

March 11, 2026



Mr. Bill Peters
Clean Fuels Program Lead
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
700 NE Multnomah Street, Suite 600
Portland, OR 97232

Delivered electronically: bill.n.peters@deq.oregon.gov

Dear Mr. Peters,

The American Biogas Council (ABC) is writing to bring attention to recent changes made to the Green-e Renewable Fuel Standard (Green-e Fuel)¹, administered by the Center for Resource Solutions (CRS), and negative implications these changes are having on the Clean Fuel Program (CFP) and credit generators in Oregon.

The changes to Green-e Fuel were completed in August 2025, with a specific focus on biomethane. Biomethane is a term used interchangeably with Renewable Natural Gas (RNG). For all intents and purposes, the Green-e Fuel and Oregon CFP definitions are generally aligned, defining biomethane/RNG as refined biogas which is suitable for injection into commercial natural gas pipelines. The revisions to Green-e Fuel introduced significant new requirements for biomethane to qualify for Renewable Fuel Certificates (RFCs) which can be thought of as similar in function to Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) but for fuels. The new requirements were introduced to this standard without any input or review from fuel producers or similar stakeholders², and are vast in scope and impact. Many of the requirements conflict with Federal and State regulations for farms, creating a messy, and arguably insurmountable barrier for farm-based fuels to qualify.

Under typical circumstances, these requirements would simply be ignored by the industry as unachievable and thus left unutilized, since the CRS Green-e Fuel certification is a *voluntary* program. However, Oregon is unique in that it has codified the use of such private, voluntary registries in the CFP:

*OAR 340-253-0640*³

(2)(d): To claim a carbon intensity other than a statewide or utility-specific mix, or directly connected renewable power under the Lookup Table in OAR 340-253-8010 (Tables), a registered party must:

(A) Submit documentation that qualifying RECs were retired in a recognized renewable electricity tracking system for the unique purpose of covering that specific charging at the same time as the submittal of the Quarterly;

*(2)(e) "Any entity that claims a carbon intensity using paragraph (2)(d)(A) must annually submit proof of completion of final verification or a validation statement from the **Green-e Program for the RECs used to generate incremental credits**. Failure to submit such proof is grounds for DEQ to invalidate any incremental credits issued to the entity under the procedures of [OAR 340-253-0670](#)*

The referenced "Green-e Program" for RECs is known as the Green-e Energy Standard.⁴ (Energy Standard) The Energy Standard was updated in December 2025, through revisions to Appendix B: Green-e Renewable Energy Standards for Canada and the United States.⁵ Within Appendix B were revisions to "Eligible Sources of Supply" (II.(A)) linking the two programs: Green-e Fuel & Green-e Energy.

¹ <https://www.green-e.org/docs/rf/Green-e%20Renewable%20Fuels%20Standard.pdf>

² <https://www.green-e.org/about/standard-setting>

³ <https://secure.sos.state.or.us/oard/view.action?ruleNumber=340-253-0640>

⁴ <https://www.green-e.org/programs/energy/documents>

⁵ <https://www.green-e.org/docs/energy/Green-e%20Standard%20US.pdf>

(5) "Biomethane in a common carrier pipeline that is used to generate Green-e® Energy certified products must be Green-e® Renewable Fuels certified."

(5)(c)(i) "Biomethane from Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs), as defined in the Green-e® Renewable Fuels Standard (Fuels Standard), that is not delivered to a common carrier pipeline must demonstrate compliance with the following sections of the Fuels Standard in order to be used in a Green-e® Energy certified product: Feedstocks for Anaerobic Digestion; Carbon Intensity; Fuel Transport; Regulatory Surplus; Double Counting; and Appendix A."

The real-world implications of this tether between the programs is that CFP's requirement for Green-e Energy for electricity as a qualified fuel will now also require Green-e Fuel, when that electricity is derived from biomethane.

As previously noted, the August 2025 updates to the Green-e Fuel requirements in Appendix A are nearly impossible to satisfy for farm-based feedstocks. A few examples of the issues are captured below:

- Redefining "Confined Animal Feeding Operations" (CAFO) to be any dairy facility over 200 head, inconsistent with both Federal Clean Water Act and Oregon permitting thresholds.
- Establishing a moratorium on new CAFOs
- Requiring Clean Water Act: National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits for EVERY farm seeking certification, regardless of existing triggers. This is a material expansion of administrative burden on permitting agencies, the likes of which are not supported by Oregon's budget or authority directed to agencies.
- Creates a prohibition on open lagoons for manure storage, which essentially excludes all existing farms with such facilities from participating, given the massive investment and regulatory requirements associated with these storage facilities.
- Adds a reporting requirement, redundant to existing permit requirements, associated with overflow conditions or noncompliance.
- Prohibits land application of digestate for ANY field with "drains, drain tiles, or other drain networks", which are common across the country to manage agricultural lands – in which case limits a farms ability to leverage digestate as fertilizer as a means to reduce dependency on synthetic fertilizer, reduce input costs, and enhance soil health and crop yields.
- Requires expensive groundwater monitoring for facilities within 5 miles of a drinking water well, which is expected to be just about every farm in America.
- Redefines groundwater and surface water limits, inconsistent with both Federal and State criteria.

ABC is requesting the DEQ review the appropriateness of mandating Green-e standards within the CFP, with specific consideration for the following potential solutions to alleviate this conflict that would prohibit RNG-to-electricity-to-vehicle pathways to generate credits in Oregon:

- Remove the language within the CFP regulation that requires RECs to be certified specifically under Green-e, allowing for alternative certification bodies to qualify; or
- Add language that exempts biomethane from this requirement, given the lack of reasonable opportunity to comply.

It is important to emphasize that many farms and producers currently participating in the CFP are actively working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by capturing and using methane from their operations to generate electricity. These operators are striving to do the right thing—turning waste methane into usable energy—yet the new Green-e Fuel requirements effectively disqualify them through standards that are misaligned with Federal and State regulations, uneconomical, in most cases not feasible for farm-based operations. Allowing these requirements to remain in the program not only penalizes proactive climate action but also slows progress toward meaningful emission reductions, directly impeding the program's climate impact and the broader goals of Oregon's Clean Fuel Program.

ABC continues to engage with CRS and their standard setting activities, but we are asking for Oregon's CFP team to address this swiftly so as not to disrupt credit eligibility and availability within the program. We welcome the opportunity to work with regulators to find solutions and can bring additional stakeholders along when appropriate.

We appreciate your attention to this time-sensitive and disruptive issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Heather Dziedzic". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'H'.

Heather Dziedzic
Vice President of Policy
American Biogas Council