

ISSDC

Cemeteries  
& Crematoria

# Cremation Technology

## APSE (Wigan 2022)

Please note: All energy costs based on 2021 figures, the variance between the energy sources does still remain similar following energy price rises.

# BREEAM Development - Crematoria

BREEAM assessment evaluates the procurement, design, construction and operation of a development against a range of targets based on performance benchmarks.

It focuses on sustainable value across range of categories:

- Energy
- Land use and ecology
- Water
- Health and wellbeing
- Pollution
- Transport
- Materials
- Waste
- Management

BREEAM rating		% score
Outstanding	★★★★★	≥85
Excellent	☆★★★★	≥70
Very good	☆☆★★★	≥55
Good	☆☆☆★★	≥45
Pass	☆☆☆☆★	≥30
Unclassified	☆☆☆☆☆	<30

# BREEAM Development - Crematoria

BREEAM inspires developers and creators to improve, innovate and make effective use of resources.

While building to meet BREEAM's enhanced standards will incur a capital cost this should be viewed in the context of the overall value of sustainable development long term.

For Bolsover District Council, the CDS Group are working towards achieving a BREEAM Excellent site (>70%).

The aim and aspirations of Bolsover District Council is to provide a site-wide sustainable development and operation.

The site will be the first UK crematorium to achieve a BREEAM Excellent site-wide.

CDS's aim is to promote sustainability beyond the crematory room.



# Decarbonisation in the bereavement sector

## Factors for change:

- Social drivers
- Economic (industry led) drivers
- Technology drivers
- Self-regulation
- Regulation

## The role of the EA/DEFRA in the bereavement sector (cremation)

- Through legislation (Part II activity under EPR)
  - Improving air quality
    - Abatement and withdrawing CAMEO (2027)?
    - Reduction in NOx emissions
    - Reduction in Carbon emissions
    - Reviewing cremation technology
    - Improved emissions monitoring through approved independent MCERTS companies

# Cremation Technology/Fuel Available

There are a number of cremation technologies available, using a variety of energy sources:

- Gas
- Electric
- BioLPG
- Hydrogen
- Microwave
- Resomation



# Decarbonisation in the bereavement sector

Year	Non-Domestic Gas - Small (Pence per kWh)	Percentage Change in Gas Prices	Non-Domestic Electricity – Small/Medium (Pence per kWh)	Percentage Change in Electricity Prices
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2017</b>	2.46	N/A	10.78	N/A
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2018</b>	2.84	15.4%	11.84	9.8%
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2019</b>	2.77	-2.5%	13.10	10.6%
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2020</b>	2.75	-0.7%	14.51	10.8%
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2021</b>	2.66	-3.28%	14.57	0.4%
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2022</b>	4.74	78.2%	22.34	53.3%
<b>Difference Between 2017 and 2022</b>	<b>2.28 p</b>	<b>92.7%</b>	<b>11.56 p</b>	<b>107.2%</b>

Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/quarterly-energy-prices>



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**Gas Cremation**

# Gas Cremation - Overview

Gas cremation is used by >95% of existing crematoria in the UK, primarily sourced by natural gas but some crematoria use LPG due to lack of natural gas supply in the area.

Gas cremation is currently the fastest technology in the market in terms of cremation time.



# Gas Cremation – Energy Consumption and Emissions

CDS Derived – Gas and electricity consumption of gas cremators provided by 2 manufacturers, then averaged out with CO2 production.

Cremations per day	Gas usage per cremation (kWh)*	Electricity usage per cremation [inc. rest] (kWh)	CO2/Cremation (Exc. Body and coffin)
1	1359	77	<b>268kg</b>
2	763	47	<b>151kg</b>
3	564	38	<b>113kg</b>
4	483	33	<b>96kg</b>
5	424	30	<b>85kg</b>
6	348	28	<b>71kg</b>

\*Average gas consumption stated by cremator manufacturer 300 kWh

## Parameters used

*Electricity consumption of gas cremators*

*Carbon intensity values used to work out CO2 per cremation*

Electricity Usage	kWh
E usage/hr during cremation	12kWh/hr
E usage/hr in rest	1.8kWh/hr
Fuel	Carbon intensity (kgCO2/kWh)
Natural Gas	0.184kg
Electricity	0.231kg

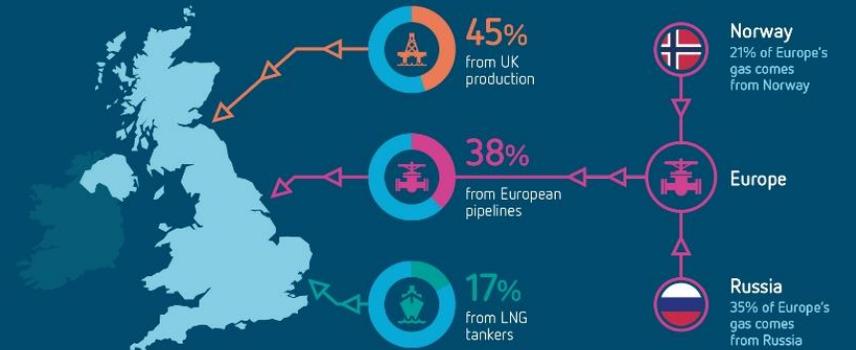
# Gas Cremation – Future

The longevity of natural gas for cremation is at risk due to increases in natural gas prices and fuel security which are already being experienced.

A concern is that the UK is a net importer of gas, therefore, the life-cycle and upstream emissions of gas-fired generation are not accounted for as domestic supplies diminish. The transmission distances of gas imports have a significant impact on emissions, the result of higher gas leakages through piping over transmission distances.

The UK is likely to increase its importation of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), which, due to the energy intensive liquefaction process, is more carbon-intensive [0.23-0.27kg CO<sub>2</sub>/kWh].

## WHERE DOES THE UK'S GAS COME FROM?



In 2015 the UK's total gas consumption was 67 billion cubic metres

Source: BECC  
Percentages for the UK show the historical share of gas supply from each source and do not necessarily indicate the level of import dependency as export commitments are not examined here.



# Gas Cremation – Financial Running Costs

CDS Derived – Gas and electricity consumption provided by 2 manufacturers, then averaged out – cost per cremation

Cremations per day	Gas Per cremation (kWh)	Electricity Consumption Per Cremation [inc. rest] (kWh)	Cost per cremation*
1	1359	77	<b>£82*</b>
2	763	47	<b>£47*</b>
3	564	38	<b>£36*</b>
4	483	33	<b>£31*</b>
5	424	30	<b>£27*</b>
6	348	28	<b>£23*</b>

Parameters used

Fuel	Cost/kWh*
Natural Gas	£0.0474
Electricity	£0.2234
*	Adjusted to Sep 2022



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**Electric Cremation**

# Electric Cremation

The first UK green energy electric cremator was installed in Memoria's North Oxfordshire site and then in Huntingdon, where Huntingdon Town Council were the first local authority to install green energy electric cremators.

Electric cremation takes on average 120 minutes to complete a process, dependant on the type of coffin used.



# Electric Cremation – Installation: Huntingdon

The electric cremator operates as a 'hot insert', reaching its optimal temperature within 3 days of initial install and then maintaining that temperature thereafter, therefore requiring electrical energy to maintain the heat. The more electric cremation completed, the lower the average electrical consumption, as the body acts as the fuel to the process.

The long term maintenance costs of electric cremation is thought to be less frequent due to the consistency of temperatures and design of brickwork.



# Electric Cremation – Installation: Hambleton



# Electric Cremation – Installation: Huntingdon



# Electric Cremation – Installation: Huntingdon

**Huntingdon Crematorium first of two DFW electric cremators being installed**

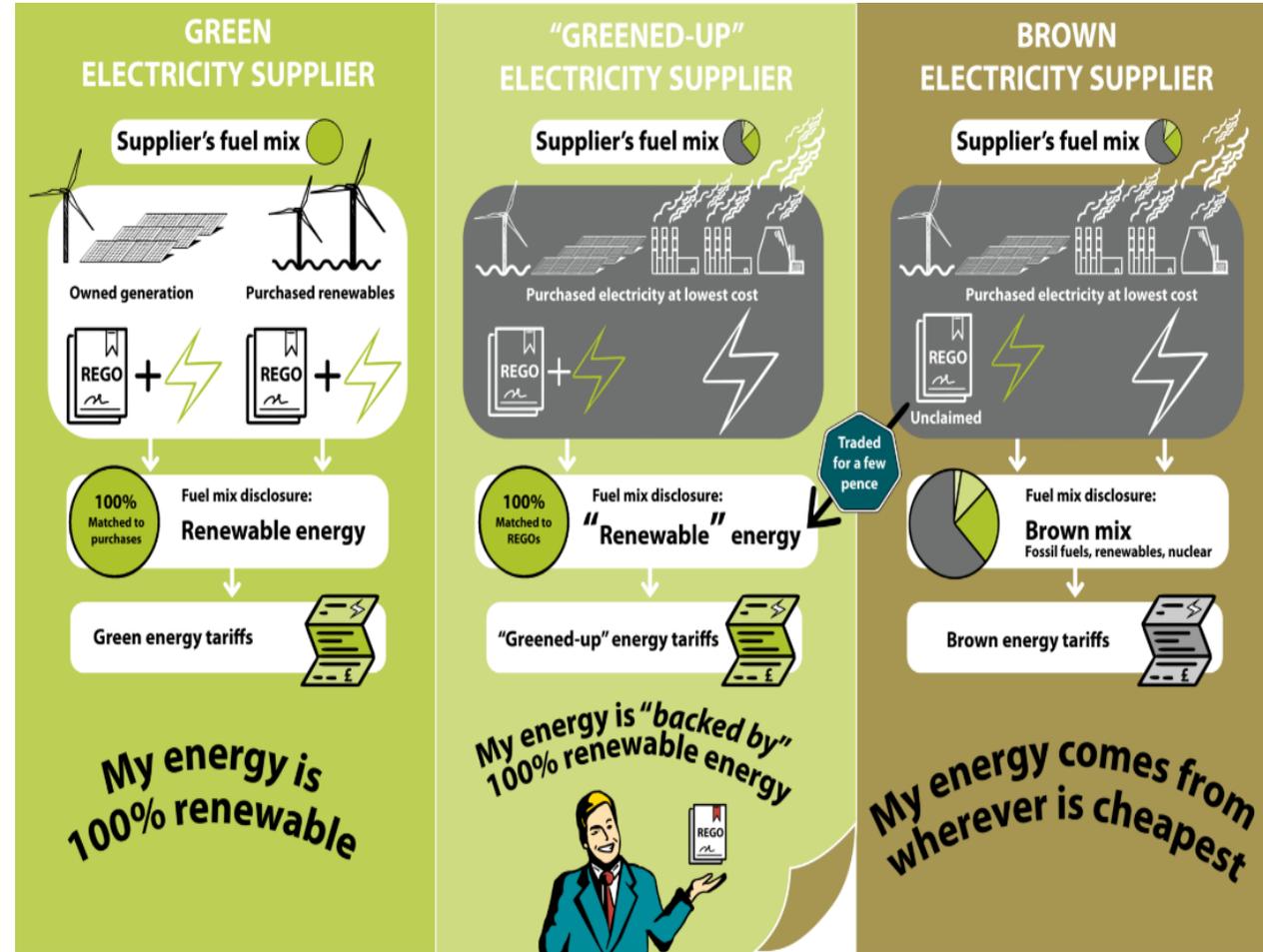
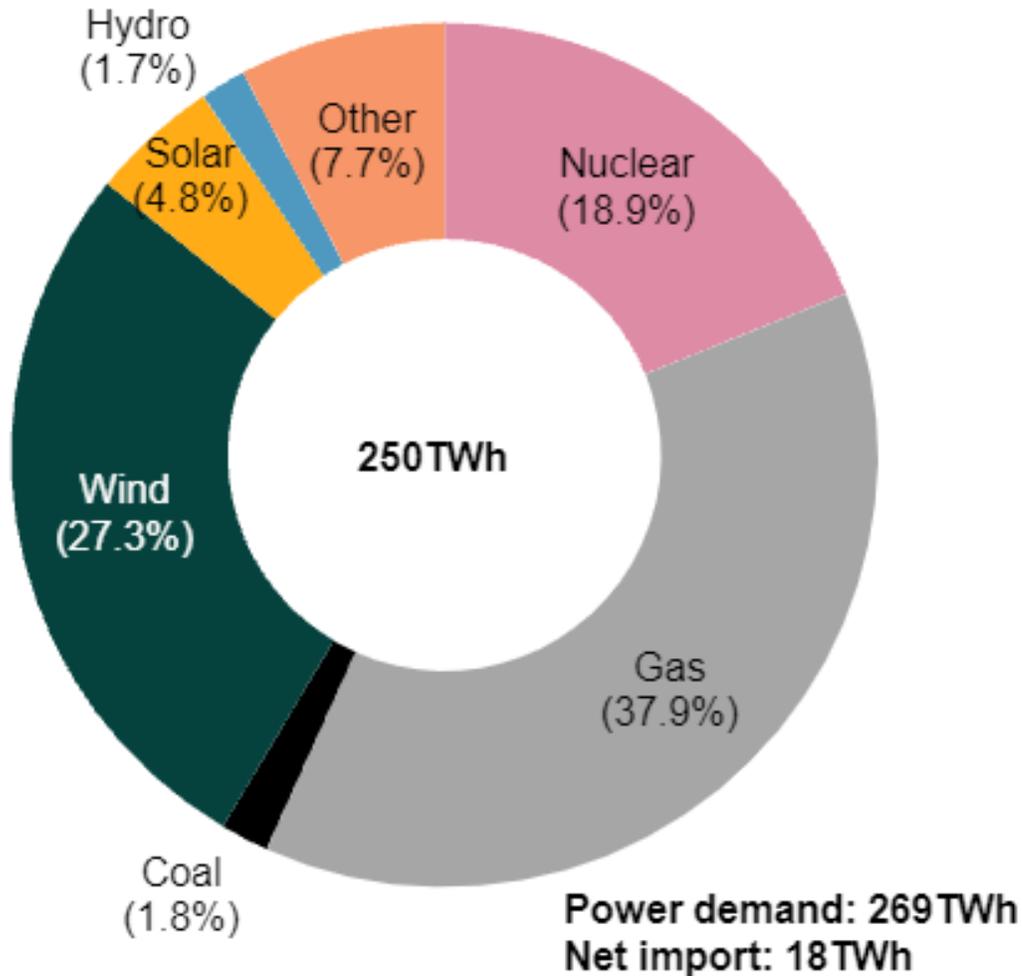


# Electric Cremation – Huntingdon Crematorium





# Electric Cremation - Emissions



"REGO" – Renewable energy guarantees of origin

# Electric Cremation - Emissions

**DFW electric cremations expected consumption figures and estimated CO2 per cremation:**

Cremations per day	kWh/hr	CO2 per cremation (grid electricity, exc. Body and coffin)	CO2 per cremation (green electricity tariff, exc. Body and coffin)
1	20	111kg	0kg
2	18	50kg	0kg
3	15	28kg	0kg
4	14	19kg	0kg
5	13	14kg	0kg
6	12	11kg	0kg

*Carbon intensity values used to work out CO2 per cremation:*

Fuel	Carbon intensity (kgCO2/kWh)
Electricity	0.231

*CO2 emissions have been modelled by calculating the annual kWh using the kWh/hr divided by the number of annual cremations.*

# Electric Cremation - Cost

DFW electric cremations expected consumption figures and estimated cost £ per cremation: (to the nearest pound)

Cremations per day	kWh/hr	Costs per cremation* (Grid Electricity)	Costs per cremation* (Green Electricity)
1	20	£155	£197
2	18	£70	£89
3	15	£39	£49
4	14	£27	£35
5	13	£20	£26
6	12	£16	£20

Carbon intensity values used to work out CO2 per cremation:

Fuel	Cost (£/kWh)*
Electricity	£0.2234
Green Electricity	£0.284

\*Energy Costs based on September 2022 data.

# Electric Cremation - Emissions

DFW electric cremation data at highly efficient crematorium, doing c. 1,500 cremations per annum through one electric cremator:

Month	Cremation numbers	kWh per cremation	CO2 per cremation (grid electricity)
Jan	90	52.1	<b>12kg</b>
Feb	103	30.6	<b>7kg</b>
Mar	127	27.4	<b>6kg</b>
Apr	89	48.9	<b>11kg</b>
May	118	44.7	<b>10kg</b>
Jun	113	39.6	<b>9kg</b>
Jul	109	59	<b>14kg</b>
<b>Average</b>		<b>43.2</b>	<b>10kg</b>



*Figures are modelled on grid electricity CO2, however this crematorium does operate on a green energy tariff, which would be 0kg of CO2 per cremation (exc. Body and coffin).*

# Electric Cremation – Efficiency (CO<sub>2</sub>)

DFW electric cremation data at highly efficient crematorium, doing c. 1,500 cremations per annum through one electric cremator:

The same crematorium, modelled on running two electric cremators instead of one (grid electricity)

Month	Cremation numbers	kWh per cremation	CO2 per cremation	Total CO2
Jan	90	52.1	<b>12kg</b>	1080kg
Feb	103	30.6	<b>7kg</b>	721kg
Mar	127	27.4	<b>6kg</b>	762kg
Apr	89	48.9	<b>11kg</b>	979kg
May	118	44.7	<b>10kg</b>	1180kg
Jun	113	39.6	<b>9kg</b>	1017kg
Jul	109	59	<b>14kg</b>	1526kg
<b>Average</b>		43.2	<b>10kg</b>	<b>Total = 7,265kg</b>

Month	Cremation numbers	kWh per cremation	CO2 per cremation	Total CO2
Jan	90	292.2	<b>50kg</b>	4500kg
Feb	103	234	<b>39kg</b>	4017kg
Mar	127	172.5	<b>28kg</b>	3556kg
Apr	89	295.4	<b>50kg</b>	4450kg
May	118	185.7	<b>28kg</b>	3304kg
Jun	113	213.3	<b>39kg</b>	4407kg
Jul	109	221.1	<b>39kg</b>	4251kg
<b>Average</b>		230.6	<b>39kg</b>	<b>Total = 28,485kg</b>

# Electric Cremation – Efficiency (Costs)

DFW electric cremation data at highly efficient crematorium, doing c. 1,500 cremations per annum through one electric cremator:

Month	Cremation numbers	kWh per cremation	Cost per cremation	Cost for month
Jan	90	52.1	<b>£11.64</b>	£1,047.60
Feb	103	30.6	<b>£6.84</b>	£704.52
Mar	127	27.4	<b>£6.12</b>	£777.24
Apr	89	48.9	<b>£10.92</b>	£971.88
May	118	44.7	<b>£9.99</b>	£1,178.82
Jun	113	39.6	<b>£8.85</b>	£1,000.05
Jul	109	59	<b>£13.18</b>	£1,436.62
Average		43.2	<b>£8.36</b>	<b>£1,016.68</b>

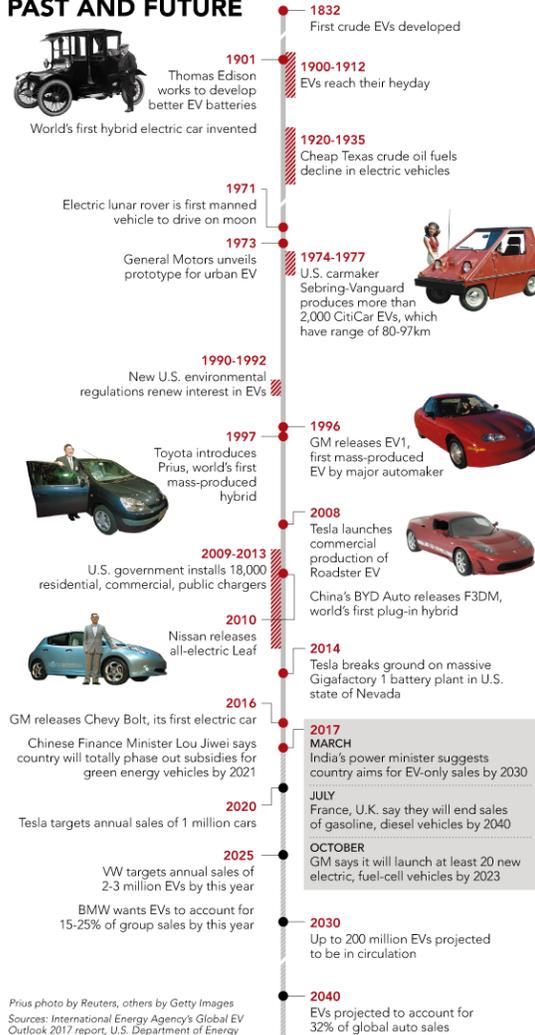
The same crematorium, modelled on running two electric cremators instead of one (grid electricity)

Month	Cremation numbers	kWh per cremation	Cost per cremation	Cost for month
Jan	90	292.2	<b>£65.28</b>	£5,875.20
Feb	103	234	<b>£52.28</b>	£5,384.84
Mar	127	172.5	<b>£38.54</b>	£4,894.58
Apr	89	295.4	<b>£65.99</b>	£5,873.11
May	118	185.7	<b>£41.49</b>	£4,895.82
Jun	113	213.3	<b>£47.65</b>	£5,384.45
Jul	109	221.1	<b>£49.39</b>	£5,383.51
Average		230.6	<b>£51.52</b>	<b>£5,384.50</b>

# Electric Cremation



## THE ELECTRIC CAR PAST AND FUTURE



Prius photo by Reuters, others by Getty Images  
Sources: International Energy Agency's Global EV Outlook 2017 report, U.S. Department of Energy

# Electric Cremation

New (3<sup>rd</sup>) generation electric cremators are coming to market 2023

- Faster cremation times
- Quicker heat up times
- Improved energy efficiency
- Reduced emissions
- Smaller





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Comparison between  
gas and electric  
cremation

# Comparison of Gas and Electric – Cost per cremation

## Gas Cremation

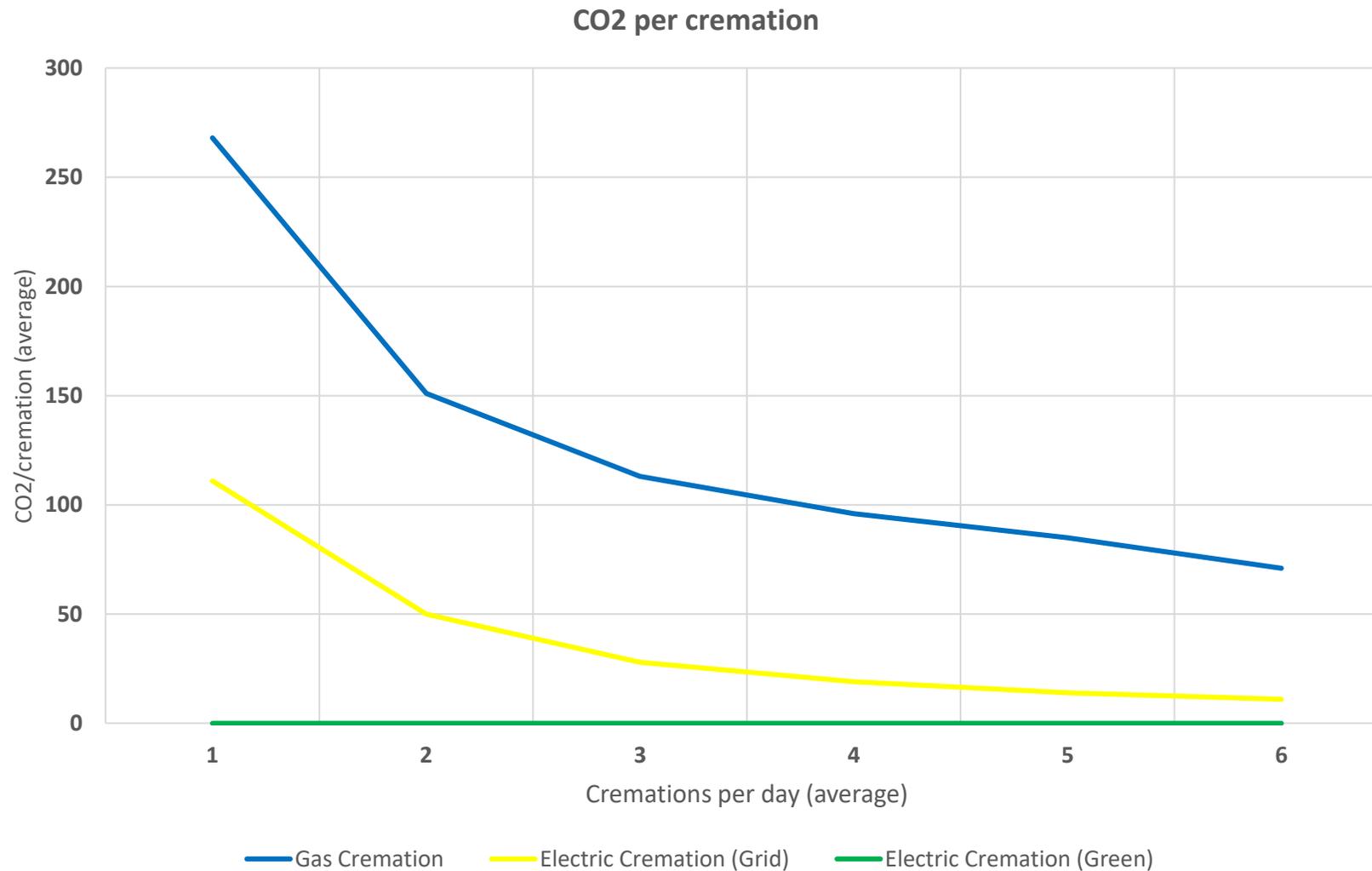
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1	1359	77	<b>268kg</b>
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3	564	38	<b>113kg</b>
4	483	33	<b>96kg</b>
5	424	30	<b>85kg</b>
6	348	28	<b>71kg</b>

## Electric Cremation (Grid)

Month	Cremation numbers	kWh per cremation	CO2 per cremation (grid electricity)
Jan	90	52.1	<b>12kg</b>
Feb	103	30.6	<b>7kg</b>
Mar	127	27.4	<b>6kg</b>
Apr	89	48.9	<b>11kg</b>
May	118	44.7	<b>10kg</b>
Jun	113	39.6	<b>9kg</b>
Jul	109	59	<b>14kg</b>
Average		43.2	<b>10kg</b>

*\*All values exclude the CO2 emissions from the body and the coffin which would be between an additional 25kg and 50kg dependant on coffin, body size and gender.*

# Comparison of Gas and Electric – CO<sub>2</sub> per cremation



# Comparison of Gas and Electric – Cost per cremation

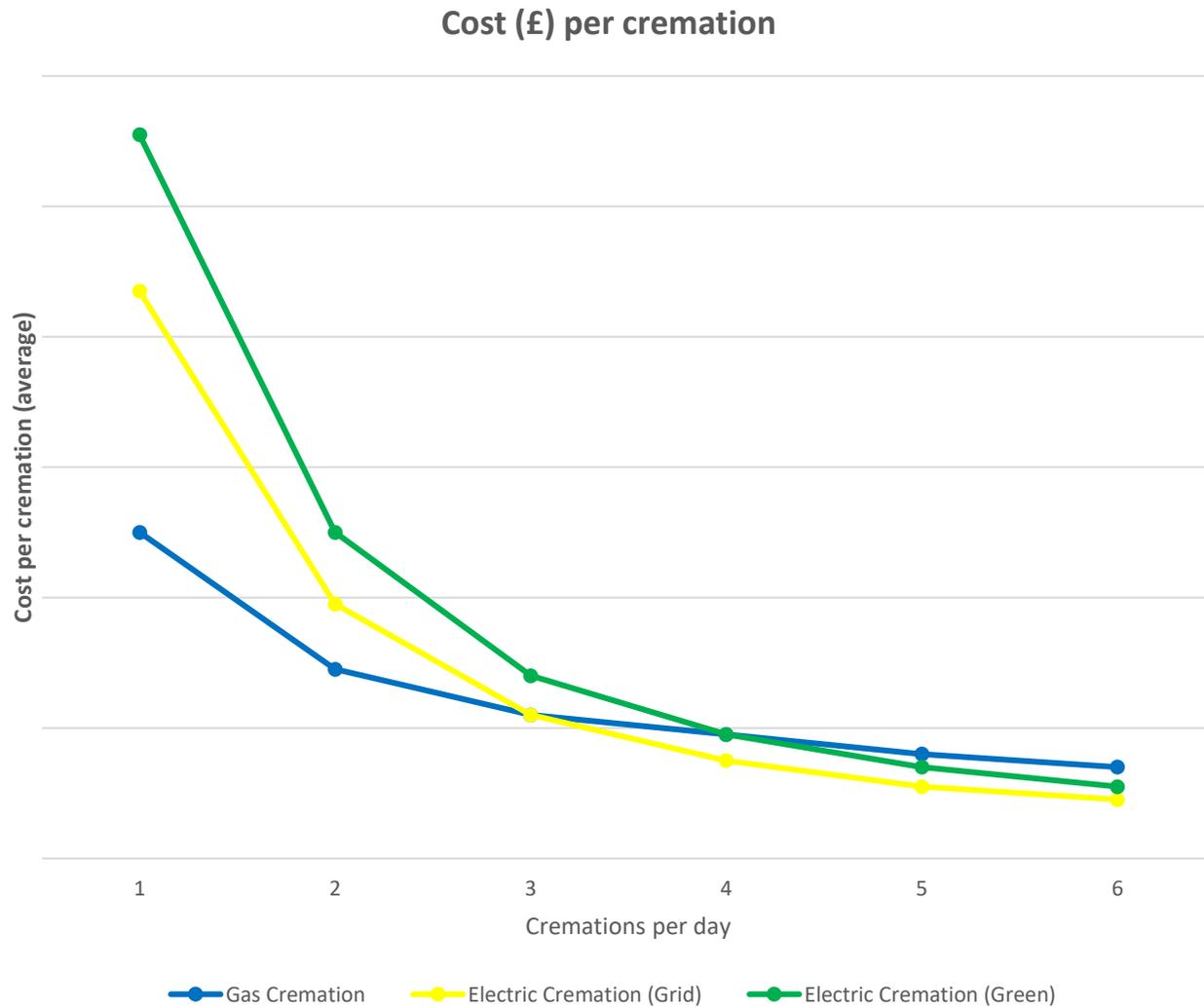
## Gas Cremation

Cremations per day	Gas Per cremation (kWh)	Electricity Consumption Per Cremation [inc. rest] (kWh)	Cost per cremation
1	1359	77	<b>£82</b>
2	763	47	<b>£47</b>
3	564	38	<b>£36</b>
4	483	33	<b>£31</b>
5	424	30	<b>£27</b>
6	348	28	<b>£23</b>

## Electric Cremation

Cremations per day	kWh/hr	Costs per cremation (Grid Electricity)	Costs per cremation (Green Electricity)
1	20	<b>£155</b>	<b>£197</b>
2	18	<b>£70</b>	<b>£89</b>
3	15	<b>£39</b>	<b>£49</b>
4	14	<b>£27</b>	<b>£35</b>
5	13	<b>£20</b>	<b>£26</b>
6	12	<b>£16</b>	<b>£20</b>

# Comparison of Gas and Electric – Cost per cremation

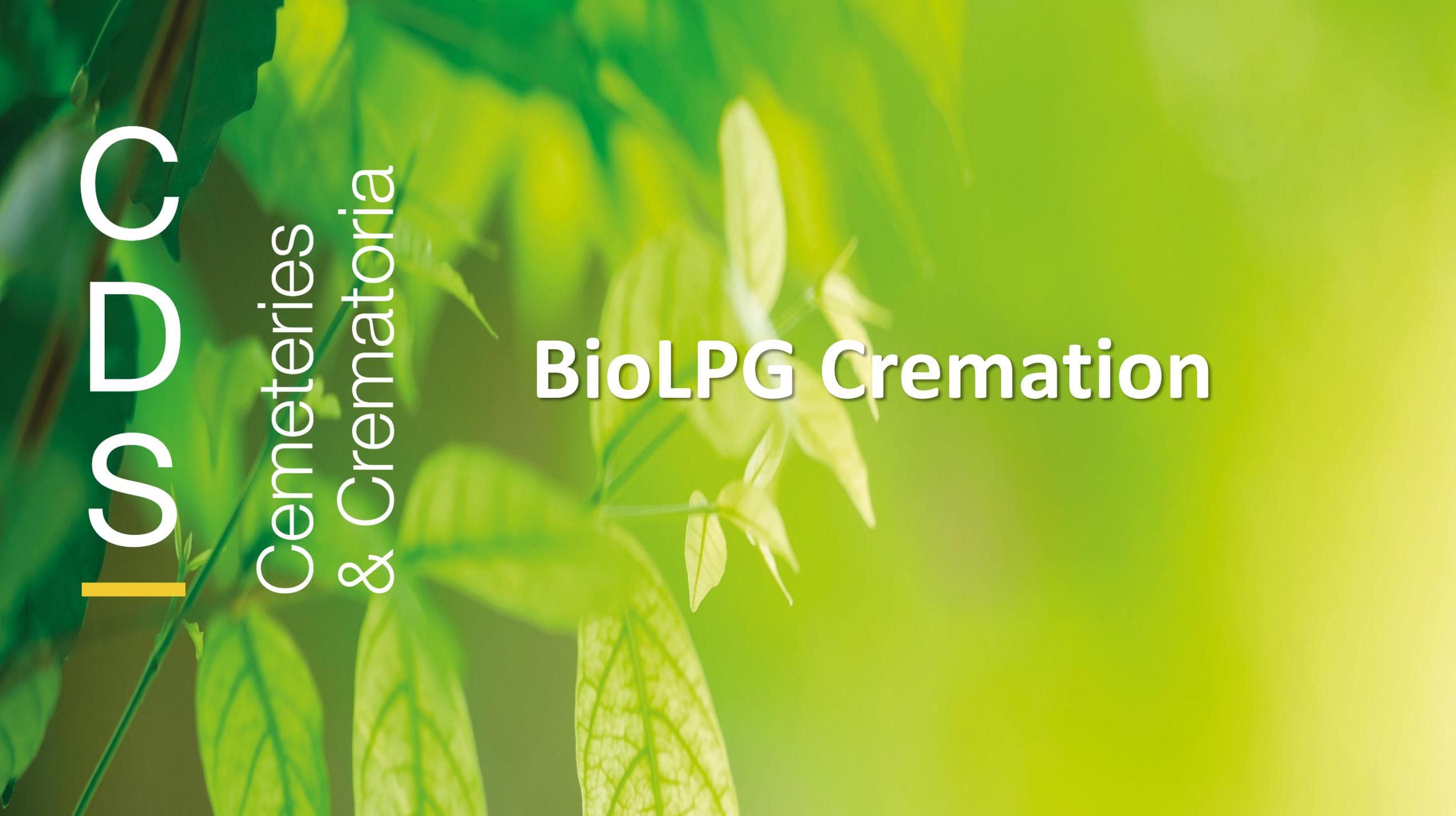




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**Alternative fuels for  
cremation**



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**BioLPG Cremation**

# BioLPG Cremation

BioLPG is a co-product of the biodiesel production process.

During manufacturing, the feedstocks undergo a series of complex treatments. They are combined with hydrogen in a process, called hydrogenolysis, which separates and purifies their energy content.

During the refining process, a variety of waste 'off-gases' are produced that contain propane or BioLPG.

**For every tonne of biodiesel, 50 kg of BioLPG** is generated from this gas stream. This co-product is then purified to make it identical to conventional propane.



## bioLPG feedstocks



Cooking oil, indigenous biomass, vegetable oil, waste, plant dry matter, sugar and starch.

# BioLPG Cremation

If Oil Seed Rape is used as a fuel crop for bio diesel (being an oil crop it would be the most efficient) then the following can be derived from data from the Energy Systems Research Unit at University of Strathclyde

Oil Seed Rape Bio Crop	Value	Measure
Production Area	1,000,000.00	Ha
OSR Yield Hectare	3.50	tonnes hectare
Production yield	3,500,000.00	tonnes
Conversion raw material to oil	0.40	%
Oil yield	1,400,000.00	tonnes
Conversion value to diesel	0.97	%
Production Volume	1,358,000.00	tonnes diesel
Conversion to BioLPG	0.05	tonnes
Production Volume	67,900.00	tonnes BioLPG



## bioLPG feedstocks



Cooking oil, indigenous biomass, vegetable oil, waste, plant dry matter, sugar and starch.

# BioLPG Cremation

To produce the fuel crop (OSR) requires artificial nitrogen fertiliser, nitrogen fertiliser requires natural gas in its production.

The table below illustrates the amount of Nitrogen required and the resulting carbon produced (carbon equivalents CEV) for 1m Hectares of BioDiesel production. This doesn't take account of fuel for cultivation, harvesting, chemical sprays, or transport from field and production plant to end user.

N Fertiliser Use	Value	Measure
Production area	1,000,000	Hectares
Production Yield	3,400,000	Tonnes
Nitrogen per hectare	0.25	Tonnes
Total nitrogen	250,000	Tonnes
CEV	3.4	Tonnes
Carbon production	850,000	Tonnes



## bioLPG feedstocks



Cooking oil, indigenous biomass, vegetable oil, waste, plant dry matter, sugar and starch.

# BioLPG Cremation

## Food Security and Energy Security

Since Russia invaded Ukraine food security and energy security have never been more critical, replacing food crops with energy crops is unlikely to happen in the UK on any large scale.



V



V





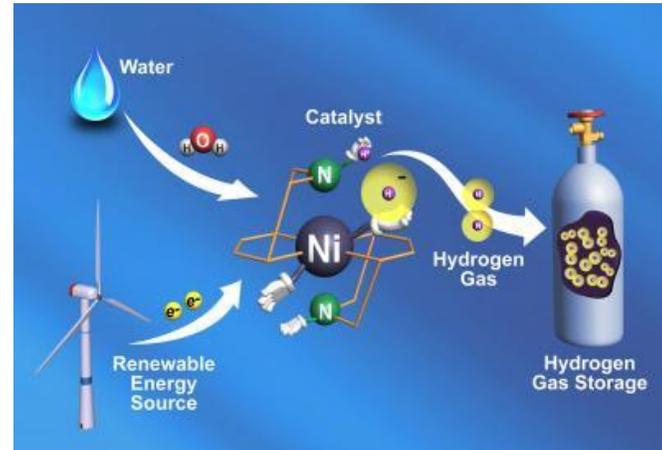
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**Hydrogen Cremation**

# Hydrogen Cremation

Green hydrogen is essentially carbon neutral, therefore the prospect of using green hydrogen for cremation fuel is positive, however the costs involved in green hydrogen production is extremely high compared to natural gas.



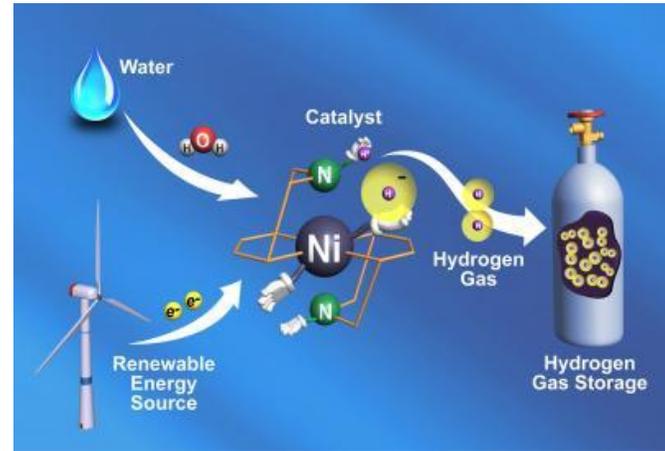
# Hydrogen Cremation

There are two principal methods for producing hydrogen gas:

96% of global production is through steam methane reforming (SMR), using fossil fuels (Blue Hydrogen)

And

4% is produced through electrolysis, using a mixture of electricity and water. (Green Hydrogen)



# Hydrogen Cremation

Hydrogen has a lower molecular weight, therefore the probability of leakage is higher.

It diffuses easily in air and has a high tendency to leak, which makes it difficult to be contained.

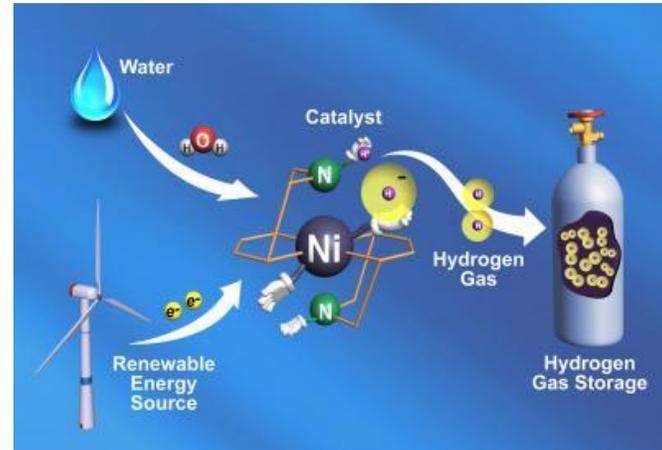
Hydrogen has a wide flammability range from 4 to 75% and a very low ignition energy.



# Hydrogen Cremation

Burning hydrogen in pure oxygen produces H<sub>2</sub>O as a by-product. However in cremation, hydrogen would be burnt in air and some of the ferociously active oxygen atoms combine with nitrogen in the air to form NO<sub>x</sub>.

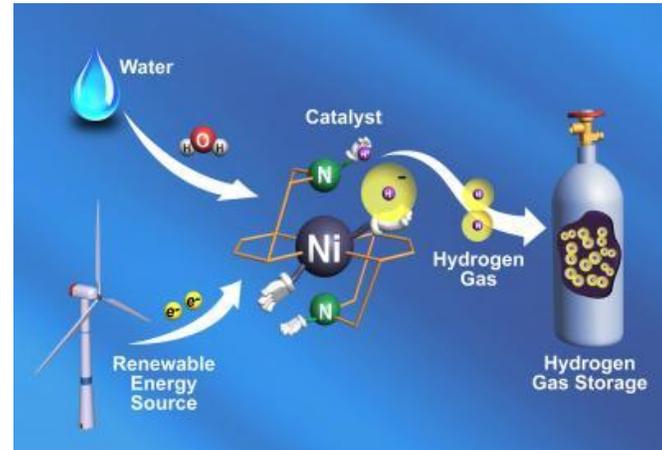
As there is no carbon atoms for the oxygen atoms to combine with, a higher proportion combine with nitrogen from the air to form NO<sub>x</sub>.



# Hydrogen Cremation

For this reason burning hydrogen in air produces up to **six times the NOx emissions** than burning methane (natural gas) in air.

**NOx is 300 times more potent than CO2.**





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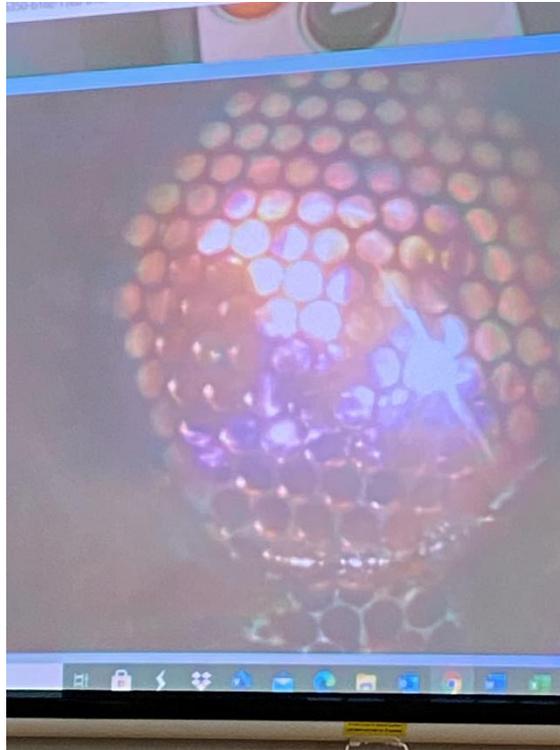
**Microwave Technology**

# Microwave cremation

Mk1 Unit  
System Energisation March 2021  
Experimental programme concluded  
September 2021

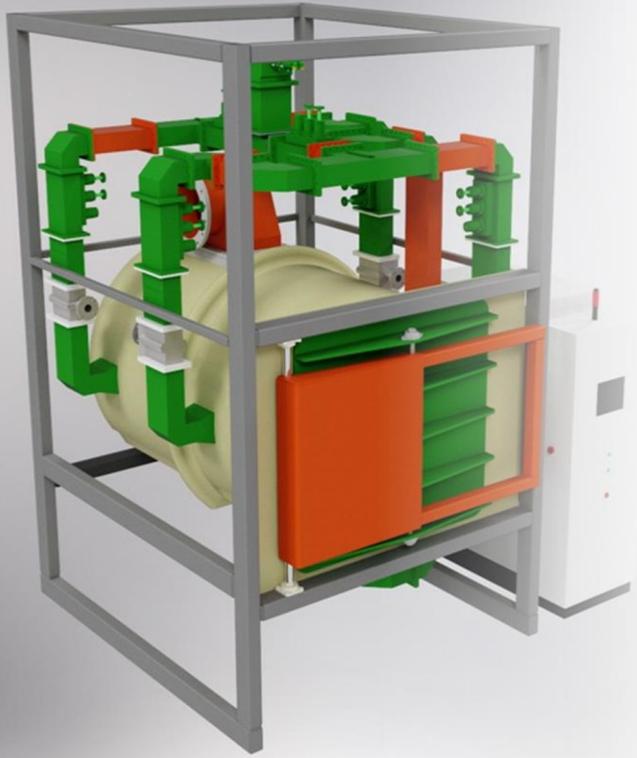


# Microwave cremation



An early trial at 30% power – 90mins between images

# Microwave cremation



Mk2

1m to 1.7m nominal diameter

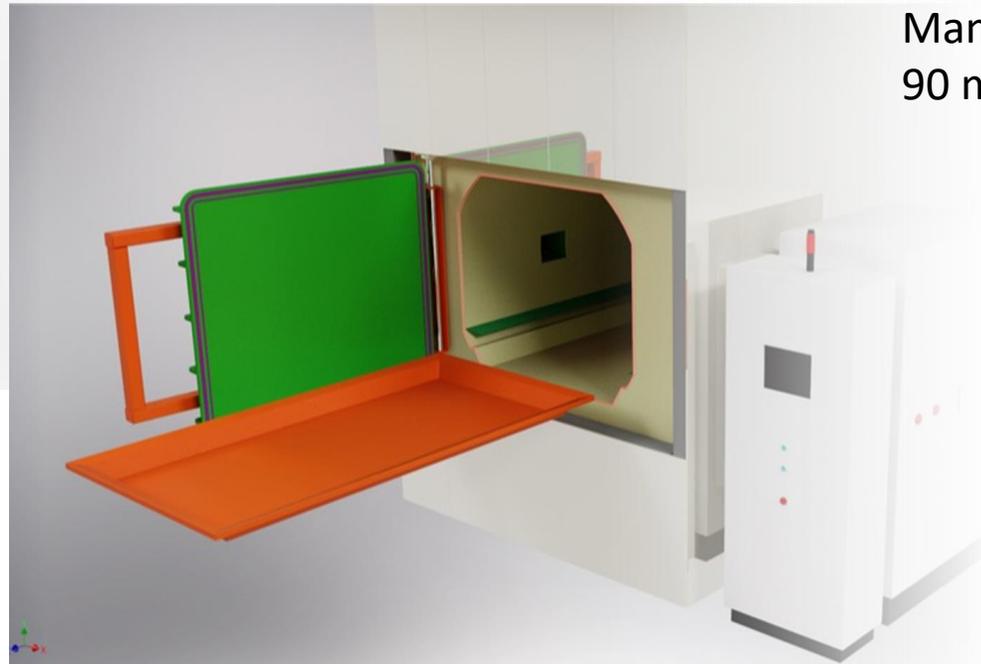
Enhanced wave guide cooling and air injection

Flat floor for ease of access

Motorised encoded door

Manual tray system

90 minute cycle



# Microwave cremation

Current position in development



### Technology Readiness Level (TRL) Scale

Deployment	9	Actual System Operational
	8	System Complete and Qualified
	7	System Prototype Demonstration in Operational Environment
Development	6	Technology Demonstrated in Relevant Environment
	5	Technology Validated in Relevant Environment
Research	4	Technology Validated in Lab
	3	Experimental Proof of Concept
	2	Technology Concept Formulated
	1	Basic Principles Observed

The background of the slide features a soft-focus image of green foliage. In the center-right, a white butterfly is visible, its wings spread, set against a backdrop of various shades of green leaves. The overall lighting is bright and natural, creating a serene and fresh atmosphere.

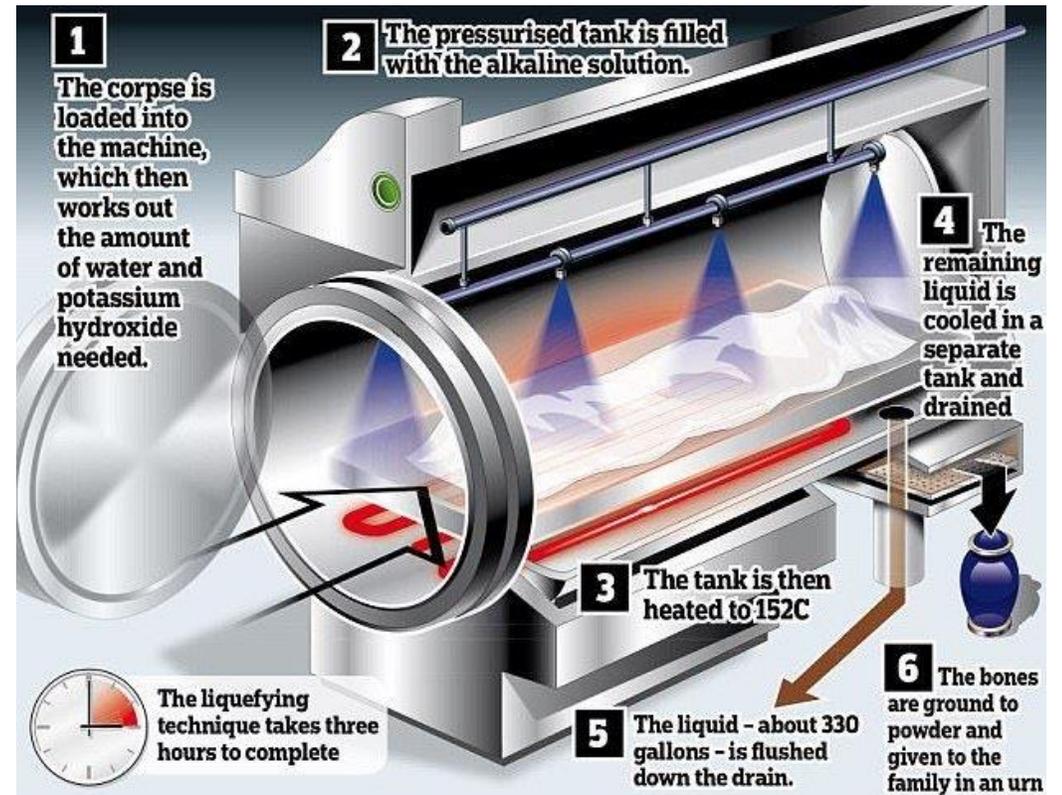
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**Resomation**

# Resomation

Variable	Result
Capital Cost (Average)	A single system cost is - £350k , a dual system cost is £550k
Maintenance Costs (Average)	Unknown
Lifetime	Unknown
Cremation Time	3-3.5 hours (180-210 minutes)
Lead times from purchase	Unknown
Manufacturers	Resomation, Aquamation
Process	The process uses 1200 litres per cycle



# Cremation - Using tools and technology to reduce carbon

## Emissions\*

Cremation Activity	Carbon	NOx
Natural Gas	Red	Light Red
Bio-LPG	Green to Red gradient	Red
Green Energy Electric	Green	Light Green
Resomation	Green to Red gradient	Green to Red gradient
Microwave	Green	Green

\*Excludes Life Cycle Analysis