Organic Waste to Watts – The Lethbridge Biogas Story

2016 RCA Conference

'League of Extraordinary Recyclers –

Knocking out Waste'

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Lethbridge Biogas



Limited partnership between ECB Enviro North America & PlanET Biogas operating a \$30M, 2.85 MW_{el} large scale biogas/cogeneration facility in Lethbridge, Alberta since 12/2013 (10 year development process) – Private Venture, no municipal involvement



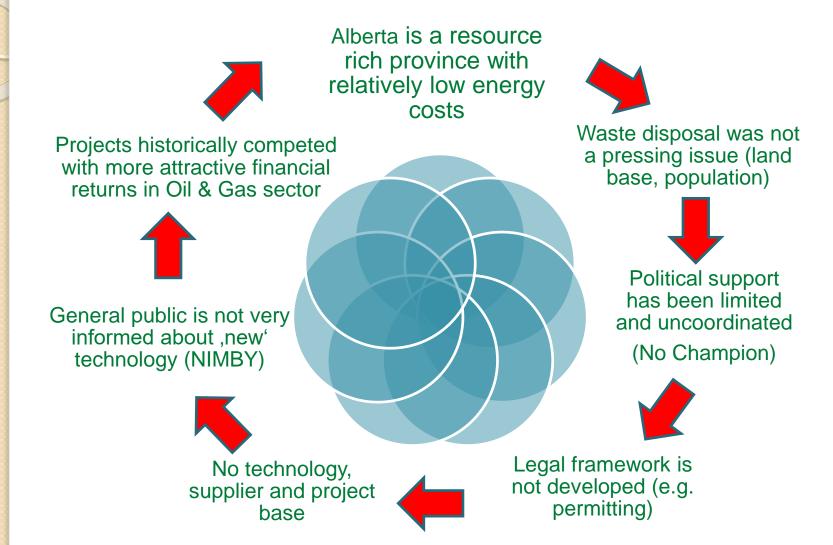


Project Information

- LB website: http://www.lethbridgebiogas.ca
- CCEMC Video & Green Energy Futures Video @ LB website
- Alberta Energy Success Stories
- Alberta Emission Offset Registry
- PlanET website: http://en.planet-biogas.com

Alberta Challenges





Overnight Success



2001 (9/11) Project idea was born

2004 Stefan to Canada 2006
Changed to current location

2009
Approved for BCMDP Phase II funding

2011
Start of
Construction













2002 Initial Feasibility Study 2005
Initial
location
close to
LRC

2007
Received
initial
regulatory
approvals

2010
Approved for CCEMC funding

2013 Start of Operation

Regulatory Maze



- Municipal Development Permit
- Interconnection Agreement, Remote Tripping Agreement & Electric Service Agreement with distribution/transmission utility
- Power Plant Approval & Connection Order from Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC)
- Construction/operating approval from Alberta Environment & Parks (AEP)
- Authorization for digestate storage & application from Natural Resources Conservation Board (NRCB)
- Municipal Building Permits (civil, mechanical, electrical)
- <u>Future:</u> Permit(s) to handle & process
 Specified Risk Material from Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)



Roadblocks





Decade in Summary

- Lethbridge BIOGAS
- Visits to 50+ biogas plants in 10 countries (Germany, Austria, Japan, Czech Republic, United Kingdom, Canada, Denmark, Sweden, Portugal, Holland)
- >15,000 hours of work with >50,000 pieces of paper &
 4 color printers used
- >\$2,000,000 invested for project development & preliminary engineering
- >\$5,000,000 in federal/provincial grants lost with grant agreements signed due to various delays (SRM/ECO Energy)
- 4 potential investment partners:
 - 4 technical process reviews, 4 in depth due diligence processes, 4 sets of legal reviews with partnership agreements developed
- In 2011 received final investor commitment 7 days before \$8.2M CCEMC grant would have expired ...

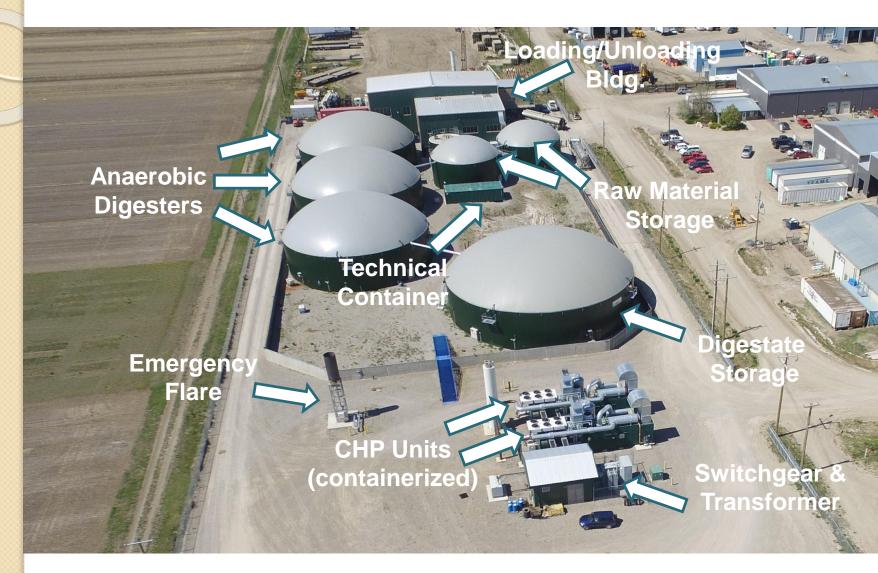






End Result





2016



Organic Recipe

Туре	Projected Quantity 2016 (t/year)	Biogas yield (m³/tonne)
Livestock Manures	~37,500	20 – 40
(hog, dairy, poultry)		(low)
Food Processing Residues	~37,500	40 – 650
(hog, beef, poultry, canola, grain, potato & cheese processing, grocery stores)		(medium to very high)
Total	75,000	100 - 150
		(avg.)



County of Lethbridge ('Feedlot Alley')





Revenues from:

- Sale of low-carbon electricity into Alberta Power Pool (market price currently at historic lows <\$20/MWh)
- Tipping fees for disposal of (industrial & residential) organics
- Project creates marketable GHG offsets within the Alberta Offset System (\$30/tCO₂e in 2018)
- Temporary support through Alberta Energy's Bioenergy Producer Credit Program (\$60/MWh, expired 03/2016)
- Future?





Local Sustainability



- Delivered green, renewable, nonintermittent electricity (2015 ~12,300 MWh)
- Diverted organics from regional landfill(s) (2015 ~6,000t)
- Delivered a more balanced, less invasive organic based soil amendment to the ag-community in the Oldman watershed (2015 ~62,000t)





- Created 7-8 full-time jobs & 2-3 part-time jobs in new industry
- Contributed to diversification of the economy in a rural area
- Contributed significantly to municipal tax revenue from property taxes
- Re-circulate \$1.1-1.5M annually to local business for services & supplies

Alberta Status Quo



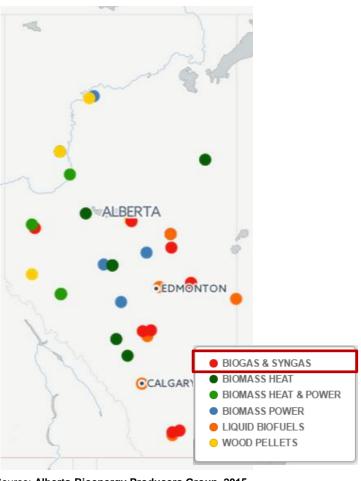
Alberta Biogas* Producers

Industrial Sources

- Westfraser (9.1 MW; operating)
- Millar Western (6.0 MW; operating)
- Permolex (TBD; development)

Ag-based Plants:

- Lethbridge Biogas (2.85 MW; operating)
- GrowTec (0.63 MW; operating)
- Growing Power (2.4 MW; standby)
- Renew Bioenergy (2.0 MW; development)
- Biorefinex (1.4 MW; development)



Source: Alberta Bioenergy Producers Group, 2015

^{*}No municipal WWT, landfill gas or internal gas/heat use projects in industrial food processing included

Political Context



NDP Climate Leadership Plan

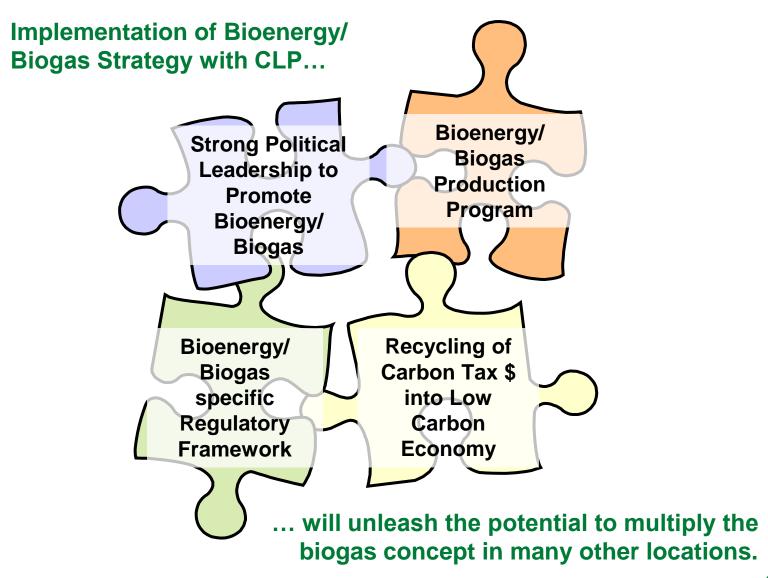
- Phase out of coal and 30% target for renewables by 2030
- PPA debate 30% of generating capacity currently controlled by Gov't (Balancing Pool)
- AESO Renewable Electricity Program to be launched in Q4/2016 (not technology specific)
- Micro-Generation regulation under review
- New Bioenergy program options under review
- Carbon Tax implementation on Jan. 1, 2017

2016

- Historical low power prices
- High degree of market uncertainty
- Worst operating conditions since deregulation of Alberta's power generation market
- Plant closures in Alberta's Bioenergy industry









Thank You!

