Biogas Development
Opportunities in Wisconsin

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Digesters in Wisconsin

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Status of Digesters in Wisconsin

Digesters
- Approximately 172 anaerobic digesters
- Generate 140 MW of electrical capacity

Primary Feedstock Sources:
- Agriculture By-products
- Food and Cheese Processing
- Waste Treatment
- Manufacturing
Wisconsin Biogas Survey

Goals
- Determine the status of biogas utilization in the State of Wisconsin
- Provide an update for policy-makers, food and fuel industry specialists, municipal officials, ag field, etc. about biogas in Wisconsin

Sample Survey Questions
- What are the barriers to biogas utilization? Where are the success stories?
- What are feedstock sources?
- What are the current biogas applications, as well as future plans?

Survey Results
- Cost concerns: Permitting/Regulation, Capital Cost and Funding
- Lack of Regional Coordination, waste streams, biosolids
Digester Feedstock-Food Processing

High strength waste water produced by:
- Canning Facilities
- Dairy Processors
- Meat Packing and Slaughtering Plants
Digester Drivers

- Waste Use or Reduction
- Regulation/Discharge Fee reduction or avoidance
- Pollution control
  - Phosphorous
  - Pathogen Destruction
- Value added/Economic benefits
  - Energy production, transportation fuel production, potential byproducts
- Policy – Low Carbon Fuel Standard, Renewable Fuel Standard
Wisconsin’s Dairy Digester Program

- **Wisconsin’s Public Service Commission** originally allocated $6.4 million in Focus on Energy funds for “a dairy digester program” exploring feasibility of installing anaerobic digesters on small-to medium-sized farms.

- A revised RFP removed the “small to medium farm size limit”, directed an **inter-agency effort** to focus instead on projects that explore concentrating biogas production by bringing together large and small farms in the same areas to achieve economies of scale in biogas production.

- The RFP recommendation resulted in direction to the Focus Program Administrator to award $15 million to support the Integrated Anaerobic Digester System proposed by BCO, with conditions “necessary to ensure the project is successful”.
On the Horizon...

- The Organic Waste and Biogas Feedstock Survey will canvass biogas industry stakeholders to provide a report synthesizing data to be used as a decision-making tool by industry stakeholders. The report will:
  - Provide an understanding of production and availability of biogas in Wisconsin
  - Provide a detailed case study (or multiple) from each sector (i.e. stakeholder group/category)
  - Use results to inform OEI’s sector support initiative for the biogas industry

- Track the installation and energy production of the “hub and spoke” digester project in NE WI

- The new Rural Initiatives program offers more than $8 million in incentives for farmers and the industrial sector, among others.
Thank you!

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