



News for Immediate Release

Dec. 22, 2009

Governor Rendell Announces Green Energy Works! Projects Will Use Waste Material to Generate Power for 80,000 Homes

\$5 Million in Recovery Act Funds Will Leverage \$22 Million for Eight Biogas Projects

Harrisburg – Governor Edward G. Rendell today announced the commonwealth is investing \$5 million in federal recovery money in eight innovative alternative energy projects that use biological materials such as sewage, animal and food processing waste to generate enough energy to power more than 80,000 homes.

“By wisely investing our federal stimulus dollars in large-scale alternative energy projects, we are aggressively moving forward to meet our future long-term energy needs, while creating multiple short-term benefits,” said Governor Rendell. “These projects will put Pennsylvanians to work now constructing long-term assets that will supply residents with a significant amount of electricity for years to come. These projects will stimulate the economy by creating jobs and attracting additional investment capital needed to bring the projects to completion.

“The projects will also develop methods for handling various waste streams in more efficient and environmentally friendly manners. Farmers, food processors and local governments will now be able to better deal with various forms of waste material, use that waste to generate electricity, and in some cases, even using the waste heat generated to make the overall process even more efficient.”

Federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds support the commonwealth's Green Energy Works! Biogas initiative. The projects will leverage an additional \$22 million in private investments.

The eight projects receiving grants will generate more than 470,000 megawatt hours of electricity over their lifetimes. That is enough energy to power more than 47,000 average homes in Pennsylvania for one year. The projects will also generate the equivalent of 3,183 million cubic feet of natural gas — enough to heat more than 37,000 average homes that use about 85,000 cubic feet of gas per year. The projects will also reduce the amount of greenhouse gases emitted by 237,000 tons of carbon dioxide, or the equivalent of taking more than 41,000 passenger vehicles off the roads.

The Green Energy Works! Biogas grants are part of \$52 million initiative which uses Recovery Act money to fund innovative projects designed to help increase energy efficiency, reduce reliance on foreign energy sources, improve service reliability,

and reduce the impact of energy production on the environment. Green Energy Works! is also funding large-scale combined heat and power, solar and wind projects.

“These projects are examples of how by taking a non-traditional approach to meeting our energy needs, we can produce unique and multi-beneficial opportunities,” said Governor Rendell. “Power generation, waste management, job creation and economic growth are all tied together — made possible by federal stimulus money and progressive-thinking Pennsylvanians who will help drive the commonwealth to a state of energy independence.”

More information about how federal stimulus funding is benefiting Pennsylvania is available at: www.recovery.pa.gov. For additional information on Green Energy Works! visit the Department of Environmental Protection's Office of Energy and Technology Deployment at www.depweb.state.pa.us, keyword: “Energy” or call 717-783-8411.

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Editor’s Note: Following is a list of the eight Green Energy Works! Biogas projects by county:

Cumberland

Schreiber Foods Inc. — \$1,250,000 to install a 1.1 megawatt biogas-powered energy recovery system at a dairy plant expansion project that will allow the company to increase its food processing production waste up to three times its current level. Instead of applying the waste to the land, the material will be used to generate electricity for internal use.

Dauphin

Derry Township Municipal Authority — \$500,000 to use excess biogas from an anaerobic digester, which is typically burned off, to fuel an internal combustion engine that will generate electricity. Waste heat from the generator will be recovered and used to heat buildings at the plant.

Lebanon

Anergy Inc. — \$254,382 to construct anaerobic digesters and improve manure management at three small dairy farms. Biogas produced by the digesters will be used to generate electricity for on-farm use and reduce energy costs.

Mercer

Hermitage Municipal Authority — \$350,000 to expand the average monthly capacity of the Bobby Run Water Pollution Control Plant and upgrade the existing anaerobic digester to allow acceptance of alternative feedstock such as restaurant and grocery store waste, grease trap waste and septage. The increase in biologically derived methane gas will be harnessed to produce electricity.

Northumberland

Furmano Foods Inc. — \$850,000 to expand the company's wastewater treatment plant to use methane gas produced through the processing of organic waste to generate electricity and supply a portion of the facility's electrical needs.

Snyder

Ideal Family Farms LLC — \$433,716 to install an anaerobic digester to capture biogas from animal manure to fuel an internal combustion engine and produce electricity for use in barn heaters during the winter as a replacement for propane gas.

Westmoreland

NativeEnergy Inc. — \$893,752 to construct biodigesters on five dairy farms. The biogas resulting from the anaerobic digestion of animal waste will be used for power and useful thermal energy production.

York

York City Sewer Authority — \$500,000 to replace an obsolete internal co-generation system with a more efficient micro-turbine system. Methane that is naturally produced during the wastewater treatment process will power a generator and produce electricity for plant operations.

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