

# Achieving green gas

Municipality of Bourg en Bresse, France

Supply of biogas from renewable and high efficiency sources



Headquarter of Bourg en Bresse agglomération

Standard product /  
old tender:  
Standard offer with  
fossil gas (no  
biogas) for 12  
500 MWh/year

GPP tender :  
3 % share of  
biogas in the  
tender

Results  
• 375 MWh  
biogas/year  
• 78 tCO<sub>2</sub>  
(expected savings  
per year)

## Introduction to case

### 1.1 PITCH-TALK

For the first time in France a joint procurement located around Bourg en Bresse inserted green specifications about gas in a procurement. A share of 3 % biogas has been obtained with guaranties of origin and almost without any overall additional cost.

### 1.2 CASE CONTENT AND CASE ISSUE

The opening of the energy markets within gas procurement in France gave way for other companies that offers fossil gas. However energy procurements is only rising with slow pace. Most buyers were, and some still are, afraid of not having an adequate supply. Furthermore elected feared, for their part, too high cost. It appeared in reality that a supplier was able to offer up to 3% biogas with a very small additional cost through savings induced by the lower cost of the overall contract (very high reduction of the price for fossil part).

This gas procurement is otherwise in a context where buyers in France are increasingly willing to consider sustainable development in all their procurements. The opening of energy markets was an opportunity trying to diversify energy sources by purchasing a share of renewable gas.

### 1.3 SOLUTION APPLIED

To take the least risk, Bourg en Bresse joint procurement authorized its suppliers to propose variants compared to fossil offer. Thus, one of the worlds largest petroleum companies, Total, made an offer with 3% biomethane in particularly advantageous financial conditions. For cons, the joint procurement was not obliged to follow if this alternative was too expensive and therefore this legal tool (variant) guaranteed to Bourg en Bresse to be sure to have gas, whatever the result of the consultation. Hence, the main conclusion of this first green gas procurement is that the variant clearly appeared as an excellent tool to reduce the risks and be sure to succeed without any additional cost.

## Contract tendered

- a) Tender for natural gas with 1 to 3 % of biogas, tendered by the agglomeration of Bourg en Bresse (6 municipalities in a joint procurement). Details : Annual consumption 12 500 MWh (total volume of the contract)
- b) Total cost around 2 500 k€/year
- c) Type of procedure : open
- d) Type of contract : supply
- e) Nature of contract : framework contract (joint procurement of Bourg en Bresse agglomeration)
- f) Lot :1 (biogas)
- g) Variant open to a share of biogas between 1 to 3%



## Procurement objectives

Find a new offer with a share of biogas (1 to 3 %)

This example is particularly innovative in France where it was the first time (thanks to Primes) where a public body asked for a share of biogas in its fossil energy procurement

It was the first (successful) green gas procurement in France

Reducing CO2 was the main objective but indirectly also supporting the local biogas producers

LCC wasn't addressed in this first procurement with green gas.

## Procurement approach

Single lot :	
<b>Technical specifications</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Share of biogas (from 1 to 3 %)</li><li>- Tool (by Internet) to manage energy consumptions</li><li>- Annual review report</li><li>- Support for the relations with grid operator</li></ul>	<b>Award criteria</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Technical : 90 %</li><li>- Environmental : 10 % (share of biogas, guarantee of origin)</li></ul>

NB: the price wasn't an award criteria at this stage of the framework agreement but in a second step.

Formally, the procurement was a gas supply procurement, but thanks to a variant solution the procurement opened up for the possibility of including biogas. The bidders knew from the beginning that 10% of the point would be given to projects with a high environmental potential (e.g. a share of biogas with guarantee of origin).

## Criteria development

The policymakers of the city have been interested in sustainable development for many years (there's a SEAP in Bourg en Bresse), therefore, they wished to buy biogas.

The technicians were intensively invited to the different regional meetings about green energy procurements managed by RAEE in the framework of Primes. In this way it got easier for them to convince their local politicians and to write their procurement. People were also interested in the comparison done by RAEE between the different European energy labels and their environmental specifications. It opened, for them and our regional partners, new perspectives to enlarge green energy procurement beyond renewable energy, while taking environmental and social specifications into consideration.

Before tendering, Bourg en Bresse had a discussion with several energy producers to ensure that a steady delivery of biogas was possible. The adequate discussion, which owed thanks to the regional meetings managed by RAEE, also contributed to a regional culture and knowledge about this new topic in France.

## Results

	t CO <sub>2</sub> e/year	Energy consumption toe/year
Low Carbon Solution	2 532	1 043
Last Tender/or „worst case“	2 610	1 075
<b>Total savings</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>32</b>

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## Lessons learned

- Work progressively. Step by step, finishing one task before starting the next.
- The first tender wasn't a problem, because of the level of interest. Many different actors contributed.
- Start out by convincing the politicians
- Work intensively with the technicians
- Assess the replicability of the approach – success factors for replication; is this case relevant for others? Who is it relevant for?

Main conditions: Manage regional meetings, provide technical specifications, and be as close as possible to the technicians to help them to write.

## Contact

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## About PRIMES

Across six countries in Europe; Denmark, Sweden, Latvia, Croatia, France and Italy, PRIMES project seeks to help municipalities overcome barriers in GPP processes, many of which lack capacity and knowledge.

PRIMES aims to develop basic skills and provide hands-on support for public purchasing organisations in order to overcome barriers and implement Green Public Purchasing. This will consequently result in energy savings and CO<sub>2</sub> reductions. – [www.primes-eu.net](http://www.primes-eu.net)



## About GPP 2020

GPP 2020 aims to mainstream low-carbon procurement across Europe in support of the EU's goals to achieve a 20% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, a 20% increase in the share of renewable energy and a 20% increase in energy efficiency by 2020.

To this end, GPP 2020 will implement more than 100 low-carbon tenders, which will directly result in substantial CO<sub>2</sub> savings. Moreover, GPP 2020 is running a capacity building programme that includes trainings and exchange. – [www.gpp2020.eu](http://www.gpp2020.eu)



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