



Coupling Manure Digesters with Renewable Natural Gas Systems

April 16, 2021

2:30 pm (eastern), 1:30 pm (central), 12:30 pm (mountain), 11:30 am (pacific)

Anaerobic digestion is an established technology to treat animal manure. Biogas (a methane and carbon dioxide mixture) is a digestion byproduct with a positive energy value. The success of on-farm digestion relies on choosing a digester design compatible with the farm scale and operations, careful digester operation and management, implementing biogas end-use that maximizes farm revenue, and economic incentives to support project financing. Due to the favorable economic incentives from the Low-carbon fuel standard (LCFS), there is strong interest in converting biogas to high-purity methane, renewable natural gas (RNG), and injecting it into natural gas pipelines. Across the US, many new on-farm AD projects are going online that integrate RNG technology, individually or as part of a group of digesters, to sell the biogas methane as RNG. This webinar explores where, how, and when it makes sense to merge manure digesters with natural gas pipelines. The webinar will share national, project specific and farm-level perspectives.

An application for continuing education credit for Certified Crop Advisors (CCAs) and members of the American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists (ARPAS) will be submitted.

Vanessa McKinney is the Program Manager for EPA's AgSTAR Program, where she works with U.S. livestock, biogas and government stakeholders to advance the deployment of digesters and biogas systems. She has over a decade of experience in energy efficiency, renewable energy and air emissions regulation and policy. Vanessa completed B.A. degrees in Economics and Environmental Science from Hood College, and a M.A. in Global Environmental Policy from American University's School of International Service. Phone: 202-564-4239, Email: mckinney.vanessa@epa.gov



Dana Kirk is an associate professor in Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering at Michigan State University. In addition, to his teaching and outreach responsibilities, he is the manager of the Anaerobic Digester Research and Education Center (ADREC). The ADREC is collaborative effort between the University and a private foundation to provide a continuum of research, professional development and outreach support for waste-to-energy systems. Dana received his Ph.D in Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering from Michigan State University. Phone: 517-432-6530, Email: kirkdana@msu.edu

Kevin Dobson is the Vice President of Business Development, with DTE Biomass Energy. In this role, he leads all the acquisition and greenfield development activities of both landfill and dairy farm based renewable energy projects. Kevin's responsibilities include identifying prospects, evaluating economic and technical feasibility, proposal development, contract negotiations, and scheduling and implementation activities. Kevin received his MBA from the Ross School of Business at the University of Michigan. Phone: 734-913-5984, Email: kevin.dobson@dteenergy.com



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More Information on the Topic

- EPA AgSTAR: <https://www.epa.gov/agstar>
- DTE Energy: www.dtebe.com
- DTE Projects: <https://dtepowerandindustrial.com/projects/>

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