



PRESS RELEASE

Snam4Environment and the Municipality of Caltanissetta inaugurate the first biomethane plant from municipal solid waste in Sicily

Caltanissetta, 17 May 2022 - Snam4Environment, a 100% owned subsidiary of Snam, today inaugurated in Caltanissetta the first biomethane plant from OFMSW (organic fraction of municipal solid waste) in Sicily, a circular economy project that aims to be the leader of other similar initiatives on the island, with the objective of contributing to the decarbonisation of the Region and the country.

Among others, the inauguration was attended by Daniela Baglieri, regional councillor for Energy and Public Utilities, Roberto Gambino, mayor of Caltanissetta, Antonio Martini, director of the Sicily Region's Energy Department, Stefano Ciafani and Gianfranco Zanna, national president of Legambiente and president of Legambiente Sicilia, respectively, Giuseppe Catania, president of SRR Nord Caltanissetta (Society for the Regulation of Waste Management Service) and mayor of the Municipality of Mussomeli, Marco Ortu, Managing Director of Snam4Environment, and Sabrina Piccaluga, sole administrator of the plant.

"Thanks to the work of all the stakeholders involved, today we are proud to inaugurate this plant, which will give a tangible contribution to the circular economy in Sicily, creating development and employment opportunities for the Caltanissetta area," said Marco Ortu, Managing Director of Snam4Environment. *"Through initiatives such as this, we can make Italy a European leader in the green gas sector, leveraging the virtuous characteristics of biomethane to support climate goals, while at the same time enhancing the Italian supply chain".*

Stefano Ciafani, national president of Legambiente, commented: *"Today is a great day for Sicily, a region still in the midst of a troubled transition between the old logic of disposal plants and the new frontier of the circular economy. Since 2008, our association has been promoting anaerobic digesters as a plant solution to produce agricultural soil improver and biomethane, a renewable fuel useful to decarbonise the energy system and make our country independent from foreign imports. In this historical moment in which the climate crisis is advancing inexorably and the terrible war in Ukraine has made it clear to everyone how important it is to be energy self-sufficient, it is essential to build many plants of this type throughout the country, starting from the centre south and the islands, involving the territories to overcome local disputes, to put an end once and for all to the season of the distorted economy that circulates waste throughout Italy, promoting instead the healthy economy that recycles waste in every province".*

The new plant, located in contrada Grottarossa, will be able to recover about 36,000 tonnes/year of OFMSW from neighbouring municipalities, and will contribute to improving the efficiency of the waste system in the Province and the Region, favouring the reduction of the environmental impact, through a reduced recourse to landfills and the transport of waste outside the Region, and a consequent reduction of costs for the municipality and citizens.

The annual capacity of the plant at full capacity is 3.6 million standard cubic metres of advanced biomethane, equivalent to a reduction in emissions of 7,000 tonnes of fossil CO₂ released into the atmosphere, equal to those produced by heating approximately 3,500 flats. The digestate, the remaining material from waste processing, is transformed into quality compost that can be used as fertiliser for agriculture, with a production of 10,000 tonnes/year, which can be used to fertilise more than 300 hectares of land, equivalent to the area of 450 football pitches.

During the event, Snam4Environment symbolically handed over to the municipality of Caltanissetta the bike path built by the company near the plant, a work designed to enhance the territory by contributing to the enjoyment of the area by local communities.

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