



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,  
Bia agus Mara  
Department of Agriculture,  
Food and the Marine

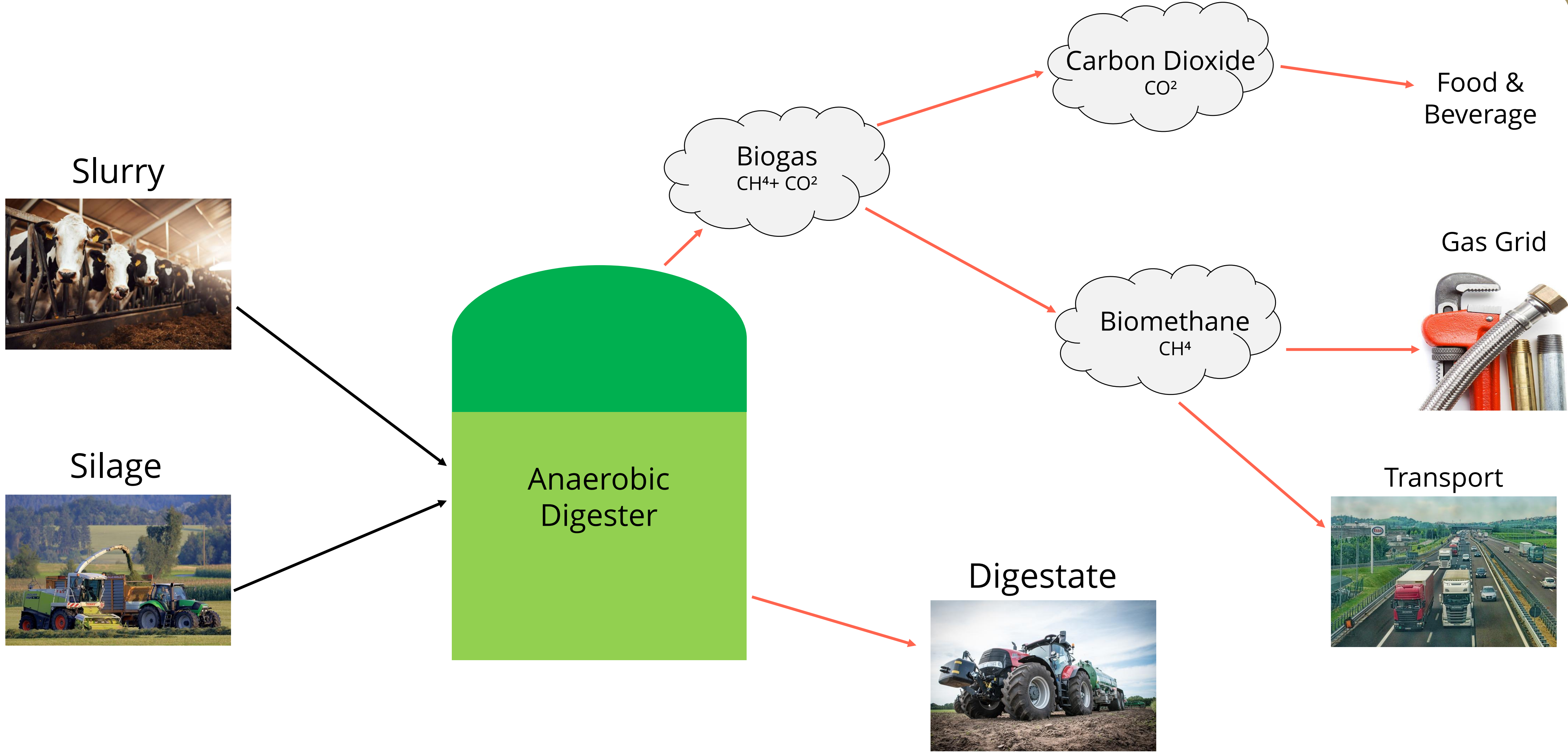
# Upscaling a Biomethane Industry in Ireland – Policy Context

Redmond McEvoy

Southern Regional Assembly's meeting

12th January 2024

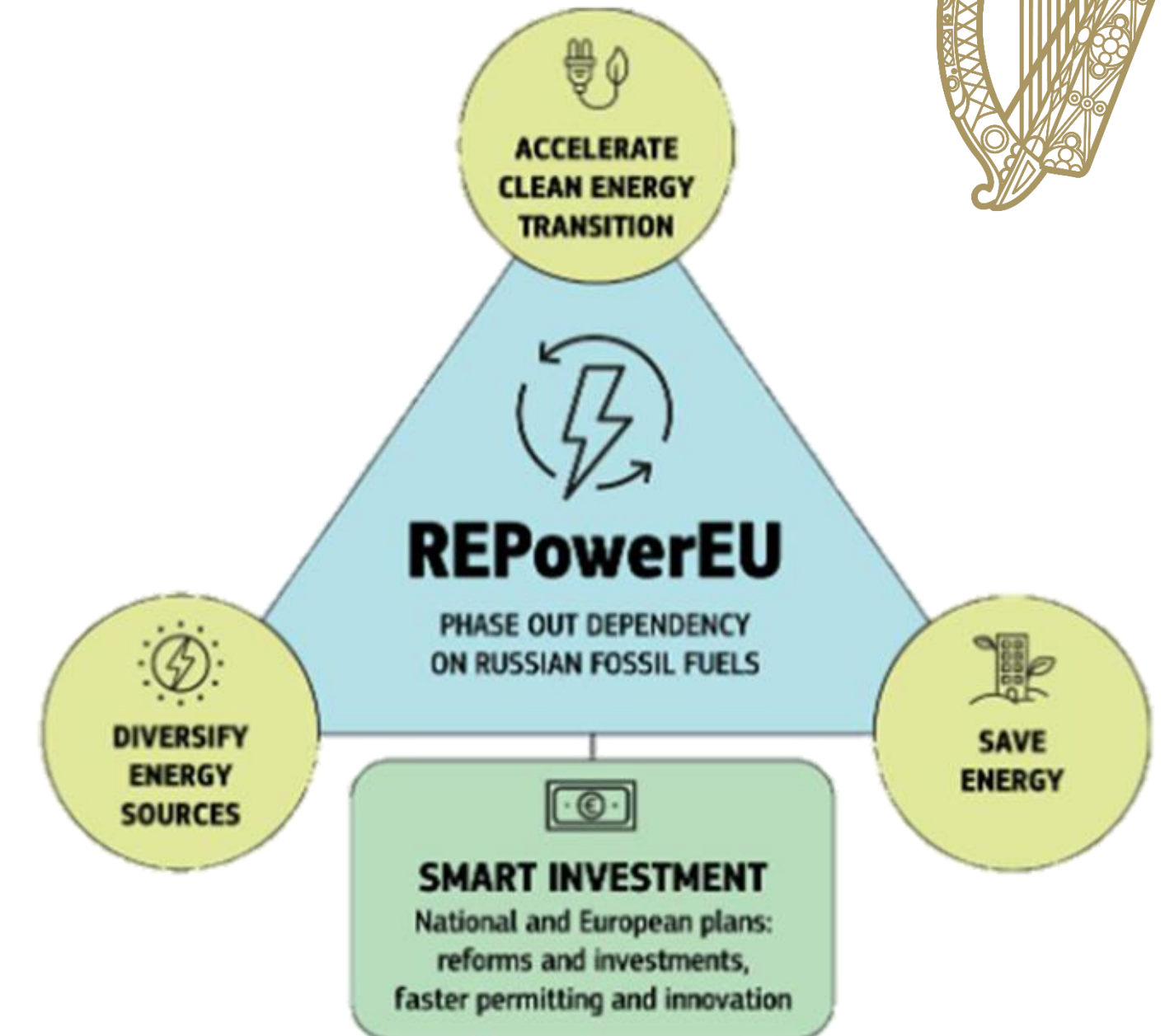
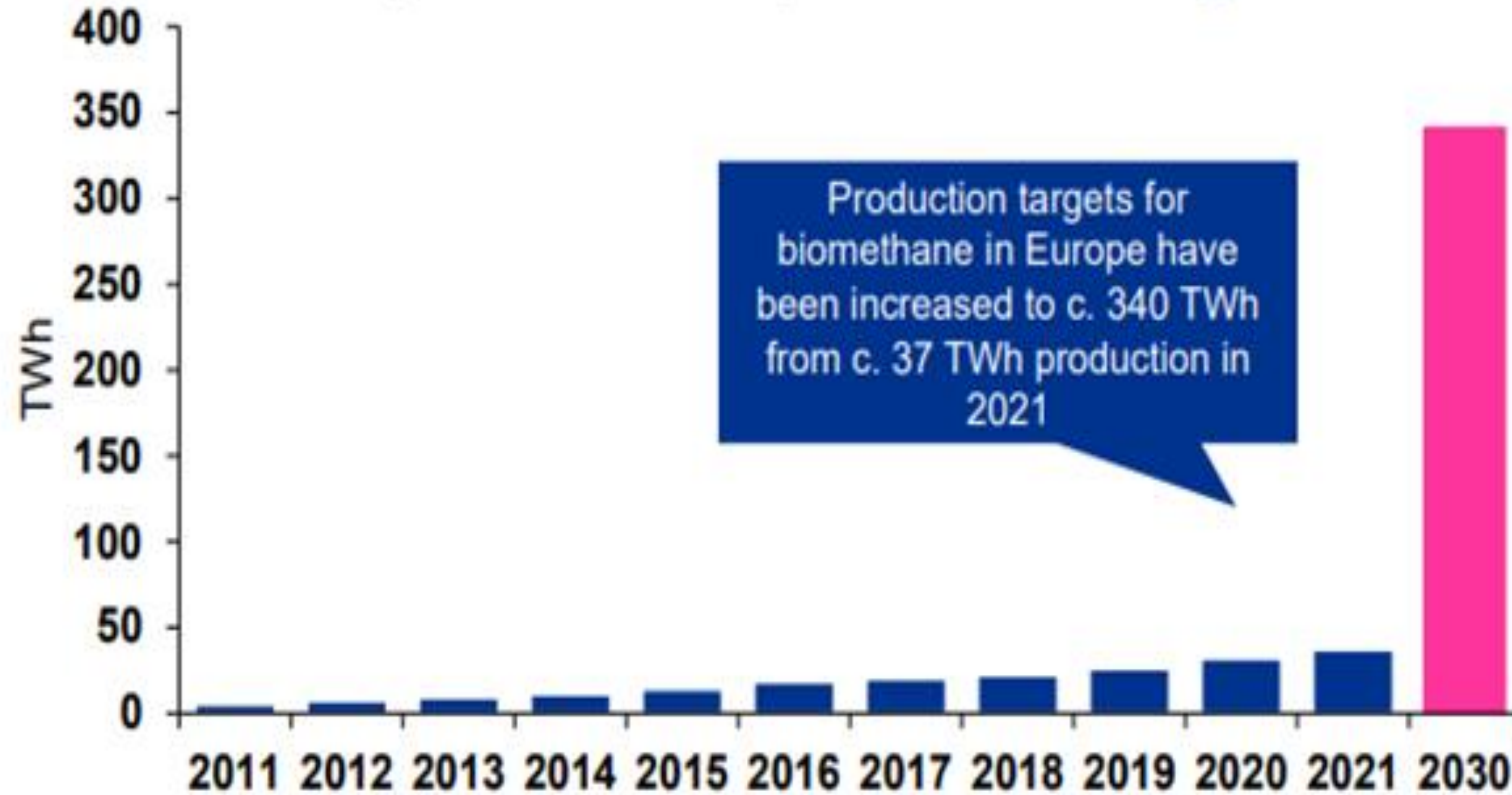
# What is Anaerobic Digestion?



# Biomethane in the EU



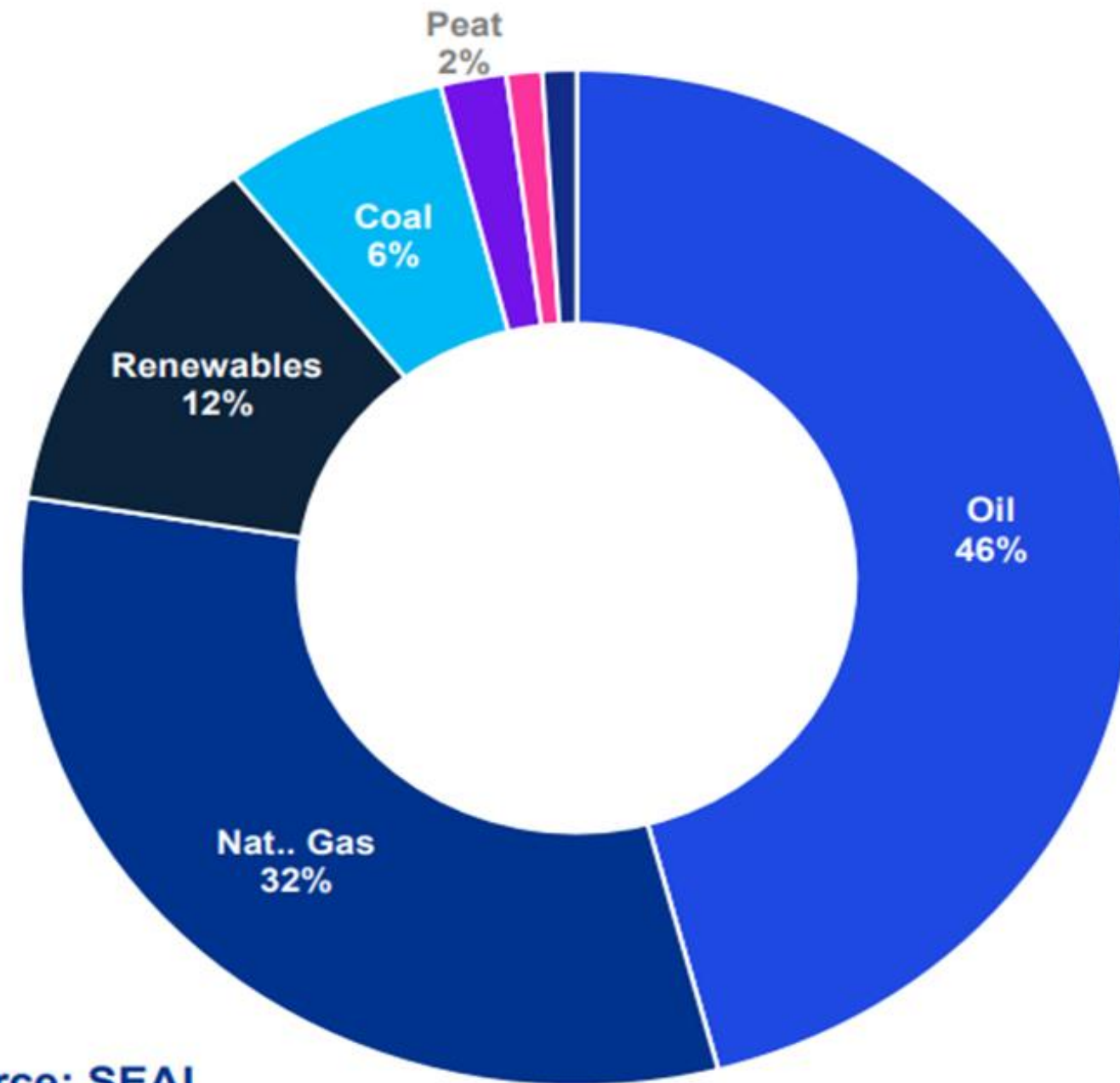
TWh Biomethane production in Europe and new 2030 target



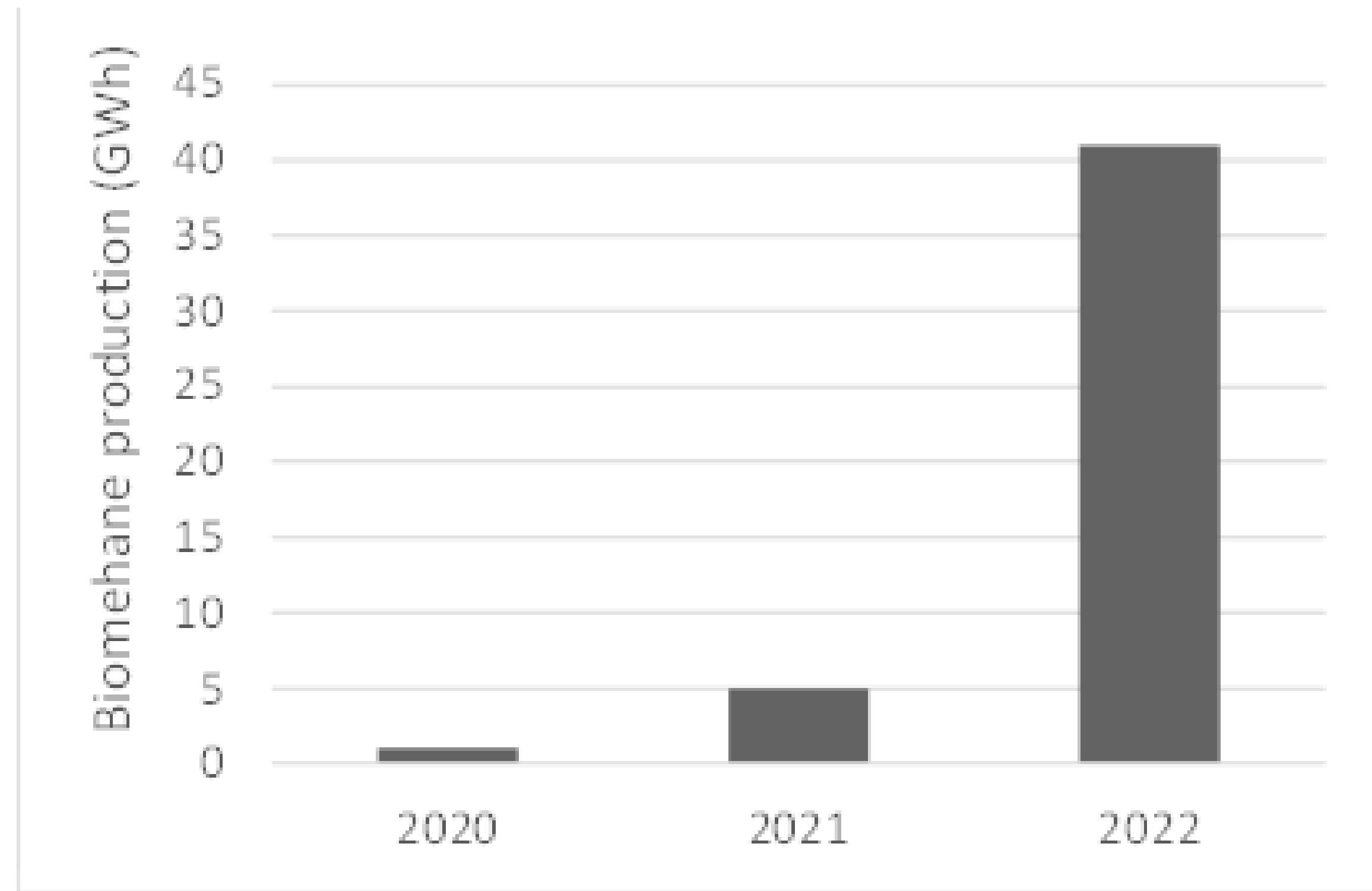
# Biomethane in Ireland



Ireland's primary energy mix



Source: SEAI



- Ireland's current gas demand = 57.1 TWh
- 75% of gas is imported
- Current Biomethane levels = 0.001% of Ireland's gas demand

- Government's Targets (Climate Action Plan)
  - 2025 – 1 TWh
  - 2030 – 5.7 TWh

# Irish Policy context

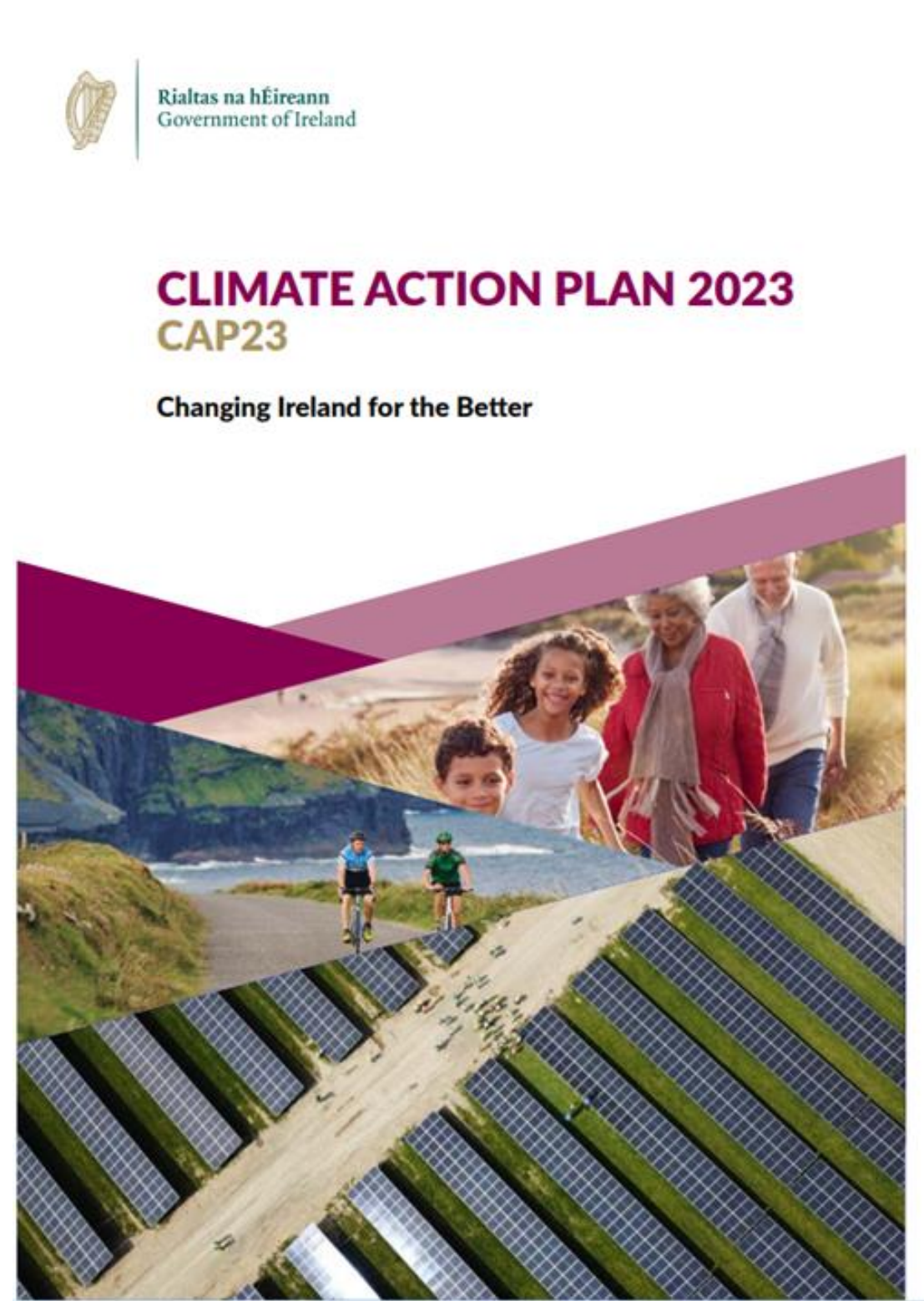


## Measure

- Expand Our Domestic Biomethane Industry

## Actions

- Deliver a **National Biomethane Strategy**, co-led by DAFM and DECC, under the auspices of Heat and Built Environment Delivery Task Force.
- Introduce **obligation in the heat sector**, incentivising the production of indigenously-produced biomethane.
- Seek **financial opportunities** for capital support for the development of a biomethane industry in Ireland.
- Identify and address the **research and knowledge gaps** around supply of feedstocks, the role of digestate and the sequestration potential regarding biomethane production.



**National Energy Security Framework**  
April 2022

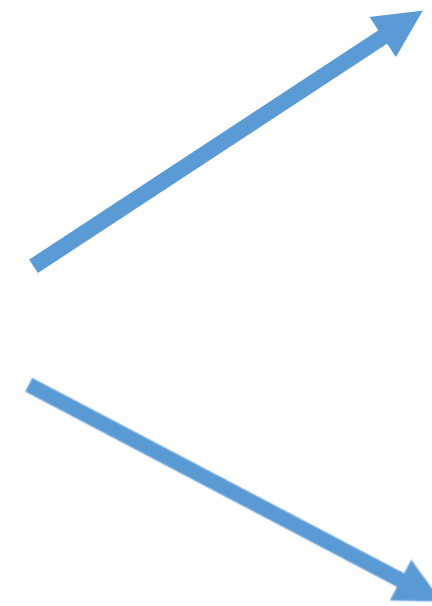


**Ireland's Long-term Strategy on Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction**

# The scale of the Biomethane Ambition



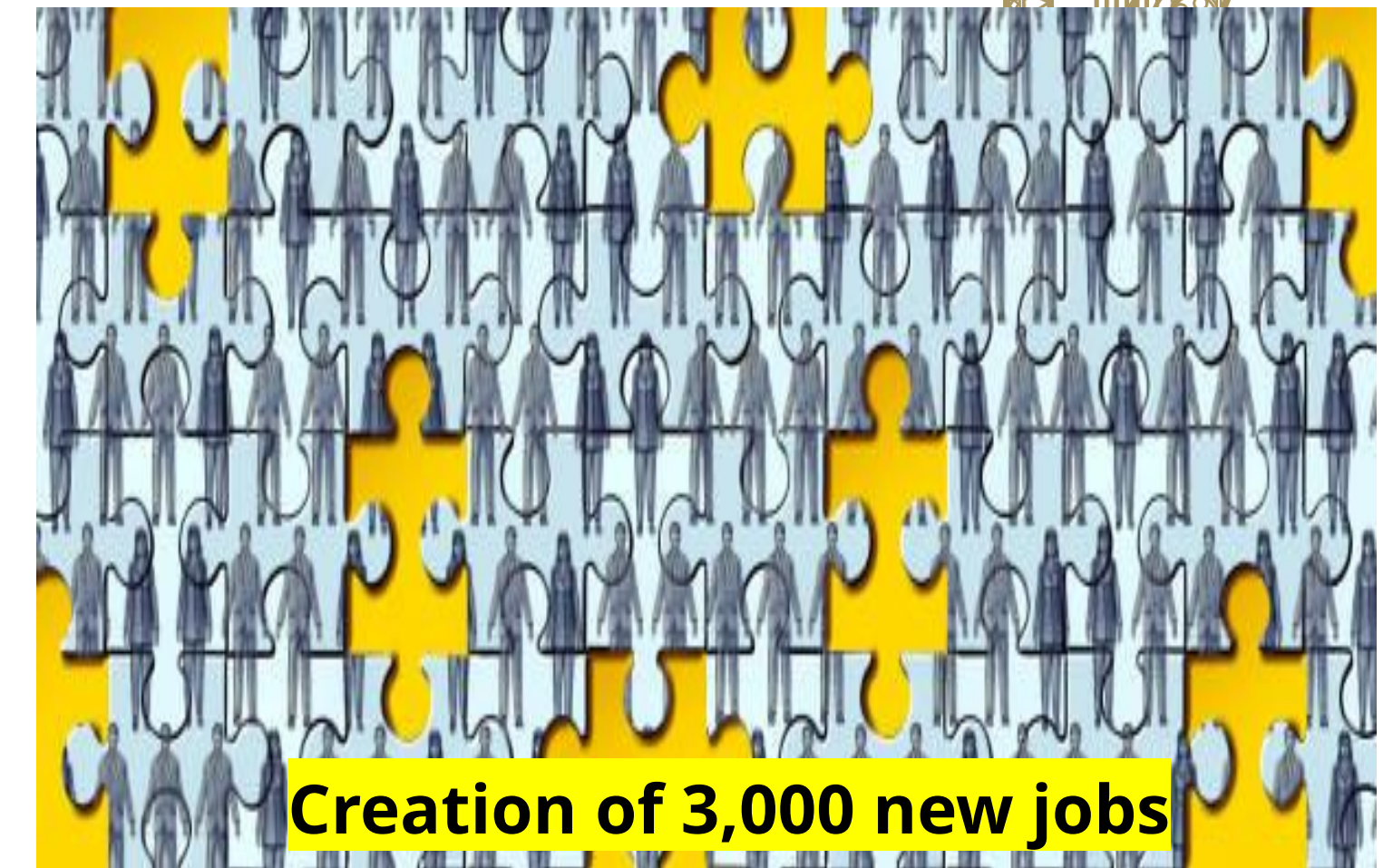
**Agri-Centric strategy**



**120,000 Ha for Grass silage req.**



**20% of Total Winter Slurry**

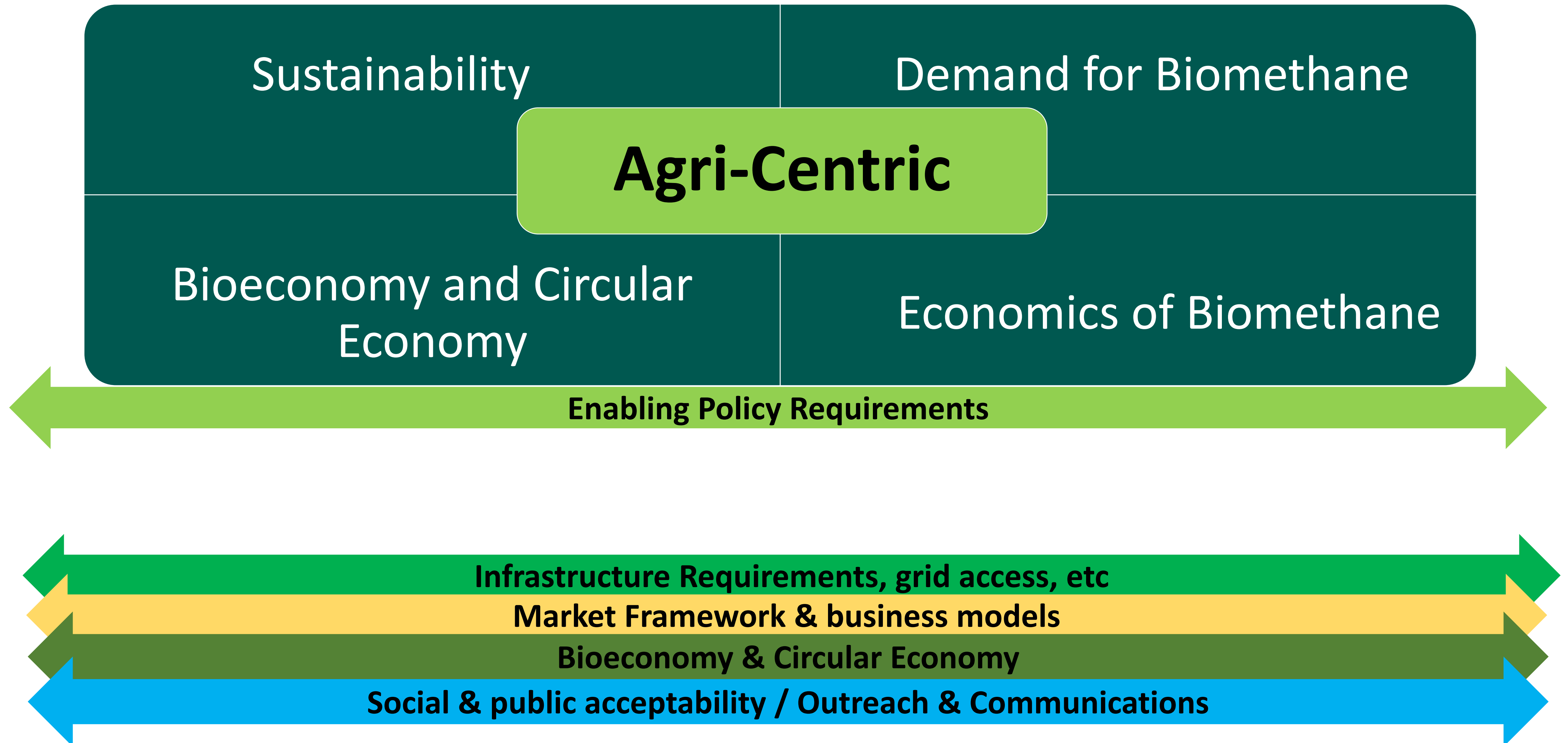


**Creation of 3,000 new jobs**



**150 - 200 new plants req.**

# Ireland's National Biomethane Strategy



# Strategy development



## Phase 1 Primary & Secondary research

- Consult primary and secondary sources to inform analysis, including but not limited to expert interviews and literature reviews
- Assess other countries approach to developing biomethane and National Strategies
- Consult with key stakeholders including DAFM, DECC working group, key public and private bodies
- Test and validate our findings using workshops & interviews with selected industry experts

## Phase 2 Drafting the National Strategy

- Consolidate findings from Phase 1 into a draft document
- Identify key metrics for the National Biomethane Strategy
- Develop the Mission, Vision and Values for the Strategy
- Act on insights from our stakeholder engagement
- Workshop key decision points with the Working Group

## Phase 3 Strategy iteration, testing and finalisation

- Continue stakeholder engagement, host key workshops sessions with various internal and external stakeholders to test draft content
- Finalise strategy documentation
- Draft an Implementation Plan for consideration by the Working Group
- Present final print ready Strategy



# Stakeholder Consultation



**Biomethane & AD experts**

**Supply & demand side**

Adequately resource key agencies for the transition (not limited to biomethane development)

Plants of scale (40 GWh+) come with significant economies of scale

ETS allowances not being required for biomethane consumption is key

Sustainability and price are the two key factors for demand consumers

**Biomethane developers**

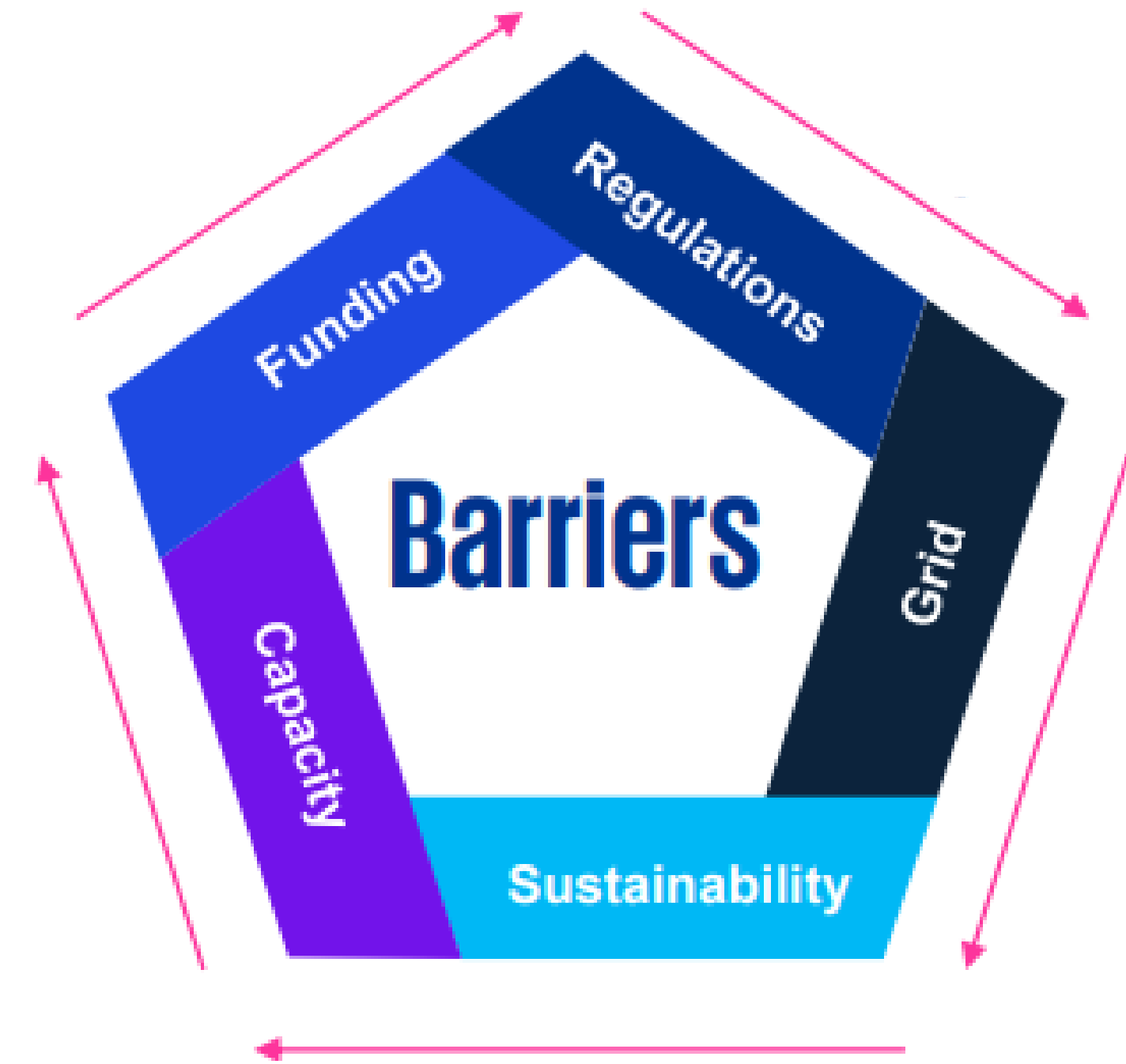
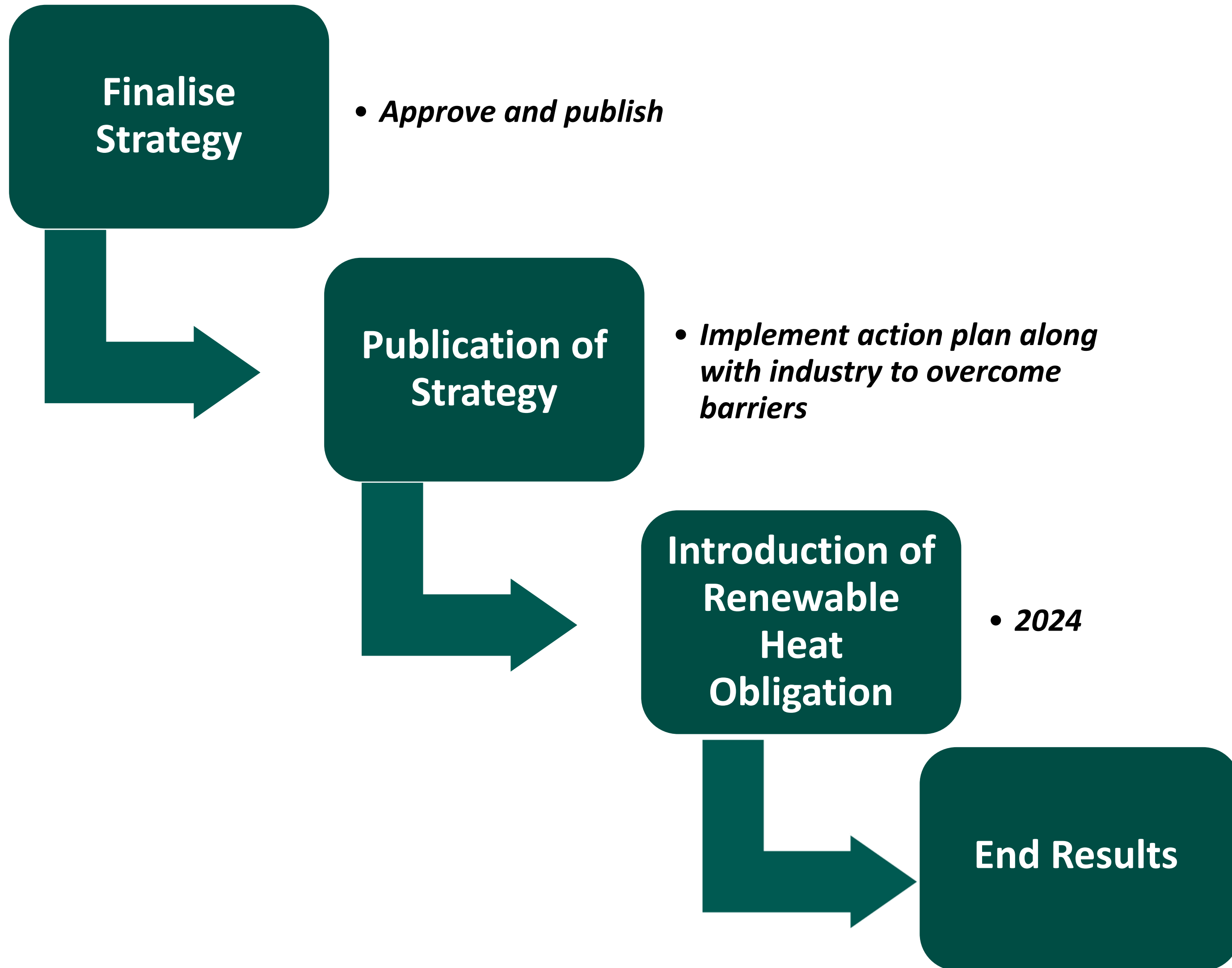
**State bodies**

Developers we spoke to informed us of 18+ months connection timeframe quoted from GNI

Grid quotes given to developers are quoted at >€600,000/km (distribution). Comparison in Europe/UK of c. €150,000/km - €200,000/km

Digestate management, storage and nutrient management plans need to be developed from the outset

# Next steps for delivery



- *Farm Diversification*
- *Renewable Heat Targets*
- *Competitiveness of Irish Industry*