

Renewable Energy Development Assistance (REDA)

PROJECT SUMMARY - Wisconsin Biogas Utilization and System Optimization Program

Applicant: Wisconsin State Energy Office; **Project Director:** Clinton Fandrich, BioEnergy Analyst

The Wisconsin State Energy Office (SEO) requests \$88,000 over one year from the USDA Office of Rural Business-Cooperative Services to fund the *Wisconsin Biogas Utilization and System Optimization Program*. SEO will partner with Focus on Energy, the statewide renewable resource and energy efficiency program funded by Wisconsin utilities, in their effort to provide anaerobic digestion assistance to small- to medium-sized farms and rural small businesses around Wisconsin and will provide matching funds equal to \$88,000. Combining the experience of SEO, including years of sustained efforts to improve the biogas industry in Wisconsin by providing venues for stakeholders to address barriers and comprehensive outreach initiatives to identify growth opportunities, with the capacity of Focus on Energy, who is continuing efforts to encourage biogas utilization among small- and medium-sized dairy farms, the *Wisconsin Biogas Utilization and System Optimization Program* aims to strengthen the under-utilized biogas industry that recognizes Wisconsin as a national leader.

This collaboration will strive toward three primary objectives: first, to address the lacking performance of some anaerobic digesters by carefully reviewing feedstock inputs, chemical and microbiological characteristics, and potential training opportunities; second, to evaluate and provide guidance to facilities that are currently producing abundant biogas resources but are currently unable to exploit them; and third, to explore the possibility of constructing anaerobic digesters at vetted candidate sites, some of which have already been approached by Focus on Energy.

Clinton Fandrich, BioEnergy Analyst at SEO, will be the project manager. Erinn Monroe, Director of Market Transformation at Focus on Energy, will be the lead partner in coordinating efforts with small- to medium-sized farms who currently have, or have expressed serious interest in constructing an anaerobic digester. The combined total project cost will be \$176,000; 50% from the USDA grant and 50% as cash match from Focus on Energy.