

Biogas Financing

Attendees (spellings are approximate):

David Stecher - Big Ox Energy
Jim Renn - Eco Engineer
Ray Grotsch
Brenda Heinen - USDA
Sean Rezin - USEMCO
Connie Loden - New North
Ken Pileggi - Chief of Police, City of Jefferson
Todd Clark - City of Jefferson WWTP
Bryan Van Stippen - Ho Chunk Nation
Larry Henderson - Energenecs
Kenny Johnson - UW Oshkosh
Brian Langolf- UW Oshkosh

After introductions and a discussion of optimizing [Renewable Energy Certificate \(REC\)](#) and [Renewable Identification Numbers \(RIN\)](#) for economic gain for biogas projects in Wisconsin, the group decided on the following to improve the outlook for financing biogas projects around the state:

Action Items -

1. Form the Wisconsin Biogas Association
2. Provide unbiased educational materials, including
 - a. Making more resources available for potential projects which provide verifiable ways to define the return on investment (ROI) for potential systems
 - i. REDA (current SEO-USDA program through June 2016) might be able to help here in some ways with individual project assessments that focus on the ROI/payback numbers associated with different methods of biogas utilization
 - b. Publishing “success stories” or case studies with real numbers (actual money/credit/grant dollars disclosed) that would help spur the industry.
3. A tax credit for nutrient reclamation (phosphorus and nitrogen)

Other items that were discussed of note:

USEMCO, the only smaller digester manufacturer in the state is starting a leasing program for their modular digesters (the same way farmers lease other equipment) they also offer a service agreement. It was stated more than once that an industry standard for digester value (probably on a sliding scale of size/waste) would be very helpful, there are just too many unknowns in the industry right now.