

Going Green

Even the animals are doing it!

A major North American zoo wants to build a facility that turns animal waste into electricity! Methane gas from the animal waste produces power through a machine called an anaerobic digester.

The process does not incorporate incineration and there is no combustion. The electricity produced is then considered a renewable resource and does not deplete fossil fuel resources, the depletion of which is blamed for increased greenhouse gas emissions and global warming. When this facility is built it will reduce the zoo's carbon footprint by 40%!

A typical dairy farm using an anaerobic digester with 600 cows can produce between 54,000 cubic feet to 65,000 cubic feet of biogas a day. With this volume, a 120 kilowatt (kW) generator can produce about 2,400 kilowatt hours (kWh) to 2,650 kWh of electricity per day as well as significant heat recovery.

This recovered heat is in turn used to heat the digester. Another benefit is that the nutrient-rich solids left after digestion can be used as fertilizer.

Have you heard about the Enviropig? Developed by Canadian researchers, these are genetically engineered porkers, whose waste will be environmentally-friendly!

The process reduces the phosphorous that is leached into our lakes and streams. So, not only are they eco-friendly in what they leave behind, they may also soon provide safe and delicious pork products for our dinner tables.

