

It Produces Electricity From Fertilizer To Enough For 84 Thousand Houses.



• Energom Energy Inc. produces electricity and organic fertilizer from animal and vegetable waste

• Saltabaş

Although biomass, one of the renewable energy sources, is not on the agenda as much as the sun and wind, it draws attention as an area where investments continue and the installed electricity generation power increases. So much so that the electricity generation power of the biomass facilities established in Turkey has increased to 1,223 megawatts (MW), and the number of facilities has increased to 191. One of the companies that investments in this field is Energom Enerji A.Ş. The company, which was founded five years ago, has reached an installed capacity of 8.5 MW with three facilities in Foça, Balıkesir and Aydın. With Energom's two power plants in Manisa and Burhaniye, the construction process of the waste facility in Istanbul continues. The company's goal is to complete three power plants under construction and increase to 18.5 MW installed capacity in the next two years. The region where the company operates today is an area where agriculture and animal husbandry are concentrated. For this reason, vegetable and animal wastes are used as raw materials of power plants. In fact, electricity equivalent to the electricity needs of 84 thousand households is produced annually from 700 thousand tons of cattle and chicken manure. In the power plants where these wastes are collected, in addition to electricity production, organic fertilizers and organomineral fertilizers necessary for the enrichment of agricultural soil are obtained. "We plan to reach much larger volumes in the production of organic and organomineral fertilizers in the coming years," says Energom Enerji A.Ş. General Manager Fatih Saltabaş continues: "This field will grow rapidly and we will be an important player there." Many companies that invest in biomass, such as Energom, face a similar problem. And that is to buy the waste, which is the raw material needed by the power plants, with money. Especially animal manure. This situation is actually against the logic of waste disposal. "Under normal conditions, the polluter pays," says Fatih Saltabaş, and continues: "But in Turkey, things work a little differently. We both dispose of farm waste and pay for it. Regulations need to be made for this. Companies that pay for waste naturally experience a decline in profitability, which can extend the return on investment." Recently, the new Renewable Energy Resources Support Mechanism (YEKDEM) tariff, which the entire renewable energy sector has been waiting for, has been announced. The industry is generally satisfied with the announcement of YEKDEM recipes, but finds the prices somewhat inadequate. Fatih Saltabaş draws attention to the fact that a YEKDEM tariff has been announced, which is slightly below expectations, and states that this may slow the pace of investments a little. Saltabaş says, "Biomass resources should be considered not only in terms of energy production but also as a part of the waste management system and an integrated incentive mechanism should be developed accordingly." Another goal of the company in the short term is to add solar power plants to the electricity generation power of the existing power plants and transform them into hybrid power plants. In this way, it is possible to use some of the idle capacity and to increase the electricity generation power by 10-15 percent.

—Mehmet Erdoğan Elgin

