

Cargo residues into biogas (CRIB)



Elävä Itämeri Säätiö sr. Foundation for a Living Baltic Sea sr. ID 2177822-5

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Executive summary of the project

The CRIB project focused on cargo hold washing waters containing cargo residues. If cargo is classified as harmful to marine environment (HME), washing waters cannot be discharged into the sea. If cargo is classified as non-harmful to marine environment (non-HME), washing waters can be discharged into the sea if adequate port reception facilities are not available. There are both HME and non-HME cargo residues which contain nutrients and organic matter which could be recovered in biogas production.

Goals of the CRIB project included charting the value chain of waste management for washing waters, collecting information of port reception facilities, studying the logistics chain needed for waste recovery, and piloting lots of washing waters as feedstock for biogas production.

The results showed that the project was somewhat ahead of its time and there are several issues to research and solve before washing waters can be reused. At the moment it is still legal to discharge washing waters into the sea, port reception facilities are inadequate and discharging in ports is very expensive.

The samples showed that the amount of cargo residues in the washing waters is often very low and reuse would not be cost-efficient. Anyhow, there is a clear need for further discussion around this waste fraction to avoid discharging washing water into the sea. Shipping companies, charterers and ports should be gathered together to discuss the possibilities for more fair cost sharing