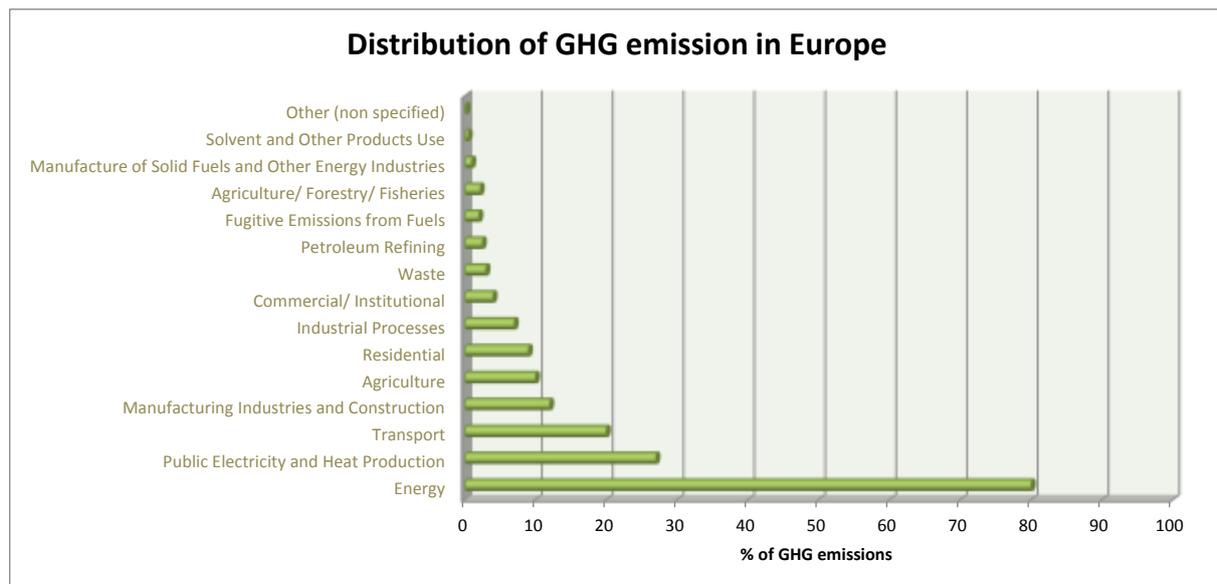


PRESS RELEASE

European collaborative project announces liquid and fuel gas production using olive industry waste

Fossil fuels are the most common energy source nowadays. As a whole, they account for more than 85% of the primary energy consumption in the world. However, these fuels have major problems such as their restricted geographical availability as a resource, price variability, and environmental impact among others. This environmental impact is measured in thousand millions of tons of equivalent CO₂/year. The figure below shows how the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions derived from the usage of fossil fuels are produced in different European fields of professional activity.



In recent years, an important effort has been made in the European Union in order to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions like the European Climate Change Programme (ECCP), the EU Emissions Trading System, or the Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS). One of the main fields of GHG emissions in Europe is the agricultural one, accounting for almost a 10% of the total European GHG emissions. The European olive industry, which accounts for an important part of the agricultural production in the European Union, represents almost the 70% of the olive industry around the world. Approximately 8-9% of the total agricultural land and 40% of the agricultural holdings of Spain, Italy and Portugal are used for olive farming, being these figures as high as 20% and 60% in countries like Greece.

In October 2013, a three year project undertaken via the European research Framework Program FP7 started. This project gathers experts from 8 different entities and 8 different European countries, among which it is possible to find the main olive industry European countries. The European funded FUEL FROM WASTE (FFW) project seeks, as one of its main objectives, for the use of biofuels as a solution to reduce emissions.

The FFW project therefore focuses in the European olive industry residues with the purpose of coproducing synthetic natural gas and diesel fuel using these waste products as raw material.

- The produced diesel will be used as fuel for the machines and vehicles required for the gathering and transportation of olives within the facilities of the olive oil industry and/or for the subsequent transportation of the product. In any case, the diesel fuel obtained will fulfill the specifications of commercial diesel opening for a wide range of other uses.
- Synthetic natural gas will be used for heating in the very fuel production and olive oil production facilities.

Both alternatives will appoint for a significant reduction of the overall olive industry I emissions, and using the residues as a raw material for fuel production would eliminate the need for its treatment, doubly reducing the environmental impact.

The achievements and project outcomes of the FFW project can be followed at www.fuelfromwaste.eu, where anyone can subscribe to the project's newsletters. Any news/information related to workshops and conferences dealing with the project can also be downloaded directly from this website.