

Methane Capture Projects

Sterksel Biogas Project

This project sees the construction of biogas facilities at five farms in the Netherlands. The project reduces methane emissions to the atmosphere and displaces fossil fuels used to heat local buildings. The project will generate emission reductions of an estimated 35,000 tCO₂ equivalent between 2006 and 2007, verified and certified to the Voluntary Carbon Standard.

Country - The Netherlands

The project is located in the southern Netherlands, an area with a long history of pig and dairy farming. The animal waste is typically held in large open lagoons before being applied to agricultural land. The process results in large volumes of methane being released into the atmosphere. Methane is a potent greenhouse gas and has a global warming affect 21 times that of CO₂.

Led by the agricultural research station attached to one of the farms, the five farms in the project have adopted a new approach. They have installed anaerobic digesters and Combined Heat and Power (CHP) plants to utilise the methane. The animal manure is fed directly into the digesters, where the methane is captured and used to run the CHP plants. These range in capacity from 0.3 to 3.5 MW and are used to generate electricity for the local grid and heat for local buildings.

As a further benefit of the project, the digested manure at the end of the process is a much higher quality fertiliser than produced in the open lagoon practice. Although a great example of industrial ecology, this system is neither common practice nor the cheapest way to dispose of manure.



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