

Towards a Future of Clean Gas – Why One Community, Among Many, Would Benefit



Among the current buzz about the ever-expanding company Envigas, it can be difficult to keep all the facts straight. Envigas is quickly becoming one of the leading producers of natural fuels, and their reach is extending to the nooks and crannies of the world. For those of you who have not read my past articles, I am a major supporter of natural fuels to keep the environment clean. I have no association with Envigas corporation, but I am certainly a big fan of their efforts and the efforts of other similar companies. Recently, the CEO of Envigas released a statement with the consideration of a new Envigas plant in the village of Bureå, Sweden. Hundreds of residents are protesting the proposal from Envigas to create safe and efficient sources of fuel to power a country already leading in this aspect.

This certainly is not the first time the “not in my backyard” phenomenon has occurred with Envigas, but I was confused by all the fuss caused by this small community of about 2,000 residents. Without a second thought, I hopped on a plane (or three) to visit Bureå myself.

Upon arrival at a hotel in the neighboring city of Skelleftea, I decided to investigate the commotion within Bureå. I stopped a random individual outside of a Coop grocery store and asked for her input on the situation. “Turning this plot into a full-blown factory will ruin this peaceful community we have created,” Margaret Almquist exclaimed. Margaret is a resident of Bureå who lives down the road from the factory and is completely opposed to the idea of reconstructing the factory into a bio-carbon, bio-oil, and syngas manufacturer. She was not alone. Several other residents I spoke to had similar opinions.

On the flight over to Sweden, I had done my research on the current economy of Bureå. I tried explaining that the proposed Envigas factory will bring jobs and increase options away from petrol and diesel. Currently, the best opportunity for jobs in Bureå can be found at Coop and INGA—a gas station—along with several smaller family-owned businesses. Statistics recently released by Skelleftea county reveal that the small population of Bureå is steadily rising, and the only option for many residents is to work in the larger city of Skelleftea about 20 kilometers north of Bureå. Having a local factory in Bureå would allow access to outstanding job opportunities. Look at any other community with a newly constructed Envigas plant and you will notice the grand economic benefits that ensue and the lack of negative outcomes.

A spokesperson for Skelleftea county recently made a comment regarding this topic, “Amongst the rise of residents in Bureå and surrounding villages, those seeking to make a living in these communities under Skelleftea county would greatly benefit from job offerings not centered in Skelleftea.” No further comment was made, but this highlights the importance of following through with the project proposal. Linked below is a tour at the Bureå site that was provided by the project leads at Envigas to gain insight to the future plans of the new factory:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GBbpo_y8Aec&t=7s

I was invited by a local, who chose to remain unnamed, to explore the proposed site of the Envigas factory. She explained how there is an abandoned lumber factory at the site, and many locals of all ages often explore it, legally, and get hurt due to the deteriorating conditions. As she escorted me around the building, I was coincidentally struck by falling debris myself! The fact that so many residents of Bureå are opposed to the Envigas proposition blew me away considering how unsafe the abandoned lot is.

In the off-chance that a resident of Bureå is reading this, I urge you to reconsider your thoughts against building the factory. The world is moving towards clean fuel, and Sweden is even a leader in this aspect. So why hinder this effort? As for the rest of my readers, educate yourselves on how clean energy can bring benefits to your community.