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Decentralised Energy Provision

In the course of the abandoning of coal-fired energy provision until 2038 as concluded by the German Federal Government, the approach of decentralised energy provision finally turns into focus of urban and rural planning – finally. More and more municipalities but also architects and district planners look into CO₂-neutral energy self-supply of defined administrative units. In the wake of increasing digitalisation and fast data transmission channels it is now possible that discontinuously operating renewable energies like solar and wind, as well as energy storage solutions and further energy sources can be interconnected to virtual power plants (VPP's): These can react within fractions of a second on changing energy outputs of individual energy suppliers or on changing energy demands of the consumers.

In such interacting systems, A.H.T.'s decentralised biomass power plants can play a crucial role: They are capable of delivering the required balancing energy due to their base load capacity. Further, it is possible to up- or downregulate the load up to 30 % - a rarely achieved value with other biomass power plants. Thus, an A.H.T. installation can interact as needed with other renewable energy sources.

Biogenic Residuals as Energy Source

By definition, A.H.T.'s biomass power plants are climate-neutral: Only as much as CO₂ is released as was captured from the atmosphere during the life cycle of the biomass in the sense of renewable resources. With the integration of carbonisation technologies (see corporate news from 2019-05-18) it is now possible to utilise high-moisture biogenic waste such as sewage sludge, manure or digestates and to generate syngas, heat and power from the carbonised hydrochar. With that, A.H.T. addresses not only environmentally friendly energy provision but also the topic of waste reduction. The spreading of such biogenic waste on agricultural areas is increasingly restricted: For example, Germany's federal state Niedersachsen (Lower Saxony) implemented according restrictions in 2018. It can be expected that further federal states and EU countries will follow. This raises the pressure on farmers and operators of anaerobic digesters as they now need to search for alternatives of biogenic waste recycling.

Also in the emerging concepts for climate-neutral communities ("Smart Cities"), the integrated approach of environmentally friendly energy generation with simultaneously reducing waste can contribute to circular economies and can help to indirectly reduce CO₂ emissions – long logistics paths can be shortened as waste is processed at the location where they accumulate. Transfer to central incineration plants is not necessary anymore and power transmission losses are avoided. A.H.T. will follow this strategic direction in 2019 with priority in Germany and Europe, as markets and politics are increasingly embracing such concepts.