

## **Enabling and governing transitions to a low-carbon society: the impact of conflicting interests for development of biogas**

In order to meet the ambitious objectives set in climate policies modern societies must accomplish a transition towards low carbon energy systems. Transition of the path-dependent, socio-technical regimes in the energy system is a governance challenge since transitions need to occur simultaneously in different arenas, involving different actor networks. The interests, resources and interaction patterns of these actors affect the development of new energy technologies and not least whether new technologies transform into *sustainable* energy systems. Thus, multiple interests may be attached to an emerging technology, including commercial, environmental, climate and organizational interests which may or may not be compatible. The project '*Conflicting interests: What are the implications for novel biofuel technologies?*' – therefore analyzes how actor networks affect the integration of multiple policy objectives to ensure sustainable development of bioenergy. This includes integration of policy objectives horizontally across sectors and vertically across different levels of governance from EU through to local actors. Subproject F focuses on biofuels as a key component of European and Danish emerging energy sources; the current project analyzes development of biogas in Denmark.

Department of Environmental Science, Aarhus University contributed with an analysis of actor networks, competing interests and resources and their effect on development of biogas as a sustainable source of energy.

The project applies primarily qualitative methodologies, such as process tracing and content analysis using documents and interviews as data.

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