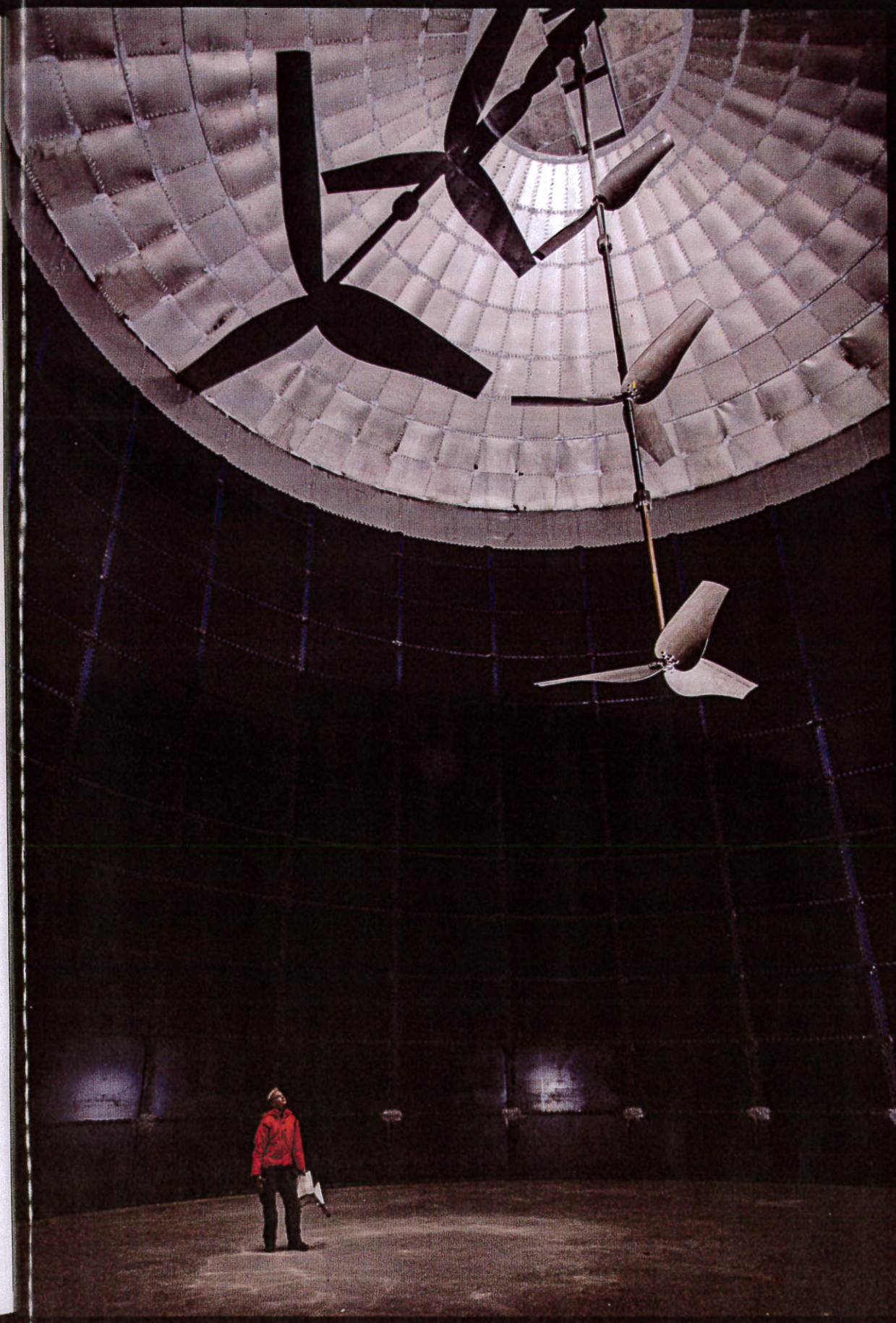


nstad's
v biogas
is full, it
million gallons
h of it pig
the region's
es (left). The
gitators
ic waste,
r for microbes
d in the
ze methane.
ses this
rate electricity
to fuel cars
il garbage
ses (below).
ies produce
l to replace
llons of
year.



IN KRISTIANSTAD, OFFAL ISN'T AWFUL—IT'S FUEL

Without fossil fuel reserves of its own, Sweden leads the European Union in the share of energy it gets from renewable sources—48 percent—and has one of the EU's lowest rates of carbon emissions. Hydropower is the biggest renewable source, followed by biofuels. Kristianstad, an agricultural center close to the Baltic Sea, aims to free itself entirely from fossil energy, largely by extracting methane-rich biogas from pork offal, household food scraps, and other waste.

When Kristianstad's cavernous new biogas reactor (right) is full, it contains 1.6 million gallons of sludge, much of it pig intestines from the region's slaughterhouses (left). The propeller-like agitators stir the organic waste, making it easier for microbes to digest—and in the process produce methane. Kristianstad uses this biogas to generate electricity and heat and to fuel cars and municipal garbage trucks and buses (below). Its two refineries produce enough biofuel to replace 1.1 million gallons of gasoline each year.

