

FrieslandCampina Partners with Transport Firms to Cut Milk Transport Emissions

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FrieslandCampina has allied with seven transport companies in the Netherlands and Germany to make milk transport more sustainable. Through this collaboration, the parties aim to reduce CO₂ emissions from transport activities in the coming years.

Under the alliance, FrieslandCampina and the transport companies have agreed to opt for trucks running on biomethane (bio-CNG) when vehicles are replaced. Around half of the transport fleet is expected to be converted to bio-CNG in the coming years. In this way, the parties are actively investing in more sustainable milk transport in the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany.

Another key element of the collaboration is the further development of refuelling and charging infrastructure, enabling renewable fuels and low-emission vehicles to be used more widely across FrieslandCampina's transport network.

Mirco Schoemaker, Director of Schoemaker Transporte, says: "Biomethane is currently one of the most practical and scalable solutions for substantially reducing CO₂ emissions from milk transport in the short term. At the same time, switching to biomethane requires significant investment in both vehicles and refuelling infrastructure. Only by working closely together as partners across the value chain can we accelerate the transition towards more sustainable milk transport."

A distinctive feature of this approach is that some of the biomethane is produced from manure through anaerobic digestion. This means that residual streams from dairy farming are converted into renewable fuel for transporting milk. In Germany, FrieslandCampina member dairy farm Barver Landmilch in Lower Saxony already plays an important role in this approach. The dairy farm produces biomethane entirely using its own manure digester and has refuelling facilities on site.

This allows milk trucks collecting milk in the region to refuel directly with locally produced bio-CNG.

“The strength of bio-CNG is that it creates a direct link between our member dairy farmers and our logistics operations. In future, milk can be transported using fuel that is partly produced by our own member dairy farms,” says Marcel Ebbelaar, Manager Milk Logistics & Transport at FrieslandCampina. “This enables us to reduce transport emissions while also making the value chain more circular. It shows how collaboration within the cooperative can contribute to making our operations more sustainable.”