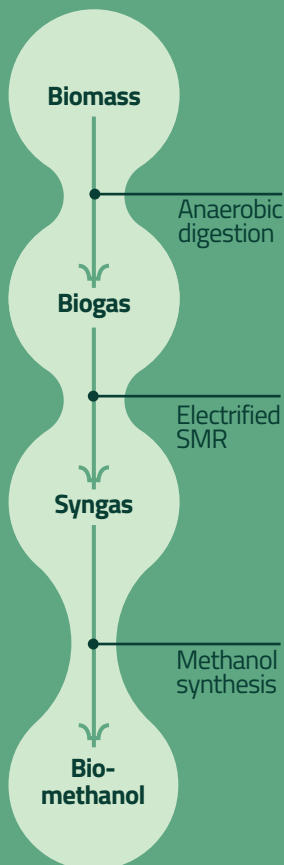


NextFuel

The next shipping fuel: electrifying steam methane reforming for biomethanol production



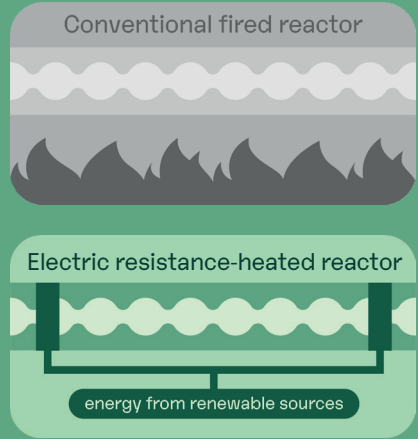
As the maritime sector aims to reduce emissions, **biomethanol** emerges as a promising green fuel. It **has the potential to substantially cut emissions** compared to traditional marine fuels while remaining economically viable. **NetxFuel project focuses on electrifying the Steam Methane Reforming (SMR) process** to produce biomethanol more sustainably, significantly reducing its carbon footprint. By starting methanol synthesis with biogas (or biomass) instead of natural gas, the sustainability of the process is further enhanced.

The electrification of the SMR process represents a major advancement in sustainable fuel production. By **utilizing renewable electricity and innovative reactor designs, it can greatly reduce fossil fuel dependency and CO2 emissions**. Furthermore, integrating onboard carbon capture technology ensures the maritime industry can move towards a zero-emission future. The adoption of electrified SMR technology is projected to significantly lower greenhouse gas emissions. [1] By leveraging renewable electricity, biogas, green hydrogen, and CO2 capture, this technology can significantly reduce the maritime sector's carbon footprint.

[1] From TN, Partoon B, Rautenbach M, Østberg M, Bentien A, Aasberg-Petersen K, & Mortensen PM. (2024). Electrified steam methane reforming of biogas for sustainable syngas manufacturing and next generation of Plant Design: A pilot plant study. *Chemical Engineering Journal*, 479, 147205.

This novel approach has already been successfully demonstrated at lab scale by one of our project partners. With promising results, NextFuel aims to upscale it for commercial viability. **Biomethanol production can be further expanded by using green hydrogen and CO2 captured onboard ships as feedstock.** This integration not only enhances fuel production but also contributes to significant CO2 reduction, transforming emissions into valuable resources.

By replacing the large furnace of conventional SMR reactors with electric resistance heated reactor walls, this method uses **renewable electricity to convert biogas into syngas.** This approach bypasses the thermal limitations of traditional SMR reactors, enhancing catalyst utilization, reducing reactor volume up to 100 times, and eliminating direct CO2 emissions. [2]



[2] Wismann ST, Engbæk JS, Vendelbo SB, Bendixen FB, Eriksen WL, Aasberg-Petersen K, ... Mortensen PM. (2019). Electrified methane reforming: A compact approach to greener industrial hydrogen production. *Science*, 364(6442), 756–759.

For more information about the NextFuel project, please feel free to contact us

info@nextfuel.eu

Partners

Next Fuel Consortium represents a multidisciplinary group composed of **7 partners from 4 countries.**



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