



NEWS RELEASE

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REAP Grants Awarded to 17 Anaerobic Digesters, Up From 3 in June

WASHINGTON, D.C.- Yesterday, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced their Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) grant recipients, seventeen of which were awarded to anaerobic digesters. Seventeen anaerobic digesters is a large improvement over the three awarded in June and the two awarded last September. Not only were more digesters funded this year, but the average awarded to each digester more than doubled since last year, averaging \$350,421 per project. The funding for anaerobic digesters was not the only renewable energy project type to be raised, in fact, the total amount of REAP grants awarded quintupled since last September. This was largely in part to The American Biogas Council (ABC), who worked diligently with the USDA to ensure that REAP and the Farm Bill were fully funded. Recently, ABC recognized Secretary Thomas Vilsack for his extraordinary support to strengthen and grow the deployment of biogas systems on US farms, awarding him the Champion of Biogas award for 2015.

“It’s refreshing to see the USDA support biogas,” said Bernie Sheff, Chairman of the American Biogas Council, “and I’m pleased to see the biogas industry taking advantage of the grant opportunities available to them.” According to the EPA, the typical on-farm anaerobic digester averages \$1.2 million, and developers need some certainty of funds before projects can start being developed. The increasing support by the government of anaerobic digesters encourages farmers to break ground on their own digesters, benefiting the entire biogas industry.

One farm benefiting from a newly awarded REAP grant, is Pixley Biogas, LLC. The Pixley project, of ABC members DVO, Inc. and Regenis, is truly innovative as it brings together the agricultural and ethanol industries to generate renewable energy from waste. Pixley Biogas is taking manure from 2000 cows and grease trap waste to create 250-300 SCF/min of biogas. Learn more about the Pixley Biogas, LLC project [here](#).

REAP, Section 9007 of the 2008/2014 Farm Bill, provides agricultural producers and rural small businesses with guaranteed loan financing and grant funding to purchase or install renewable energy systems or make energy efficiency improvements. The program is part of the Obama Administration’s 10-point plan for climate smart agriculture and forestry.