Biogas: Driving the U.S. Circular Economy

Wednesday, September 23, 2020
2:00 PM – 3:30 PM
Room 2168 Rayburn “Gold Room” House Office Building

Please RSVP to expedite check-in: www.eesi.org/092320biogas#rsvp
Live webcast (connection permitting) will be streamed at: www.eesi.org/livecast

The American Biogas Council (ABC) and the Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) invite you to a briefing about the critical role biogas systems play in our circular economy. The circular economy replaces conventional “take, make, waste” industrial models with “repurpose, reuse and recycle.” This eliminates waste and pollution and creates new economic activity responsibly with the mantra “there is no waste, only wasted material.”

Biogas systems are a prime example of the circular economy in action. Imagine a dairy farm that produces milk and manure. The manure and wastewater from making milk products can be recycled in a biogas system. The biogas system produces a variety of products used by the farm and the process restarts. From the manure and wastewater, a biogas system might produce: 1) electricity to run the farm and milking operation, 2) heat to keep the dairy barn and anaerobic digesters warm, 3) fuel for the vehicles that deliver the milk, 4) soil products to grow more animal feed and 5) bedding for the barns (comfortable cows make more milk!). This is just one example of the circular economy at work. Biogas systems also recycle agriculture residues, food scraps, manure, and municipal sewage—all kinds of organic material.

Briefing attendees will hear a variety of stories on how the biogas industry is supporting our circular economy by recycling materials into useful products, plus learn about the economic opportunities and challenges limiting growth of this important industry. Speakers for this briefing are:

- Melissa VanOrnum, Vice President of Marketing, DVO
- Randy Beck, Senior Director, Waste Management
- Tom Murray, Vice President, Customers and Communities, VGS (formerly Vermont Gas)
- Patrick Serfass, Executive Director, American Biogas Council

How much organic material needs to be recycled? The United States generates more than 70 million tons of food waste each year, 31 billion gallons of wastewater every day and manure from 8 billion cows, chickens, turkeys, and pigs. Biogas facilities can turn these materials into resources, creating local jobs and reducing pollution. Today, the United States has more than 2,200 operational biogas systems in all 50 states. But we have the potential to build more than 14,000 new systems. Doing so would generate more than $40 billion in new investment and enough energy to power 7.5 million homes, reduce carbon emissions by the equivalent of taking 15.4 million cars off the road, and create about 335,000 temporary construction jobs and 23,000 full-time operational positions.

Biogas systems turn a waste management issue into a revenue opportunity for America’s farms, livestock producers, food processing, and wastewater treatment industries, and help make our economy sustainable and circular.

This event is free and open to the public.
For more information, contact Amaury Laporte at alaporte@eesi.org or (202) 662-1884.