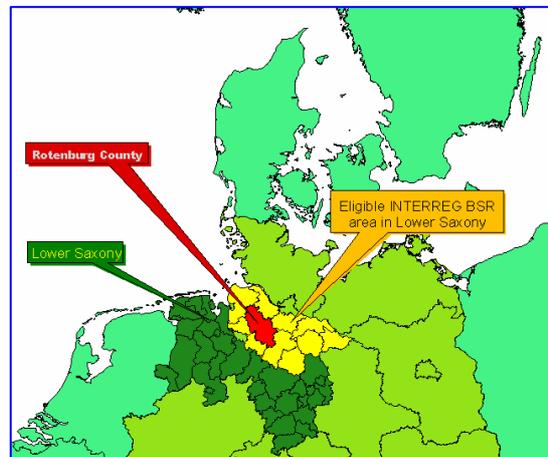


## Bioenergy: Rotenburg (W.) County Initiative for Innovation and Cooperation

Rotenburg (W.) County, a north German region of rural character, located between Bremen and Hamburg, has a high potential for bioenergy. But unlike wind power, hydropower and solar power, the use of bioenergy is still in the early stages. However, bioenergy is, in today's perspective, a regenerative energy carrier with excellent potential for both the economy and ecology.



The strengthening of the regional economy and, thus, of our rural area through a goal-oriented and regionally adapted development of the use of bioenergy, forms the central element of the Rotenburg (W.) County Bioenergy Initiative for Innovation and Cooperation.

First of all, the focus is on the creation of a network of stakeholders, active in all fields of renewable energy – biogas, wood, biofuel, but also solar, hydro and wind power. Against a background of increasing complexity in this area, the networking of involved groups also brings with it the creation of a competence network.



Along with regional added-value chains – from biomass production in agriculture and forestry to the construction and operation of energy plants and ending with energy supply, new jobs and sources of income can become unlocked.

It is the goal of the Bioenergy Initiative for Innovation and Cooperation to promote a regionally adapted development of bioenergy, to encourage suitable partners to join in and, therefore, to accelerate the implementation of projects while at the same time avoiding any undesirable development.

***The following core areas are under development through individual project teams:***

### Regional wood energy concept and biogas cooperation

#### Goal:

Supply of heat/cooling energy for commerce and industry as well as public services (with increased heat demand) through heat plants/CHPs or heat from biogas plants

#### Course of the project:

- contacts/discussions with potential consumers of heat/cooling energy
- assessment of technical data and annual consumption figures
- visits to the local area
- performance and part-financing of financial calculations (through external experts)
- assessment of quantitative fuel demand, assistance to pricing procedures (without interference in market competition!)

## Inputs and outputs of biogas plants

### 1. Goal:

Utilisation of continuous grassland for biogas production as an alternative to maize creating a symbiosis of biogas and milk production

### Course of the project:

- collection of representative figures and experience on biogas from grassland utilization (only limited data available at present)
- field trials on grassland to obtain regionally specific data about biogas yields
- economic calculations with a focus on feasibility with short transport distances

### 2. Goal:

Processing of fermentation residues, e.g. for reduction of water content

### Course of the project:

- Treatment of fermentation residues = dehydration through filtration to obtain “introducible” water
- presentation of a technical fermentation residue treatment process such as vacuum evaporation
- visit to a reference plant in Angermünde (Brandenburg),

## Analysis of the regional potential of renewables in Rotenburg (W.) County.

Since April 2009, the project is linked with the EU-INTERREG IV Baltic Sea Region Project “BIOENERGY PROMOTION”, where Rotenburg (W.) County acts as an associated partner, cooperating with BIOENERGY PROMOTION project partner Chamber of Agriculture Lower Saxony (Landwirtschaftskammer Niedersachsen) – Forestry Department. Please find more information about BIOENERGY PROMOTION under [www.bioenergypromotion.net](http://www.bioenergypromotion.net) .



### Goals and course of the project:

Assessment of significant biomass resources from

- tops, branches, roots
- non-productive forest land such as forest edges, power line tracks
- coppicing and coppice removal in nature reserves
- hedgerows (landscape maintenance)
- short rotation coppice

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