

TransAlgae - algae for a fossil free future

Is it possible to cultivate algae in a Nordic climate and then use it as a fuel in your car? This is one of the questions that is going to be explored by the researchers involved in the TransAlgae project.

CROSS-BORDER PROJECT

We are happy to send you the first newsletter for the TransAlgae project. The newsletters will be distributed to a broader audience around two times per year and can also be found at our project homepage:

www.biofuelregion.se/transalgae

TransAlgae is a cross-border project in the Botnia-Atlantica region seen at the map. It is four partners in Sweden, two in Finland and one in Norway.



PROJECT GOAL

The overall goal of the TransAlgae project is to find new solutions for renewable energy and products from algae. This project is the first step in forming a network for organisations, researchers, companies and other people in the Botnia-Atlantica region that are interested in algae. Developers of new products, possible future cultivation companies and users of products from algae are the target groups for this network.



PROJECT INFORMATION

LEAD PARTNER:

Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, SLU (SE)

PARTNERS:

Nattviken Invest AB (SE), BioFuel Region (SE), Mid Sweden University (SE), NIBIO (NO), Novia - University of Applied Sciences (FI), University of Vaasa (FI)

PROJECT BUDGET:

1.7 MEUR, 4.1 MNOK

PROJECT TIME:

April 2016 – Mars 2019

FINANCIERS:

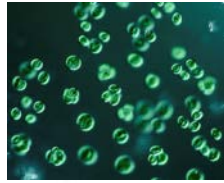
Botnia-Atlantica, the Regional Council in Västerbotten, Västernorrland, Nordland and Ostrobothnia, the municipality of Bodö, Kempestiftelserna and Arctic Seaweed

THE PROJECT INCLUDES FIVE ACTIVITIES:

1. Forming a network
2. Cultivation of algae
3. Harvesting of algae
4. Extraction of algae
5. Transformation of algae
6. System analyses

WHY ALGAE?

One of the greatest features with algae is that they can utilize waste streams for growing, which makes it a capturer of nutrients and carbon dioxide. This is beneficial for the environment and climate. In this project, both microalgae that grows in fresh water and the sea water growing macroalgae are used for cultivation.



A FLYING START IN ALGAE CULTIVATION

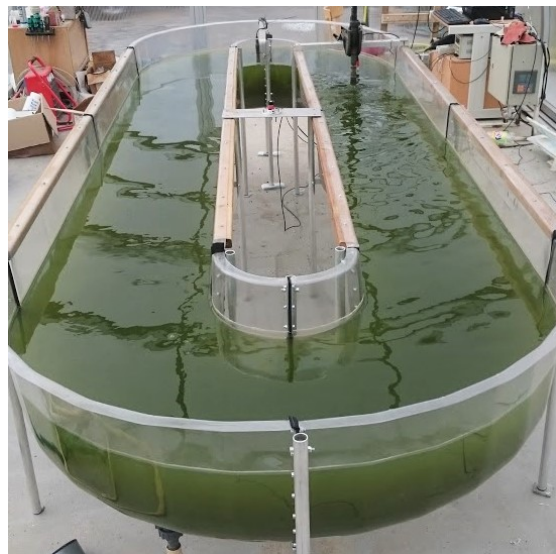
So far, there have been two project meetings, in Holmsund in June and in Härnösand in October 2016. Both meetings included a lot of interesting and fruitful discussions. All partners also visited Nattviken Invest and the laboratory at Mid Sweden University.

All partners have started the work in a very good way. A new cascade cultivation unit has been built at Nattviken Invest and has been up and running with micro algae during the summer. At the moment, the unit is being optimized for the next cultivation season that starts in late spring.



The cascade cultivation unit at Nattviken Invest.

SLU has built a new photobioreactor for cultivation of microalgae at VAKIN (the waste water company in Umeå). Algae is cultivated in waste water and harvested using sedimentation and centrifugation. Cultivation of microalgae in laboratory scale has also been started at University of Vaasa. At NIBIO in Bodö, macroalgae have been cultivated and harvested in a tank system. The first digestion experiment for analysing the biogas potential of algae has been started at Novia using microalgae from SLU. The system analysis, will start at the beginning of 2017.



The cultivation unit built by SLU.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

The next project meeting will be in Vaasa in March and it will include a half-day external workshop focused on algae.

The TransAlgae-project will also have a stand at the Vaasa Energy Week the 23rd of March. Please, come and visit us!

RESULTS – INFO SHEETS

The results of the project will regularly be published as infosheets in English. It will be a two-page summary of project work with illustrative figures, tables and photos.

Contact: Ida Norberg

ida.norberg@biofuelregion.se