

Breakout Session #1: Wisconsin Biogas Council

- Discussion Items:
 - Is there a need to create a Wisconsin Biogas Council or other defined entity serving Wisconsin-specific, industry-defined needs? If yes, what are they?
 - Yes. The goal will be to concentrate industry needs/interests into a formal group.
 - Needs identified centered around education and influence. Education, for industry and policy makers alike to improve industry growth opportunities. Influence to remove barriers to industry sustainability and growth through policy influence and/or legislation.
 - What might such an entity look like? Is there a pattern or best practice template?
 - Using best practice, alignment of interests, and collaboration where appropriate, several entities were identified for further exploration. These include the [American Biogas Council](#), [Renewable Natural Gas Coalition](#), and the DOE-recognized [Clean Cities Coalition](#) on a national level. State-wide entities such as the [Dairy Business Association](#), [RENEW Wisconsin](#), and [Wisconsin Clean Cities](#) (of the DOE coalition) were also cited.
 - Funding for such an entity engendered considerable discussion. The majority seemed to settle on establishing a volunteer board to communicate with potential members and guide creation of a (forthcoming) membership structure. Financing was recognized as being especially necessary for lobbying.
 - One suggestion included a proposal to the [Wisconsin Realtors Association](#) for in-kind assistance to encompass lobbying and office requirements.
 - RENEW Wisconsin and Wisconsin Clean Cities both cited support of establishing a Biogas Council initiative as fitting within their mission and purpose.
 - How to identify and engage key stakeholders? The discussion group suggested that a core Focus Group be established, the purpose of which is to engage key individuals and skill sets for the purpose of establishing a founding Board of Directors (BOD). In continued partnership with the [PSC](#), the Focus Group would help convene stakeholders to formally launch the organization. The intended BOD would lay out a plan for stakeholders that includes:
 - identifying organizational priorities
 - communicating with and signing up members (no charge to begin with)
 - recruiting sponsors (small investment to offset organizational development costs)
 - addressing nascent organizational needs (physical office needs, branding, proposed budget, funding plan, 501(c)6 status, etc.)
 - continuing to collaborate with PSC and/or other state agencies in convening stakeholders and implementing agreed upon priorities.
- Next Step Actions:
 - RENEW Wisconsin and Wisconsin Clean Cities agreed to help identify and convene the core Focus Group. It was assumed by all parties that PSC would play an integral role in this activity

- Representation on the Focus Group should include the following subsets and skill sets
 - Sub-sets of the Biogas industry necessary to Focus Group
 - Dairy, AD owners/producers
 - Industry AD owners/producers
 - Municipal AD owners/producers
 - Energy Industry Biogas user
 - Corporate Biogas users(s)
 - Regulatory and other planning representation (PSC, [DNR](#), [DATCP](#), local permitting)
 - Solution provider - Engineering resource
 - Emergent Technology resources ([M-WERC](#) or University)
 - Additional Skill Sets and Expertise ideal for Focus Group
 - Technical aspects and solutions
 - Operational & Maintenance expertise
 - Financial expert (business models & RINS)
 - Policy/regulatory expertise (state & national)
 - State Advocacy expertise
 - National policy/trend expertise
 - Environmental perspective (benefits & challenges)
 - Supply chain for AD inputs and outputs
 - Communications, marketing, funding expertise