

# DAFM Comments on the Southern Regional Assembly

- Any consideration that is made in relation to energy and anaerobic digestion also examines the bioeconomy potential for producing biobased chemicals and biobased materials. This paper that Jerry Murphy from MaREI UCC has prepared is useful in this respect - [https://www.ieabioenergy.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/anaerobic-digestion\\_web\\_END.pdf](https://www.ieabioenergy.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/anaerobic-digestion_web_END.pdf).
- The RSES should reference the <https://www.smartagrihubs.eu/regional-cluster/uk-and-ireland> that is led by Hazel Williams of Waterford IT. This Regional Cluster (RC) will act as a one-stop-shop for farmers, advisors, technology providers and agri-food companies who want to avail of technology solutions from across Europe to farming as well as business problems.
  - RPO 89: CNG Refuelling stations and TEN-T – DAFM welcomes the extension to include EV charging stations and that for Agri-food industry transportation CNG will be the most appropriate and to note that the Low Emission Vehicles (LEV) Taskforce is due to report shortly.
  - RPO100: Energy Storage Carbon Capture – DAFM welcomes the recognition of the role of sustainable forestry to support carbon sequestration but should also highlight the importance of better management of peatlands and soils as a carbon sink.
  - RPO 217: Gas Networks – DAFM welcomes the support for the sustainable development of the agricultural biogas sector and should recognise the important role that the sector plays in the supply of a range of bioenergy feedstocks.

Specifically, with respect to RPO 90, some revised wording is proposed in red:

**MATERIAL AMENDMENT 43 EXPLANATORY NOTE:** The proposed amendments to **RPO 90: Decarbonisation in the Agricultural Sector** seeks to strengthen the policy on decarbonisation in the agricultural sector. It is proposed to insert an additional point for **RPO 90: Decarbonisation in the Agricultural Sector** and to amend its presentation:

It is an objective to support initiatives **that advance an approach to** carbon neutrality for agriculture and land-use, that does not compromise sustainable food production through: i) programmes including the Green Low- Carbon Agri-environment Scheme (GLAS) and the Beef Data and Genomics Programme (BDGP) under Ireland’s Rural Development Programme 2014-2020.

31 ii) support for the Departments of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, and Communications Climate Action and Environment to enhance the competitiveness of the agriculture sector with an urgent need for mitigation to reduce GHGs as well as adaptation measures. **The All-of-Government Plan on Climate Action and the sectoral adaptation plan will guide actions in this area.**