

# How to Unlock Savings & Revenues with Biogas Utilization

WEF eShowcase Webcast



### **Today's Speakers**



Boyd Gregg Senior Business Development Manager ENGIE North America



### Ravi K. Bhaskar, PhD

Senior Wastewater Engineer & Commercial Lead ENGIE North America







### John Paul Jewell

Regional Sales Manager, Northeast ENGIE North America

**engie** 





### **Opportunity for Better Biogas Utilization**





### **Understanding the Value of Biogas as RNG**





# **Growth of the Biogas Market**

- Origins of a biogas ecosystem started with electricity production and landfill feedstock – mainly to comply with new anti-pollution regulations
- Federal and local programs started by targeting pollution from transportation:
  - Federal Renewable Identification Numbers (RINs) under the Renewable Fuel Standard Program
  - California Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS)
- Both LCFS and RINs were game changers and incentivized the development of a biogas ecosystem
- These programs have market exposure: potentially high returns (short payback) but with higher risk





# **The U.S. Biogas Market**

- Biogas production:
  - 75 Million MMBtu in the U.S. Vs. 133 Million MMBtu in Europe (2022)
- Only a small portion of the feedstock has been exploited
- There is room for growth
  - Low-hanging fruit is still available
  - Challenges reside in grid connection, and feedstock collection
- The current natural gas demand in the U.S. is around
  31 Billion MMBtu (Source: EIA, 2023)



#### U.S. Biogas Potential, 2022 (MMBtu)



# **RINs: Flagship Federal Biomethane Program for Transportation**

# Renewable Identification Numbers (RINs) Under the Renewable Fuel Standard Program:

- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sets the required Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) volumes and percentage standards for the following years
  - On Dec. 1, 2022, it announced standards for 2023, 2024, and 2025
- Current and past administrations have influenced the rules, impacting the market prices of RINs
- ExxonMobil, Chevron, and BP are the primary buyers of RINs



Transfer Date by Week, FUEL (D Code)



# **RIN Classifications**

Fuel type	Feedstock	D-Code
Renewable compressed natural gas, renewable liquefied natural gas, renewable electricity	Biogas from landfills, municipal wastewater treatment facility digesters, agricultural digesters, and separated MSW digesters; and biogas from the cellulosic components of biomass processed in other waste digesters	3 (cellulosic biofuel)
Renewable compressed natural gas, renewable liquefied natural gas, renewable electricity	Biogas from waste digesters	5 (advanced)

#### How to use RINs – An example with D3

- D3 RINs Nominal Prices, USD / gal = \$3.01 (Q1 2024)
- D3 RINs Nominal Prices, USD / MMBTU = \$39.09
- Buyers usually buy at  $\approx 25\%$  discount
- After the buyer's discount, D3 RINs sell price USD / MMBTU  $\approx$  \$29.30





### **Biogas in Figures** Market Insights

- With investments attracted to landfills, dairy farm feedstock, and now wastewater and food waste, RNG production is expected to continue growing
- It is expected that voluntary buyers' demand will be significantly higher than transportation by 2040
  - More sources of feedstock will be developed in the United States to meet the demand



**U.S. Biogas Production** 

(MMBtu)







#### Key energy and climate elements of the IRA:

- Over 10 years
  - \$369B climate and energy spending
    - Tax incentives
    - Grant funding
  - Reduces cost of clean, renewable energy
  - Puts the U.S. on path of 40% GHG reduction by 2030
  - Supports environmental justice and domestic content preferences

# The Inflation Reduction Act includes **\$360B+** in climate investment, tax credits, and loans

Clean Electricity Tax Credits \$161 billion	Air Pollution, Hazardous Materials, Transportation and Infrastructure \$40 billion	Clean Fuel and Vehicle Tax Credits \$36 billion	Con Rura Dev Fore \$35	servation, al elopment, estry billion	
	Clean Manufacturing Tax Credits \$37 billion				
	Individual Clean Energy Incentives \$37 billion	Building Efficier Electrification, Transmission, Industrial, DOE Grants and Loa \$27 billion	ncy, ns	Other Energy and Climate Spending \$14 billion	

Source: Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget

Note: Senate Democrats estimate that the bill will provide \$369 billion in climate and energy investment. CFRB estimates the figure at \$386 billion.



### Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Historic Climate and Energy Legislation

#### IRA as it relates to Biogas and RNG:

- Investment tax credits are set to expire on December 31, 2024
- They will transition to production tax credits
- Energy Production Tax Credit (PTC)
  - 1.25 cents per-kilowatt hour (adjusted each year for inflation) for the first ten years of operation. This tax credit is based on the electricity produced using biogas generated from the anaerobic digestion process.
- Clean Fuel Production Tax Credit (45Z)
  - Production of transportation fuel from anaerobic digesters could qualify for up to \$1.00 per gallon (or equivalent) of fuel, provided certain emissions standards are met.
  - This credit applies only to transportation fuel produced during the years 2025 through 2027.
  - That's equivalent to an additional \$13 per MMBtu.







### Two Primary Ways to Utilize Biogas





### **Harnessing Biogas as an Asset**





# **Advantages and Disadvantages of Cogeneration**

- Power generated can be used internally without utility company involvement
- The most common method of biogas utilization for wastewater plants <50 mgd
- Gas cleaning required to remove hydrogen sulfide, siloxanes, and moisture
  - Hydrogen sulfide oxidizes to sulfuric acid when burned which corrodes internal combustion engines
  - Siloxanes burn to form silicon dioxide (silica) which causes deposits in engine cylinders
  - Adequate preventive maintenance can cost \$0.06 to \$0.09/kWh generated.





# **Cogeneration with Biogas**

- Biogas is either burned or oxidized to generate thermal energy which is used to generate electricity. There are three main technologies:
  - Reciprocating engines and turbines
  - o Fuel cells
  - Linear expansion engines (Mainspring Linear Generator)
- The first two are heavily dependent on gas quality
  - Removal of hydrogen sulfide
  - o Removal of siloxanes
  - Removal of moisture
- Energy content typically between 500 650 BTU/cubic foot (by comparison natural gas has a heating value around 1000 BTU/cubic foot)





### **Biogas Treatment with On-Site Cogeneration**



# **Technologies for Purification of Methane from Biogas**



**Pressure Swing Adsorption** 

### **Membrane Separation**

**Water Sorption** 



### **Technical Considerations**

Gas	Buffer Tank			
product gas is: CH <sub>2</sub> : 96-98% CO <sub>2</sub> : 1-2%	Sen	Dep	Reg	Rep
н <sub>2</sub> 5: <4 ppm	vice	ressurizati	eneration	ressurizati
	ŀ	S PSA V	essels	ON I
	Ľ	11		
Feed	npressor -	Cooler -	Water	- Rou





	Pressure Swing Adsorption	Membrane Separation	Water Sorption
Complexity	Simpler	Simpler	More Complex
Energy Use Intensity	Higher	Moderate	Low
Gas Yield	Similar	Similar	Similar
Need to Treat Tail Gas	Yes	Yes	No
CapEx Cost	Moderate	Lowest	Highest
OpEx Cost	Moderate	Highest	Lower
Noise	Manageable	Less	Less
Scale Considerations	Costly at Large Scale	Less Proven	Costly at Small Scale
Equipment Useful Life	20+	20+	30+
Vendor Options	Fewer, O&M Lock-in	Single, O&M Lock-in	Integration of Multiple
Water Consumption	No	No	Yes

### **Biogas Treatment to RNG with Pipeline Injection**







### **Biogas Utilization Examples**





# West County Wastewater District

**Comprehensive Infrastructure Project** 

#### Need for Comprehensive Energy, Infrastructure, and Process Improvement

West County Wastewater District, located in Richmond, California, needed comprehensive energy, infrastructure, and process improvement programs designed to significantly reduce the organization's carbon footprint and greenhouse gas emissions.

#### **Solution**

By partnering with ENGIE, the district will move toward a cleaner future, by:

- Implementing renewable energy generation: **1.1 MW** solar PV, LED lighting, and EV charging stations
- Upgrading the wastewater treatment plant
- Implementing a 450 kW cogeneration system powered by biogas
- Generating Class A biosolid for agricultural and reclamation uses

#### **Benefits**

- **4.2 million** kWh energy use reduction per year
- **93%** greenhouse gas reduction over program life
- **\$83 million** net program life savings
- Significantly improve process control over wastewater treatment and digestion
- Reduce disposal costs of organic material destined to landfills
- Includes robust community impact program with internship opportunities and career paths for high school and college students





# Metro Water Recovery

### Harnessing Energy from Methane Gas and Saving Costs

#### Need to Upgrade Outdated Biogas Infrastructure

Since 1984, Metro Water Recovery in Denver, Colorado harnessed energy from the methane gas from its digesters using a combined heat and power (CHP) plant. Now decades old, this infrastructure was inefficient to operate and maintain. Leadership wanted to deploy a better approach to co-generation while minimizing CapEx requirements.

#### **Solution**

Through an energy services agreement (ESA), ENGIE and Metro Water Recovery transformed co-generation:

- ENGIE financed, installed, owns, and operates two large, modern gas turbines that generate electricity and hot water to be used onsite.
- No CapEx funds were required from Metro
- Metro pays ENGIE for power and hot water consumed—at a lower rate than the local utility

#### **Benefits**

- 35,000+ mWh of power generated onsite annually
- **30 million BTU/hour** of hot water capacity
- Significant savings on energy costs compared with purchasing from grid
- Eliminated operational risk for energy infrastructure





### **Broward County Wastewater Plant** Cost-effective Wastewater Treatment Upgrades

#### An Opportunity to Maximize Treatment Capabilities & Reduce Costs

In 2011, with the goal of lowering its overall operating costs, Broward County began investigating ways to better process fats, oils, and grease (FOG) and leverage cogeneration technologies at its wastewater plant.

#### **Solution**

ENGIE designed and implemented a turnkey, process improvement solution:

- New system collects FOG for more efficient treatment in anaerobic digesters
- Biogas cleaning system for the conditioning and transfer of gas to a cogeneration engine
- Cogeneration system capable of producing up to **1.99 MW of power**
- Electrical and control integration for operation of the new systems

#### **Benefits**

- Cogeneration system offsets 25% of the electricity the plant would otherwise purchase from the grid
- Reduces greenhouse gas emissions by 8,893
  metric tons annually, equivalent to removing 1,879
  cars from the road
- \$26 million in guaranteed savings over 17 years
- County received both regional and statewide recognition for sustainability leadership







### **Partnering for Plant Upgrades**





# **Challenged by Infrastructure Performance & Investment?**



Are you dealing with unfunded mandates or compliance issues?



Is your staff bogged down by **individual component** failures?



Do you need to expand services to keep up with demand?



Do you need to **cut costs or boost revenues**?



Are you worried about **operational disruptions**?



Do you have the resources to **meet** sustainability goals?

# **ENGIE's Comprehensive Design-Build Approach**

ENGIE is with you every step of the way providing detailed infrastructure audits, financing solutions, project management, and stakeholder engagement.



### Planning

- Infrastructure & inventory assessment: state of current equipment and operations (needs assessment)
- Solution integration: technology options and configurations (sensors, controls, other peripheral smart technology)
- Financial analysis: cost and savings estimates, incentives, financing and ownership structures
- Stakeholder engagement: communications, outreach and approvals



#### Implementation

- Site design: engineering, mechanical and electrical design
- Incentive applications: filing and compliance support
- Procurement: energy system equipment, luminaires, nodes, controls, poles, wires, peripheral smart technology (cameras, sensors, data, etc.)
- Installation: construction, testing and commissioning



### Operation

- Operations & maintenance:
  preventive maintenance and repairs
- Energy management: IOT platform (automatic/remote controls, outage detection, repair dispatch)
- Measurement & verification: report on performance and savings
- Community engagement: programming and project impact



# **About ENGIE**

Delivering comprehensive, integrated services across the entire energy value chain. A preferred provider to cities, counties, universities, school districts, healthcare providers, and other social infrastructure organizations.

# **Clean Energy Leader**

### **50 Years' Experience**

in the U.S. researching, designing, operating, and investing in a wide range of energy solutions

### Access to Intelligence

from ENGIE's \$230 million annual R&D investment globally

### 1,740 Public Serving Organizations

served in the U.S. (municipalities, universities, schools, and hospitals)



**38** GW

of renewable energy capacity worldwide in 2022

0234,5

**26** Mt

of CO2eq emissions avoided globally by ENGIE projects with customers





### **Questions?**



Boyd Gregg Senior Business Development Manager boyd.gregg@engie.com





### Ravi K. Bhaskar, PhD

Senior Wastewater Engineer & Commercial Lead ravi.bhaskar@engie.com





### John Paul Jewell

Regional Sales Manager, Northeast johnpaul.jewell@engie.com



