REFIT 3)

Type of Plant	Size of Plant (MW)	Number of Plants Over Next 5 years	Rate (x cents) Support Required
Manure/Grass Silage	1.25	17	9
Agri Food Industrial	4	5	7
Food Waste	8	3	6

Delivered through 25 centralised and strategically located medium to large scale biogas plants spread across the country in proximity to the gas grid

Potential Carbon Dioxide Saving per year – c. 500,000 tonnes

Creates approx 400 jobs

Support: €40 million Support Scheme Budget required

Mission:

To mobilise a biogas industry in the short term by setting out the clear policy decisions and actions required to realise the potential which exists for an Irish biogas industry.

Key Agriculture Aspects

- Biogas complementing food production and addressing agriculture emissions
- Promoting reduced use of chemical fertilisers
- Farm diversification
- Feedstock through increased grass production & using manures
- Biogas assisting farmers in a fodder shortage

Funding Options:

- Public Service Obligation Levy on Fossil Gas to create a Biogas Fund
- Whole of Government Approach to create a Biogas Fund
- Ring fencing Carbon Taxes for a Biogas Industry

Others options

- Tax Breaks, Low Interest Loans, the Biofuels Obligation Scheme, Renewable Electrical Support Scheme