

Biogas is Wrong for Missouri

Factory farm biogas - also known as Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) - is not safe, clean, or affordable. It props up industrial animal agriculture and holds us back from investing in true renewable energy.

Biogas is not safe

Methane capture at CAFOs does not reduce the amount, nor the nutrient content of waste that still has to be stored and applied in rural communities and in Missouri's watersheds. In fact, covering lagoons increases nitrogen levels in the waste by up to 3.5 times compared to waste held in an open lagoon (Colorado State University) and nitrogen is a leading pollutant in waterways due to agriculture runoff. Additionally, because the high cost of implementing factory farm biogas is more attainable for the largest producers, this encourages more concentration of animals and more manure production.

CAFOs will continue to violate regulations and pollute the environment regardless of factory farm biogas production. Neighboring residents and waterways will still be subjected to spills, leaks, over-application of nutrients on farmland, and airborne emissions.

Biogas requires the creation of methane to be able to capture methane - it is not reducing the amount of greenhouse gases being generated otherwise. These operations can lead to more emissions through changing land use, storage leaks, and burning the gas, a process that releases the same pollutants as the combustion of fossil fuels.



Roeslein Alternative Energy's biogas operation connected to Smithfield White Tail CAFO, March 2022.

Biogas is expensive

Anaerobic digester projects cost up to hundreds of thousands to millions of dollars and most digesters are infeasible without government support.

Biogas cannot transition us away from fossil fuels

There is no way to scale up factory farm biogas to meet our energy requirements. To be as viable as wind and solar, many more CAFOs would need to be built as well as many more pipelines. If maximum use of CAFOs for biogas was set up, it would only supply 13% of energy needed to power the US by 2040.

Don't be fooled. Biogas doesn't help Missouri's communities, renewable energy portfolio, or taxpayers.

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Sources:

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