



Statement of Principles on Biogas from Biosolids

As part of a memorandum of understanding between the Water Environment Federation (WEF) and the American Biogas Council (ABC) dated February 14, 2014, these principles are adapted from the following Water Environment Federation (WEF) Position Statements:

- Renewable Energy Generation From Wastewater, Adopted by WEF Board of Trustees: Oct. 14, 2011
- Biosolids, Adopted by WEF Board of Trustees: Dec. 2, 2011

WEF and ABC believe:

- Wastewater treatment plants are not waste disposal facilities, but rather water resource recovery facilities that produce clean water, recover nutrients (such as phosphorus and nitrogen), and have the potential to reduce the nation's dependence upon fossil fuel through the production and use of renewable energy.
- Energy derived from wastewater treatment using anaerobic digestion is a renewable energy resource.
- The organic residual byproducts of wastewater treatment process, also known as biosolids, which include digested materials from anaerobic digestion, should be recognized as biomass in general, and especially under all government or commercial programs that sponsor biomass-derived renewable energy projects.

WEF and ABC support:

- Promotion and enhancement of the beneficial recycling of biosolids and use of biogas from anaerobic digestion systems at water resource recovery facilities that are best suited to meet the management needs of local communities.
- The use of proven technologies that facilitate energy and nutrient recovery and encourage federal and state legislation that promotes the use of biogas from biosolids processing as a renewable energy source.
- Proactive communications and public outreach to continue to build a strong base of support for products made from biosolids. This approach includes enhanced communications and education both within the profession and with the public.
- That all biosolids management approaches must be based on good science. We support continued research to add to the understanding of effective practices for biosolids management, strengthening the science on which sound practices are based, and addressing emerging issues as they arise.
- Development of state and federal regulations which promote the renewable resource value of biosolids and biogas while remaining protective of public and environmental health.

About Water Environment Federation

Founded in 1928, the Water Environment Federation (WEF) is a not-for-profit technical and educational organization of 36,000 individual members and 75 affiliated Member Associations representing water quality professionals around the world. WEF members, Member Associations, and staff proudly work to achieve our mission to provide bold leadership, champion innovation, connect water professionals, and leverage knowledge to support clean and safe water worldwide.

About American Biogas Council

Founded in 2010, the American Biogas Council (ABC), is a 501(c)(6) trade association which represents 200 companies dedicated to maximizing the production and use of biogas from organic waste. Members include anaerobic digester developers/builders, engine and turbine manufacturers, farmers, wastewater utilities, landfill operators, engineering and law firms, financiers, nonprofits, universities and the entire biogas supply chain