



Leading Michigan's Clean Energy Transformation

Renewable natural gas powers progress, protects environment

At Consumers Energy we're exploring how renewable natural gas, or RNG, can reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect the planet. And we want to help customers do the same.

Michigan will need natural gas for years to come. We also expect the role of natural gas to evolve, and RNG provides exciting opportunities to help the environment and the economy.

What is RNG?

RNG is renewable fuel, interchangeable with conventional natural gas. Made from organic wastes and other renewable sources, it can help heat Michigan homes, power stoves and dry grain for farmers. RNG is a key technology available to reduce methane emissions, a greenhouse gas more potent than carbon dioxide.

What are the benefits?

We're helping farms cut their emissions to improve air quality while generating clean, renewable fuel for Michigan's homes and businesses. RNG provides a new, ongoing revenue source for farmers as well as economic benefits for their communities.

How is RNG produced?

RNG is produced from a variety of sources, including livestock manure and food, water and landfill waste.

How can my farm help?

Michigan dairy farms naturally produce animal waste that emits methane, a greenhouse gas more potent than carbon dioxide, during decomposition.

Biodigester facilities contain the manure and capture, clean and condition methane to produce RNG, which is then safely delivered to customers through existing pipelines in our vast distribution network.

What's happening now?

We're working with Michigan farmers to begin producing RNG and to understand more about the potential of this innovative technology.

See the back page to learn more about our latest project.



To learn more, email us at: agservices@cmsenergy.com

Moo-ving Michigan Forward

Historic Alto dairy farm pioneering renewable natural gas in West Michigan

Swisslane Farms has been in the Oesch family since 1915 when current chief executive officer Matt Oesch's great-grandfather bought it.

Today, the dairy farm is boldly leading the way into the 21st century by piloting production of renewable natural gas, or RNG.

In partnership with Consumers Energy, Swisslane plans to build a biodigester facility to convert manure from its milking cows into clean, renewable fuel to meet Michigan's energy needs while protecting the planet.

Ultimately, the biodigester could produce about 56,000 mcf (thousand cubic feet) of RNG annually. While that's a sliver of the conventional natural gas Consumers Energy currently delivers to customers, every bit of RNG produces environmental benefits and helps test the technology for potential future expansion in Michigan.

Swisslane Farms recently won the national Outstanding Dairy Farm Sustainability Award from the Innovation Center for the U.S.

As a farm owned by the same family for more than 100 years, Swisslane is part of the state's Centennial Farm Program, which is supported by the Consumers Energy Foundation. The farm also runs Dairy Discovery, a nonprofit dedicated to educating the West Michigan community about the integrity of production practices and benefits of technology use in the dairy industry.

To learn more, visit SwissLaneFarms.com.

