



NEWS RELEASE

Caroline Peat

202.640.6595

cpeat@ttcorp.com

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American Biogas Council Announces Shortlist for 2017 Biogas Industry Awards

WASHINGTON, DC -October 11, 2017 - Today, the American Biogas Council (ABC) released the names of the finalists for the 2017 Biogas Industry Awards. The final awardees will be unveiled at a [special dinner](#) on October 17 at the ABC's fifth annual conference at [BioCycle REFOR17](#) in Portland, Oregon. This year's shortlist represents biogas projects and innovations which are both exceptional individually and also examples for replication in future biogas projects.

"This year's finalists really show the diversity, strength and innovation of the US biogas industry," said Patrick Serfass, ABC Executive Director. "While we're looking forward to surprising the winners next week, all of these projects deserve recognition. We hope they will serve as models for future biogas project development."

Of the finalists in the shortlist below, the ABC will award one Innovation of the Year, one Friend of the ABC, and four Projects of the Year. Also, following the tradition which began in 2016, the ABC will recognize biogas systems that reached their 5- or 10-year milestone for continuous operation with the ABC's Longevity Award.

Biogas systems turn organic material into soil amendments and gaseous fuel by using anaerobic digestion, a natural, biological process in a sealed tank. There are more than [2,200](#) operational biogas systems in the U.S. today with the potential for over 13,500 new systems to be built.

BIOGAS INDUSTRY AWARDS SHORTLIST

1. Projects of the Year

- [New Hope Dairy | Homer, NY](#)

This is a dairy digester project in upstate New York that runs on dairy manure from the host farm. Digester piping is integrated into the existing farm infrastructure and separated solids post digestion are recycled back for additional gas production. Electricity from the CHP unit supplies the farm with all the electricity it needs and the excess is sold to the local utility grid. The project was part of a NYSERDA initiative to increase dairy digesters in the state.

- [Pine Island Farm Digester Facility | Sheffield, MA](#)

Pine Island Farm is a large dairy farm in Sheffield, Massachusetts. To address problems of large scale farming, such as manure management, groundwater protection and odor control, Pine Island Dairy Farm installed an on-farm DVO anaerobic digester. The AD system generates electric power and heat. The electric power is being used at the farm and net metered to other commercial consumers. Waste heat is reclaimed from the gen-set and utilized to heat the digester and other areas of the dairy operation. Digestate reuse has eliminated the need for the farm to buy bedding and the nutrients in the liquid are increasing crop yields while decreasing the need to invest in herbicides to combat weed seeds.

1211 Connecticut Avenue NW, suite 650 | Washington, DC 20036-2701

202-640-6595 | info@americanbiogascouncil.org | www.americanbiogascouncil.org

- [Reinford Farms Anaerobic Digester | Mifflintown, PA](#)

Reinford Farm hired RCM, now part of Martin Construction, to reduce odor and better manage the manure supply on their 750-head dairy. The system was over-sized intentionally to prepare for a herd expansion, but shortly after startup, the farm decided to use the excess capacity to co-digest food waste with the manure. The farm is utilizing the full potential of the digester system by not only producing and selling electricity but utilizing waste heat to operate a grain dryer and heat several farm buildings including their home. The digestate solids are used for bedding and the liquid is used for fertilizer.

- [Synergy Biogas | Covington, NY](#)

In 2011, CH4 Biogas built a 400 ton/day mixed waste biogas facility at Synergy Dairy in New York. The facility digests manure from about 2,000 milking cows with food-grade organic waste. Biogas from the digester fuels a 1426 kWh generator. In addition, the facility produces about 16,000 yd³/year bedding for the dairy, 30 million gallons of liquid fertilizer for land application and 8000 tons CO₂ emission reduction credits. The project was originally built as a full-scale demonstration project meant to showcase advanced European AD technology that maximizes energy output. Facility performance was evaluated by Cornell University which found it to be the most efficient digester in NY.

- [UWO Allen Farm Digester | Allenville, WI](#)

The Allen Farm Digester project is a collaboration between the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh and Allen Farms to bring anaerobic digestion technology to the "small farm" (less than 200 cows). A couple years after startup, the dairy installed new free stall barn and robotic milking technology for the dairy production creating new liquid and solid feedstocks for the digester such as liquid manure from the free stall barn, solid bedpack from non-milking cows, crop residuals from onsite, and industrial food waste from offsite. The system now recycles more than 6,000 tons per year of organic material.

- [Valley View | Greencastle, MO](#)

This project is the third of a nine part project that will upgrade Smithfield Hog Production's manure lagoons into systems that both capture the gas and upgrade it into pipeline quality renewable natural gas (RNG). Once captured, cleaned and compressed, the RNG is injected into the pipeline where it's sold for vehicle fuel and power generation to customers. One thing that sets this project apart is the scale at which the farm has been able to take manure lagoon storage and turn it into a productive and environmentally responsible system for managing the manure and nutrients on site.

- [Monogram Clean Energy Plant | Martinsville, VA](#)

Monogram Foods operates a production plant in Martinsville, Virginia, that produces beef jerky and other meat snacks. In 2016, to support the expansion of its production plant and address waste treatment needs, Monogram initiated construction on a new Clean Energy Plant (CEP) that principally uses an Anaerobic Digester (AD) to treat its wastes. The CEP was completed in June 2017. It was conceived by Monogram staff, its engineers, and its financial representatives to address waste and wastewater treatment needs in a sustainable fashion. The biogas is used to produce both heat and power for plant operations.

2. Friend of the ABC

- [High Plains Bioenergy/Seaboard Foods Gas Upgrading Plant to RNG](#)

High Plains Bioenergy (HPB) - a subsidiary of Seaboard Foods and major North American food processor - installed a Carbotech Pressure Swing Adsorption biogas upgrading plant in the summer of 2017 from BIOFerm Energy Systems to generate renewable natural gas (RNG) for pipeline injection. HPB traditionally fueled boilers with the biogas generated from anaerobic digestion of pork processing waste, but identified biogas upgrading and grid injection as a sustainable, alternative use for their biogas to enable the highest return.

- [Quantum Biopower](#)

Quantum Biopower, located at the site of a former town landfill facility is the first anaerobic digester in Connecticut. It will divert 40,000 tons of food waste per year from the waste stream for more environmentally responsible management through recycling. Quantum is under contract with local food waste generators including Shop Rite, the Aqua Turf Club, and the Farmington Club. The facility will also produce 1.2 megawatts of clean renewable electricity and 10,000 tons per year of premium organic compost.

- [Dr. David Babson](#)

Throughout the most recent parts of his career at the US Environmental Protection Agency, the Union of Concerned Scientists, the US Department of Energy, and now the US Department of Agriculture, David Babson has been a tireless advocate for anaerobic digester-produced biogas in the EPA Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS), guiding ABC members through the maze of RFS terms, RIN calculations and more. He regularly helps to educate and guide industry through conferences and events, and one on one guidance related to a number of biogas related topics in the federal government.

3. Innovation of the Year

- [Impact Bioenergy Microdigesters](#)

These small, onsite, containerized systems are rated for 1000 to 2000 lbs per week and are designed to scale down the size and cost of anaerobic digestion (AD). This can reduce the environmental footprint of even a single cafeteria or restaurant by offsetting trucking offsite to distant facilities, while also offsetting less sustainable forms of energy with self-generated renewable energy. Feedstocks include: post-consumer food waste, kitchen trim, craft brewery residuals, food bank residuals, distillery residuals, animal processing residuals.

- [Newtrient LLC Technology Catalog](#)

In March of this year, Newtrient launched an open-source, technology catalog that provides a comprehensive analysis of relevant dairy manure-management technologies in the United States. To help industry, especially dairies, choose the manure-management solution that might best work at their site, the Newtrient Technology Catalog provides a reliable, third-party technology evaluation tool covering over 180 technologies related to biogas production or digestate management.

About the American Biogas Council

The American Biogas Council is the only national trade association representing the entire biogas industry in the U.S. The ABC represents over 200 companies in all parts of the biogas supply chain who are dedicated to maximizing the production and use of biogas and digestate from organic waste. Find us online at www.AmericanBiogasCouncil.org, Twitter [@ambiogascouncil](https://twitter.com/ambiogascouncil), LinkedIn in the American Biogas Council group and on [YouTube](#).

Find a link to a PDF of this release [here](#) and for all project profiles [here](#).