



NEWS RELEASE

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Biogas Council Applauds Multi-Agency Roadmap

Biogas Opportunities Roadmap will support growth of the U.S. biogas industry

Washington, D.C. – Friday, the White House released the Biogas Opportunities Roadmap highlighting the economic and environmental benefits that can result from constructing more biogas systems to recycle organic materials. The Biogas Roadmap, a part of the Obama administration's Strategy to Reduce Methane Emissions, culminates a cross-agency collaboration between the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Department of Energy (DOE) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The United States currently has more than 2,000 sites producing biogas and the Roadmap says that with the proper support, more than 11,000 additional biogas systems could be deployed in the United States. If fully realized, these biogas systems could produce enough energy to power more than 3 million American homes and reduce methane emissions equivalent to 4 to 54 million metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions in 2030, the annual emissions of between 800,000 and 11 million passenger vehicles.

"Federal Agency commitments in the Biogas Roadmap will boost industry efforts already underway to grow U.S. biogas business," said Patrick Serfass, Executive Director of the American Biogas Council. "Biogas system technologies are commercially proven but certain existing policies, plus a lack of awareness and recognition of biogas system benefits, limit industry growth. The activities outlined in the Biogas Roadmap, when properly executed, will take a large step forward to remove obstacles currently limiting construction of new biogas systems."

Biogas systems convert organic materials which might otherwise be the source of methane emissions in landfills or lagoons. Biogas plants process these materials in optimized, fully-enclosed, natural biological systems that both capture the methane to create renewable electricity and fuel, and produce valuable, nutrient-rich soil amendments that reduce the need for synthetic fertilizers.

Because biogas systems provide multiple important benefits--*renewable energy, soil nutrient recycling, localized waste solutions, and new jobs*—growth of the biogas industry will strengthen many sectors of our nation's economy. The agricultural, renewable power, renewable fuels, fertilizer, wastewater, food and waste management industries will see

significant positive impact as more biogas systems are built. Specifically, the dairy sector alone could create \$3 billion in products from biogas systems, according to a recent study by the Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy. According to biogas industry experts, building 11,000 new systems would result in at least \$33 billion in capital expenditures for construction activity generating approximately 275,000 short-term construction jobs and 18,000 permanent jobs to run the digesters.

“While the Roadmap appropriately increases federal and local government focus on the significant environmental benefits biogas systems bring to air, water and soil, we in the industry also see the opportunity to build strong businesses,” said Wayne Davis, Chairman of the Board of the American Biogas Council. “The policy adjustments and new voluntary initiatives in the Biogas Roadmap will help create a more fertile environment to stimulate business growth using programs and resources already in place, but better coordinated and utilized.”

Some of the key steps the USDA, DOE and EPA will take to promote the development of biogas systems:

- **Promoting Biogas Utilization through Existing Agency Programs:** USDA, DOE and EPA will use their existing programs as a vehicle to enhance the utilization of biogas systems in the U.S. by ensuring that existing criteria for technical and financial assistance considers the benefits of biogas systems, leveraging over \$10 million in research funding to enhance the economic viability and surrounding benefits of the biogas systems and co-products, and strengthening programs that support the use of biogas for clean energy, transportation fuel, renewable chemicals and biobased products.
- **Fostering investment in biogas systems:** To help overcome barriers to the widespread investment in biogas systems, USDA will lead efforts to improve the collection and analysis of industry financial and technical data needed to track the performance of anaerobic digesters, evaluate current loan and grant programs for opportunities to broaden the financing options available for biogas systems, and review Federal procurement guidelines to ensure that products of biogas systems are eligible for and promoted by applicable government procurement programs
- **Strengthening markets for biogas systems and system products:** To strengthen U.S. markets for renewable energy and value-added non-energy products from biogas systems, USDA, DOE and EPA will review opportunities to overcome barriers to integrating biogas into electricity and renewable natural gas markets, for example, through modernizing existing Federal incentives provided for renewable energy generation. USDA, EPA and DOE will also drive the creation of tools to help industry broaden the market development for energy and non-energy biogas systems products.
- **Improving communication and coordination:** In order to implement the strategies laid out in the Biogas Roadmap and promote strong interagency coordination, USDA will establish a Biogas Opportunities Roadmap Working Group that will include participation from DOE and EPA, as well as the dairy and biogas industries. The Working Group will collaborate with industry to publish a progress report in August 2015, which identifies and prioritizes policies and technology opportunities to expand the biogas industry and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

For the U.S. Biogas Roadmap, visit:

<http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/Downloads/Biogas-Roadmap.pdf>

and

<http://blog.epa.gov/epaconnect/2014/08/new-biogas-opportunities-roadmap-is-part-of-climate-change-solution-emerging-biogas-industry-offers-new-revenue-opportunities-for-americas-farmers/>

For more on how biogas systems work, visit:

http://www.americanbiogascouncil.org/biogas_howSystemsWork.asp

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About the American Biogas Council

The American Biogas Council is a 501(c)(6) trade association which represents over 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. www.americanbiogascouncil.org. Follow the ABC on Twitter @ambiogascouncil, Flickr and Youtube.