Anaerobic Digestion of Food-Based Materials from EPA’s Perspective

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US EPA Region 3
EPA Programs

Resource Conservation and Recovery

Sustainable Food Management

Sustainable Materials Management
U.S. EPA Sustainable Materials Management Program Strategic Plan

Fiscal Year 2017 - 2022

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Why is Sustainable Food Management Important?

- 1.3 billion tons of food wasted annually (worldwide)
- In the U.S. > 30% of edible food goes to waste
- Costs Americans $161 billion annually
- Food Loss = Tremendous Waste of Resources
- Waste going to landfills is 21% food (U.S.)
- Discarded Food - methane emissions from landfills
Sustainable Food Management Program
Food Waste Reduction Goal

Reduce Food Loss and Waste by 50% by 2030
Recognizing the Importance of Food Waste Issues

RUTGERS: Food Waste to Low Carbon Energy Conference
Anaerobic Digestion: Environmental Considerations

- Reduction of Methane Emissions
- Diversion of Organics from Landfills
- Production of Renewable Energy
Who has authority?

- States are responsible for regulating anaerobic digestion
- State/Local regulations driving change
Where can EPA add value?

- Raise public awareness
- Convene States to Share BMPs and Lessons Learned
- Collaborate with Strategic Partners
- Gather critical data
- Institute consistent policy
EPA AD Technical Team

- Collaboration between EPA programs on AD issues is critical
- Team includes representatives from:
  - Office of Land and Emergency Management
  - Office of Air
  - Office of Water
  - Office of Research and Development
  - Several EPA Regional Offices
Anaerobic Digestion and its Applications
Anaerobic Digestion

Learn about anaerobic digestion, how it works and what it can do for you.

Learn about Anaerobic Digestion

- How does anaerobic digestion work?
- Why is the EPA working on anaerobic digestion?
- What is made during anaerobic digestion?
- How are the products of anaerobic digestion used?
- What is co-digestion?

Environmental Benefits of Anaerobic Digestion

- Diversion of Organics from Landfills
- Generate Renewable Energy
- Soil Health Benefits
- Reduce Methane Emissions
- Manure Management

Types of Anaerobic Digesters

- Ways to describe anaerobic digesters
- Stand-alone anaerobic digesters
- On-farm anaerobic digesters
- Anaerobic digesters at water resource recovery facilities (WRRFs)

How is EPA working with Anaerobic Digestion?

- EPA Staff Collaboration
- Tools and Resources
- Technical Assistance
- Compliance Assistance

EPA Publications Relevant to Anaerobic Digestion

- Anaerobic Digestion and Its Applications
- Food Waste to Energy: How Six Water Resource Recovery Facilities are Boosting Biogas Production and the Bottom Line
- Wasted Food Generation in the U.S. - Sources, Amounts and Estimation Methodologies

Contact Us to ask a question, provide feedback, or report a problem.
Data Collection Project for AD Facilities Processing Food in the U.S.
Projects Developed through AD Team Collaboration

- Wasted FOOD Mapping Project
- Co-Digestion Economic Analysis Tool (CoEAT)
QUESTIONS?

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