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The Life **ECODigestion** project aims to validate an innovative technology of automatic dosage for organic waste in anaerobic digesters of WWTP. This technology will allow to optimize the generation of biogas - renewable energy – in order to contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gases emissions by recycling agri-food industry waste.

The main result of **ECODigestion** is to maximize the co-digestion potential of sewage sludge with different organic waste by combining experimental techniques and mathematical tools.



AGUAS DE VALENCIA drives the electrical consumption reduction in WWTP encouraging power generation.



Vicente Fajardo, Director of the Sanitation area of AGUAS DE VALENCIA participated in the Conference organized in Cantabria on "The efficiency and the quality of the water" on March 20.

In particular, the participation of AGUAS DE VALENCIA GROUP, the Valencian company chaired by Eugenio Calabuig, focused on depicting what the main work lines are to ensure effectiveness and sustainability in water management.

The Government of Cantabria, through its company **MARE**, wanted to attract all managers linked to the Water Cycle management and to share strategies to meet with solvency short and medium term challenges that water management faces.

Project of electrical consumption reduction: LIFE Project **ECOdigestion**

One of the main work lines implemented is to promote electricity generation from the biogas produced in the anaerobic digestion in all wastewater treatment plants operated by the Valencian company. That is, to enhance the generation of biogas and methane enrichment from co-digestion processes.

In this way, it helps to generate electricity to achieve the EU commitment to reach a minimum quota of 20 percent of energy from renewable sources. In particular, this recommendation is included in the Directive 2009/28/ EC including the target power generation 180 GWh/year from WWTP sludge in 2020.

Interview to Mónica Mallavia Palacios, Water Manager at MARE

The Public Company **Environment, Water, Waste and Energy of Cantabria**, commonly known as **MARE**, is responsible for managing all the environmental tasks entrusted by the regional government.



Heading **MARE** Water Board is Monica Mallavia Palacios, who reveals in this interview not only the main data of this public company, but also how to manage a public resource like water in the Autonomous Community of Cantabria.

The territory management, wastewater treatment, management and treatment of municipal solid waste and energy recovery of waste are the main activities of MARE. In the field of water and its quality control, MARE is in charge of the management of the sanitation and treatment systems, dealing with the operation of almost a hundred water facilities and carrying out studies of the quality of the treated water and the environment, both in inland waters such as intertidal, in order to improve their sanitation and treatment systems.

The role of research and innovation in MARE, has acquired a great importance, leading or currently participating in various European and national projects, outstanding the **ECOdigestion** project, which aims to maximize the production of renewable energy in the form of biogas which contributes to large-scale reduction of greenhouse gases emissions by recycling waste from the agri-food industry.



AGUAS DE VALENCIA presents at AEAS its initiative to optimize the management of bioenergetic resources from its wastewater treatment plants

From 28 to 30 April, the Spanish Association of Water Supply and Sanitation (AEAS) held the XXXIII Edition of the AEAS Technical Conference, where *Aguas de Valencia Group presented the project for the management, optimization and reuse of bioenergy resources.*

The wastewater deputy manager of the Group, which participated in the presentation, Dr. Gloria Fayos, confirmed that *"the sustainable management that Aguas de Valencia applies to wastewater treatment aims energy optimization, reuse of resources and reducing greenhouse gases emissions."*

The Aguas de Valencia Group is involved in various national and European projects: the Clima Project (2012-2016), the Clima Project (2013-2017), and the Life + **ECOdigestion** project, financed by the European Union which will last for 36 months. On the latter, Gloria Fayos said, *"this project is the international recognition of an R&D strategy that the Aguas de Valencia Group have been developing for several years. In short, to become more efficient and self sufficient in our management of water and energy resources is our best contribution to the environment and society, as evidenced by the fact of the drastic reduction of greenhouse gases emissions achieved with this proposal"*. On the other hand, Dr. Fayos, regarding the reduction of emissions of gases and to acting against climate change that involves the production of renewable energy said, *"the ability to generate energy without contributing to climate change is a reality that European Directives include and for us that is a priority that we incorporate into our daily management."*

The Kick-off meeting in Valencia joins the team responsible for the development of the project

On 12 February took place the **kick-off meeting** at the headquarters of AGUAS DE VALENCIA. This event brought together the project team, each of the participating companies, **EGEVASA**, **MARE** and **AVSA**, who briefly presented their organizations to the rest of partners and then put together the current state of development of the project.





The ECOdigestion project wins the EFIAQUA 2015 Innovation Award

The Life+ **ECOdigestion** project integrated by Aguas de Valencia, EGEVASA and MARE, has been distinguished by the jury of the International Trade Fair of Water, EFIAQUA, with the innovation recognitions that have taken place during the celebration of this event. According to the Project Manager Gloria Fayos: the **Innovation Award** "is the recognition of a complete R & D strategy", in order to be "more efficient and self-sufficient" in the management of water resources and "to contribute to the environment and society".

From left to right: Gonzalo Belenguer, Manuel García Portillo (President of Tecnidex and the Trade Fairs for the Environment and Energy), María José Tárrega and Tatiana Montoya.



AGUAS DE VALENCIA presented its commitments and management challenges at EFIAQUA 2015.



From the 20th to the 22th of October, took place in Valencia the International Trade Fair for the Efficient Management of Water, EFIAQUA. It is a forum in which all the areas for which the water is a strategic resource are represented, such as the business community, administration, farmers, technology companies, laboratories, equipment manufacturers, water and wastewater or desalination managers. This fair is jointly held with the International Trade Fair of Environmental Solutions and the Trade Fair of Energies, being a perfect setting for the presentation of the GRUPO AGUAS commitments and management challenges, such as its environmental commitment and its efficient energy management.

Gloria Fayos (Director of the wastewater area of GRUPO AGUAS) presented at the round table "Water Treatment: present and future" the commitments and management challenges of the wastewater area, including among other projects in the area, the Life+ **ECOdigestion** and Life+ ADNATUR projects.





Project partners

Aguas de Valencia focuses managing the Integrated Water Cycle, developing complementary lines that create synergies to optimize water supply, sewerage, wastewater treatment and solid waste management.

Currently it attends a total population of 2,000,000 inhabitants and one of its immediate goals is to extend this management in other regions, with the active participation of more than 1,100 professionals. To do this, new solutions are analyzed to include new services that meet customers and the Group needs.

Its environmental policy wants to display its respect and commitment to the Environment, Energy efficiency and Innovation in each of its areas of activity, and this has been certified by AENOR for Management Systems Environment (ISO 14001), Energy (ISO 50001) and R & D (UNE 166002).

MARE is a public company of Government of Cantabria, and ascribed to the Department of Environment, dedicated to environmental tasks, such as territory management, wastewater treatment, management and treatment of domestic solid waste, and energy recovery of waste. With a workforce of 322 employees and developing their objectives over the 5,000 km² of the territory in the Community of Cantabria, it is responsible for operating a network of 28 wastewater treatment plants to guarantee the recovery of water after urban/industrial use in order to minimize the impact on the region's environment.

EGEVASA manages up to 260 of the 443 treatment plants of the Valencian Community.

With an experience of over two decades in the treatment of wastewater it has extensive experience in physical, chemical and biological processes of the WWTP. The company is committed to R&D to implement innovative solutions to the main problems encountered in the operation of the WWTP. In this respect, it has managed to be the first company of Valencia certified by the National Standard Management System R & D + i, 166002 besides being certified by ISO 9001, ISO 14001 and OHSAS 18001.

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