# Re-thinking sustainability: adapting EU legislation to the green transition

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**5th DiBiCoo Web Seminar Series: 'SUSTAINABLE BIOGAS PRODUCTION AND USE'**

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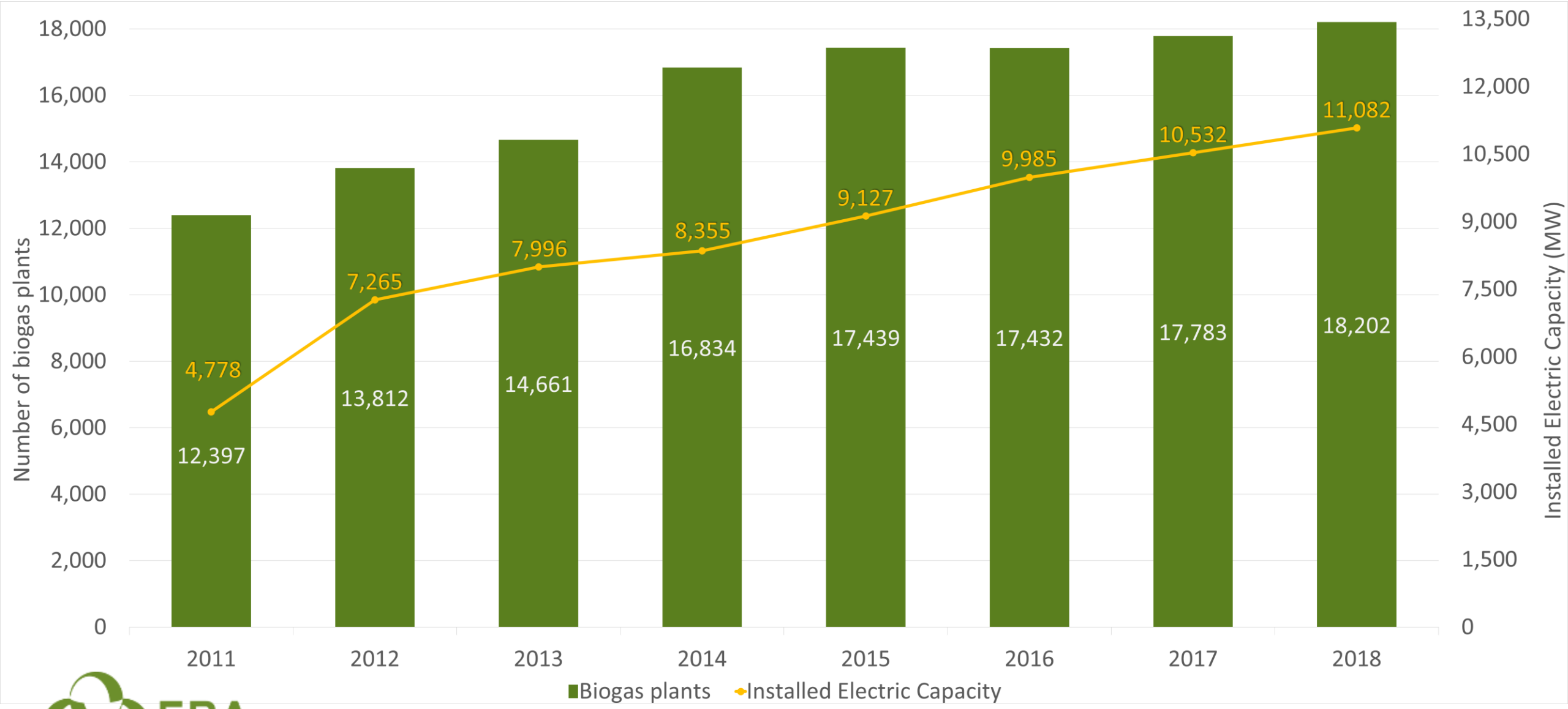
# European Biogas Association (EBA)

## EBA

- 38 National Biogas Associations
- ~ 100 Companies and research institutes
- 28 countries in Europe
- >7000 stakeholders
- >70,000 Jobs – potential of 200,000–275,000 direct jobs in AD by 2050

# Development of the total biogas IEC in Europe set against the total number of biogas plants

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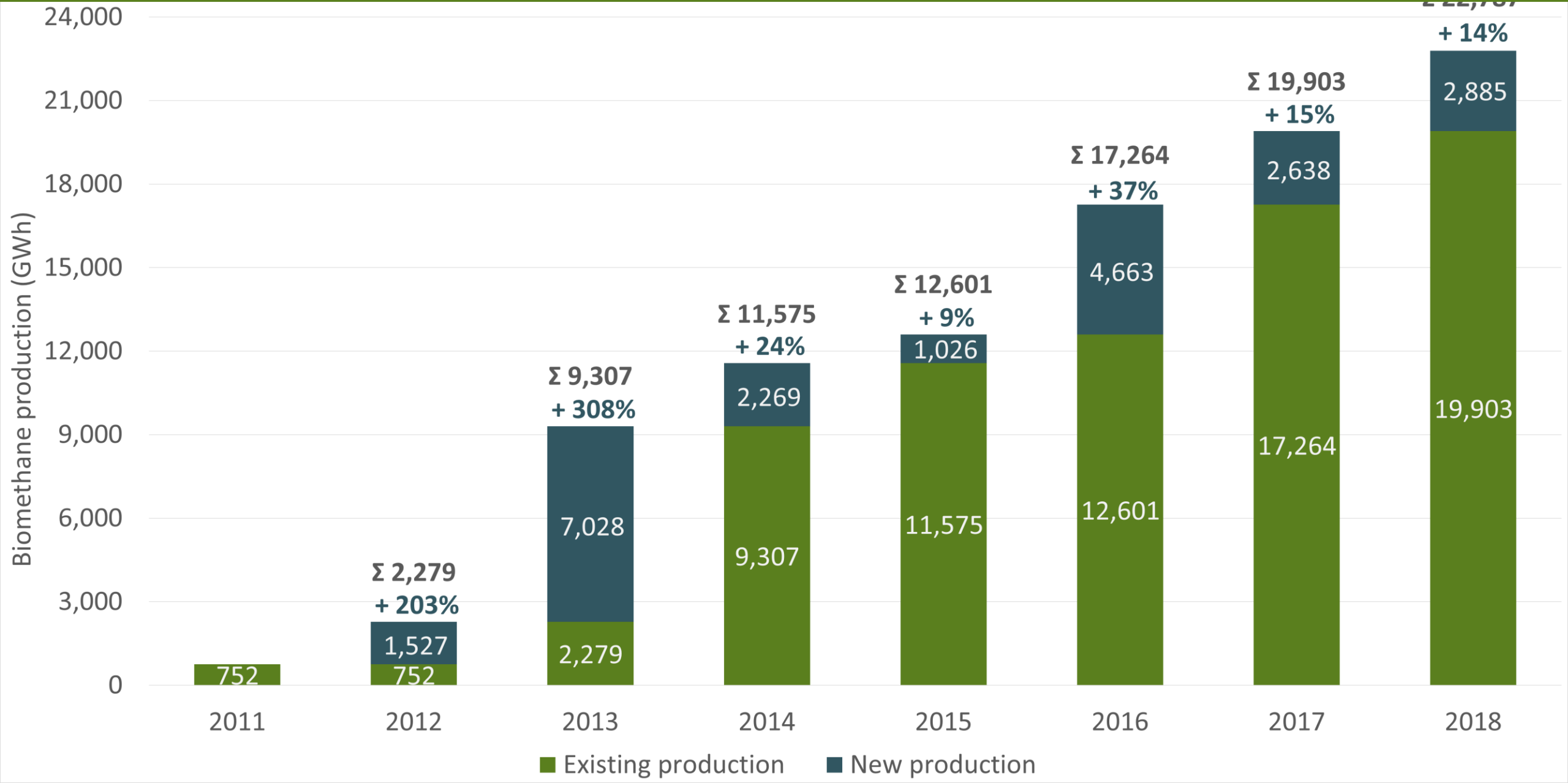
Source: EBA statistical report 2019

# Development of European biomethane production in GWh



# EU's climate ambition

- 2020 targets (set in 2007, in legislation in 2009) – headline targets for or smart, sustainable and inclusive growth

  - 20% cut in greenhouse gas emissions (from 1990 levels)
  - 20% of EU energy from renewables
  - 20% improvement in energy efficiency
- 2030 targets (under review) - driving progress towards a climate-neutral economy
  - 55% cuts in greenhouse gas emissions (from 1990 levels)
  - At least 32% share for renewable energy – *under review*
  - At least 32.5% improvement in energy efficiency – *under review*
- 2050 – climate neutrality – net zero greenhouse gas emissions

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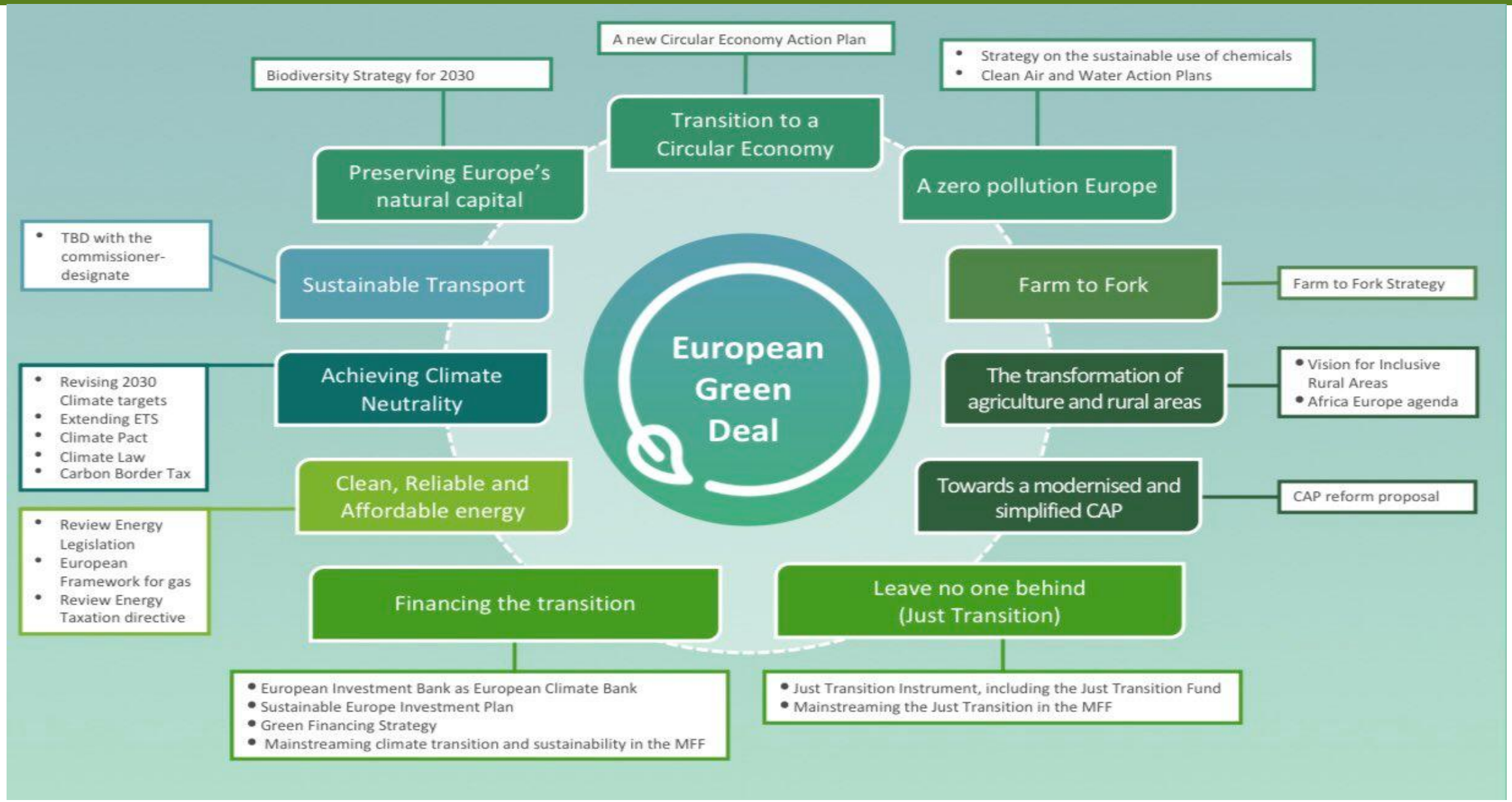
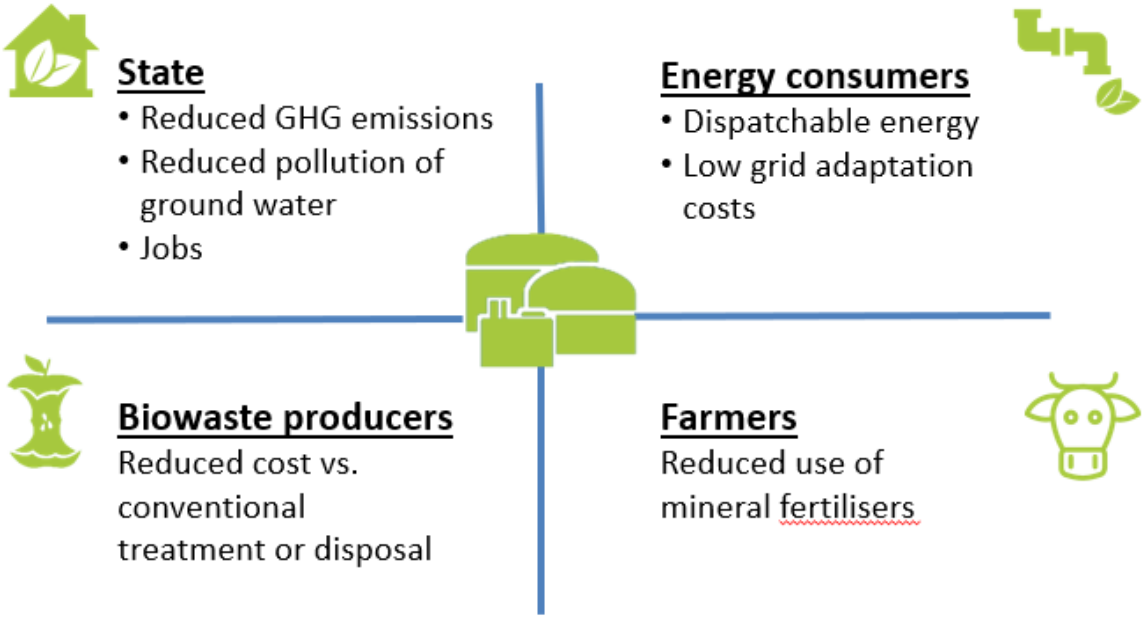
# European Green deal – on the way to the first climate-neutral continent



# What is the contribution of biogas?




*Source: ENEA Consulting, Revue des externalités positives de la filière biométhane, 2019*

But we must also value:

Soil health

Biodiversity

Self sufficiency

Storability

Flexibility

Etc.

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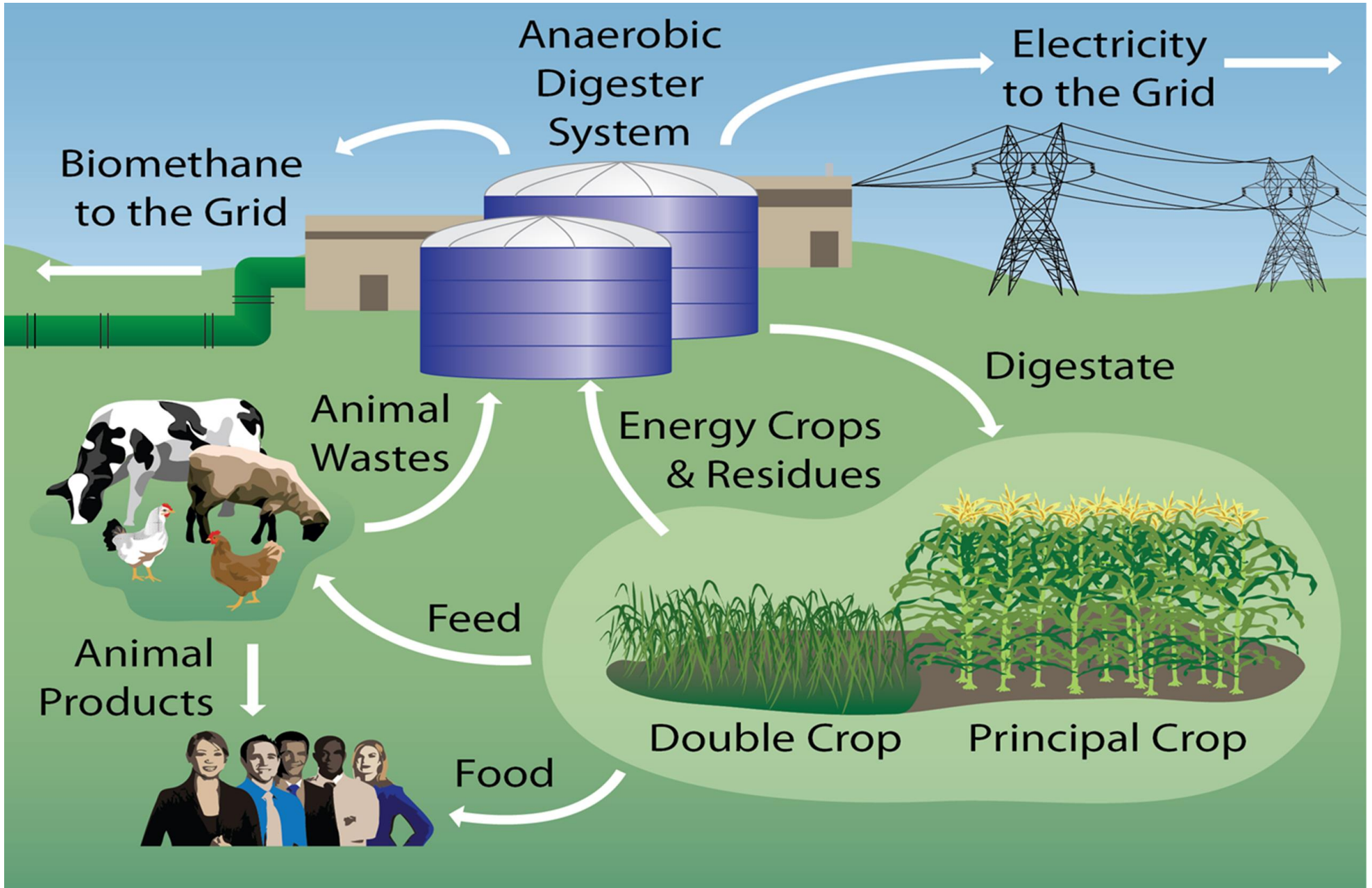
# Example of sustainable bioenergy production on farms




- Sequential cropping: harvesting two crops instead of one on the same field in a single year
- Nutrients being recycled back to the field through biogas digestate

Source: CIB – Consorzio Italiano Biogas

# The future of gas in carbon-neutral Europe


- The biomethane potential in Europe by 2050: 1170 TWh
- Expectation by 2030 with right policies in place: 370 TWh
- Main uses: heavy transport & maritime transport

Source: Gas for Climate 2020

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# Conclusions

- Important to **adopt a whole system approach:** biogas is more than energy – must understand the synergies with agriculture and a circular economy

- The scope of **sustainability** should be kept broader that encompasses not only carbon emissions reduction but also other environmental, economic, social and public health benefits such as better air quality, resource efficiency, waste recycling and reduced resource depletion, etc.

- **Bioeconomy** should not only provide renewable energy, but it should also offer solutions for healthy and secure ecosystems for people as well as all animal and plant species.

- **→ Biogas will play a key role in helping Europe's transition (and can help also other parts of the world!) to a clean energy system with a genuinely resource-efficient and circular economy.**

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# Thank you!

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