

## Purchasing biomethane 1/2 Prerequisites

Are you a natural gas shipper in France and seeking to expand your biomethane business by purchasing biomethane injected by producers into the natural gas networks? This information sheet explains the steps you need to take in order to start conducting this business.

Another information sheet available on our [website](#) provides further details of the process from the purchase of biomethane to its resale or consumption:

- [Purchasing biomethane 2/2 – Operational management, declarations and taxation](#)

In partnership with the Syndicat des Énergies Renouvelables (Renewable Energy Union), the French network operators (distributors and transporters) have published an overview of the sector which covers its main aspects : [2023 renewable gas overview](#).

### Procedure

Biomethane is generated by recovering biogas produced during anaerobic digestion of organic inputs. After it is purified for injection into the French distribution and/or transmission networks, the chemical composition of biomethane is identical to the one of natural gas. As such, it can be injected into the gas networks and thereafter consumed anywhere in France.

Biomethane **producers** hold a connection and injection contract with the network operator into which they inject their gas. They declare their projects in the injection capacity management register and, in most cases, sell the biomethane to a shipper at a price guaranteed by the legislative framework in force.

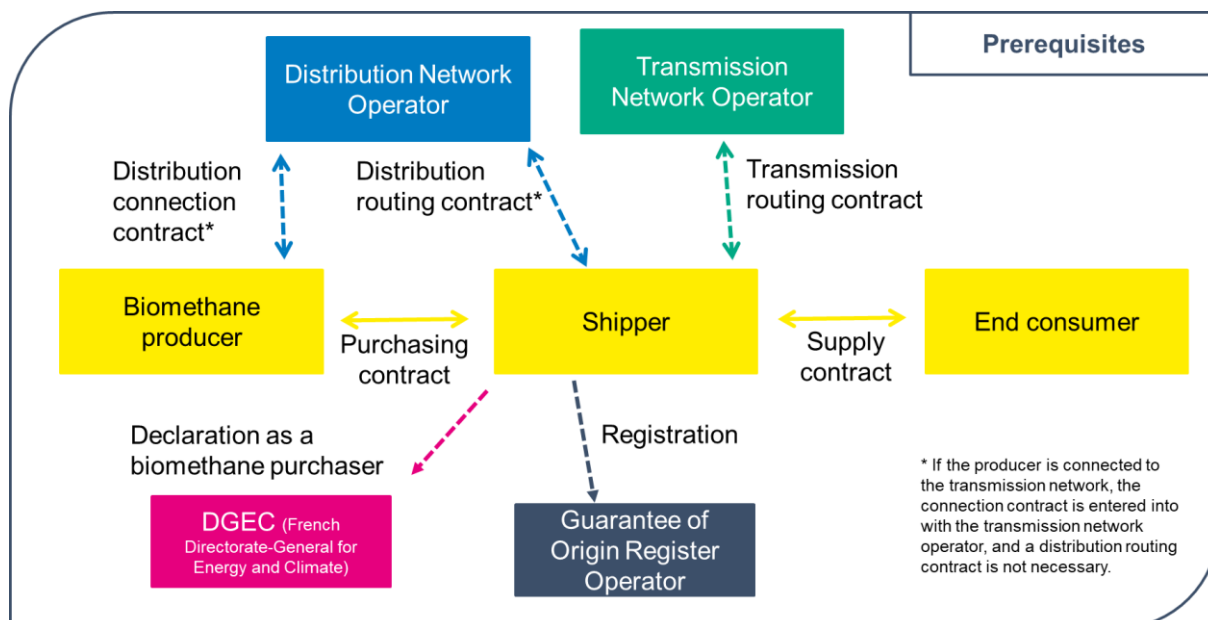
You are the **shipper (also called “supplier” in the energy code)**: you purchase biomethane under a purchase agreement entered into with the producer; manage the shipping of inbound biomethane to the network and subsequently to end consumers under a transmission contract signed with the network operator(s); monitor the Guarantee of Origin (GO) with the Guarantee of Origin Operator; resell the biomethane to the end consumer at a negotiated price; and, if applicable, receive a financial compensation corresponding to the difference between the market price and the guaranteed price.

- If you signed your purchase contract under the subsidized tariff scheme before November 2020: you monitor the Guarantee of Origin (GO) with the Guarantee of Origin administrator, you sell the biomethane to the end consumer at a negotiated price and you receive a financial compensation corresponding to the difference between the market price and the guaranteed price.

- If you signed your purchase contract under the subsidized tariff scheme after November 2020: the GO is issued by the producer and transmitted to the State which organises auctions to sell it. You receive a financial compensation corresponding to the difference between the market price and the guaranteed price. If you want to sell biomethane, you must buy guarantees of origin at the State auctions.
- Alternatively, if you purchase biomethane outside of the subsidized tariff scheme, you can receive the GO from the producer under your negotiated purchase contract terms (or the Certificate of Production of Biogas – CPB – if applicable).

**End consumers** purchase biomethane from you and use it for their own requirements.

*NB: the biomethane can also be forwarded by one or more intermediate shippers before being resold to the end consumer through the PEG (virtual trading point).*



## Finding a Producer

Network operators are not permitted to share information concerning their biomethane injection projects.

You are advised to contact the French Chambers of Agriculture and the agricultural cooperatives for information regarding these projects.

All biomethane production projects already in operation are listed by the network operators on the Energy Networks Open Data website: [visit the website](#).

## Declaring yourself as a biomethane purchaser

You can make a prior declaration as a biomethane purchaser to the authorities in order to be identifiable as such by producers (non-mandatory step). This step takes about a month. [View the list of declared shippers.](#)

Contact at the Ministry for Ecological and Solidarity Transition:

Anne-Charlotte du Châtelet  
Biomethane Policy Officer  
MTES/DGEC/DE/SD2/2B  
Security of Supply and Gas Infrastructure Section  
Directorate-General for Energy and Climate  
Ministry for Ecological and Solidarity Transition  
+33 (0)1 40 81 95 51  
[ac.armynot\[at\]developpement-durable.gouv.f](mailto:ac.armynot[at]developpement-durable.gouv.f)

## Signing a purchase contract with a producer

You must enter into a purchase contract with the biomethane producer. The producer must provide a copy of this (redacted of sensitive information) to the operator of the network to which its site will be connected. [Consult the standard purchase contract.](#)

## Register with the Guarantee of Origin Register Operator

The guarantee of origin register operator is the entity that ensures the traceability of each biomethane molecule injected into the network, thus making sure for end consumers that the biomethane they purchase and use is actually produced on a renewable basis.

The guarantee of origin operator is appointed by decree. EEX was commissioned to manage the national guarantee of origin register for biomethane injected into natural gas networks from October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 for a period of 5 years.

Before receiving the first injected molecules, you must first register with the GO operator by downloading the application form, the EECS Domain Protocol for France and the EEX general terms and conditions, and returning the requested documents to the EEX admissions department.

You must provide the guarantee of origin operator with various details including the following:

- Your SIREN number or VAT number
- Your company name
- The postal address to which correspondence should be sent
- The billing address if different from the postal address

- The contact details of the Company representative for management of the contract, assigned as the Business Contact
- Any document attesting to a valid authorisation to market natural gas on French territory.

If these documents prove compliant after checks, the guarantee of origin register operator will send you a signed copy of these documents and open your User account (it is possible to create several accounts if you wish).

An email notification will be sent to the address provided for each declared User stating that his/her account is being opened.

For further information, visit the [website](#) of the Biomethane Guarantee of Origin Register

## Purchasing gas injected into a distribution network

To purchase biomethane injected into a distribution network, you must hold a transmission contract with the distribution network operator, and another one with the operator of the transmission network that supplies the distribution network (together with sections A, C and D2 at least).

Contact the distribution network operator for further details concerning inbound transmission conditions for the distribution network.

For further information on the list of Transmission/Distribution Interface Points (PITD), consult the table of PITDs by municipality on the CRE consultation site, and the contact details of the corresponding natural gas distribution network operators on the open data site of ODRE operators.

An injection capacity into the transmission network is not necessary in order to ship biomethane into the transmission network from the distribution network.

## Purchasing gas injected into a transmission network

To purchase biomethane injected into a transmission network, you must hold a transmission contract with the transmission network operator (together with Sections A and C at least).

All information on the formalities required to [become a shipper](#) on the GRTgaz network and [further details regarding contracts](#) are available on the website.

## Subscribing injection capacities on the transmission network

You must subscribe an injection capacity (at zero cost according to the pricing decision in force from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 to 31 March 2025) in order to receive biomethane in the transmission network.

## Find out more about...

Once injected, biomethane is not distinguished from natural gas in the rest of your portfolio in terms of operational management: it is accounted for as a positive entry in your balancing account for the Trading Region France (TRF), and can therefore be resold to the PEG (virtual trading point) or sent to an end consumer anywhere in France.