

Briefing Note

Biogas Benefits

Economic

- economic development for rural Ontario
- construction and development investment
- domestic content, manufacturing potential
- full-time, long-term jobs
- German Statistics: 4,000 projects/\$1.5 billion invested/10,000 jobs projected to \$10.5 billion/85,000 jobs by 2020

Rural/Agricultural

- stronger nutrient management
- self-sustaining, life-cycle opportunities
- diversification of farm operations and income
- succession opportunities for family farms into 21st century
- offsetting fertilizer and heating costs
- providing the green image farmers need to stay competitive in the global food supply chain

Environmental

- waste reutilization / diversion of organics from landfills
- capture of GHG from livestock (specifically CH₄ 20x more damaging than CO₂)
- fossil fuel offsets from heating, transportation helping achieve climate change initiatives from agricultural sector
- carbon sequestering potential
- provides source water protection (protection from contamination i.e. Walkerton)
- odour reduction
- creation of renewable fertilizers, reduction in commercial herbicides and pesticides
- soil rebuilding, recycle nutrients for energy balance in foods to crops
- reduces environmental footprint for agricultural practices

Electrical

- Reliable renewable energy generating consistently 24/7/365
- Distributed locally to rural areas throughout the province
- Supports aging infrastructure and may improve power quality
- Good investment for the provincial electricity system because it costs 60 to 80 percent less than other renewables in electrical system maintenance costs per unit energy delivered to users.

Innovation

- creation of new products (biodegradable, renewable)
- research and development
- application of heat and by-products