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Statement

Ecogas processing of food waste to produce energy and bio-fertiliser at Reporoa is a model for all communities

The start of construction of New Zealand's first large-scale food waste-to-bioenergy facility at Reporoa, in the central North Island[1] will provide a model for all communities. The collection and processing of food wastes into bioenergy and bio-fertiliser will provide an example that all communities across New Zealand could follow said the Bioenergy Association.

Brian Cox, Executive Officer of the Bioenergy Association said that " The Ecogas processing of food waste uses proven technologies and is widely done in most other countries. New Zealand has been slow to adopt circular economy principles where food wastes are processed to make other products rather than discharge to landfill. There is no reason why all communities across New Zealand could not have zero organic waste going to landfill by 2030".

"The production of biogas from the waste will allow the generation of electricity, provide hot house heating, produce high value biofertiliser, and provide carbon dioxide for enhanced plant growth in the hot houses. These are valuable products which will reduce T & G Fresh's horticulture operating costs and increase productivity. This is on top of the avoided cost of disposing of organic wastes from the site, as well as those communities who have contracted to supply organic waste instead of disposing of it into landfills.

The BioenergyAssociation has identified that 1.8Mt CO_2-e of greenhouse gases could be reduced if this type of project was extended to other food processors and communities.

Mr Cox said that "Through its assistance from the Provincial Growth Fund it is great that the Government has recognised that using organic waste to produce energy and other co-products is good for business and communities and that proactive climate change policies can have a very positive upside to communities and the economy."

Ends

Additional information

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[1] EcoGas and T & G Global announcement https://tandg.global/new-zealands-first-food-waste-to-bioenergy-facility-gets-underway

Waste to bioenergy
www.biogas.org.nz

1. Waste-to energy results in the generation of heat and electricty through anaerobic digestion processing of residual waste streams that can not otherwise be sustantiably reused or recycled and therefore diverting waste from landfill.
2. Use of residual waste streams to produce energy forms part of the circular economy.
3. New Zealand can achieve zero waste to landfill by 2030 if we start seeing residual waste as an opportunity and not a problem.
4. An ideal opportunity exists to co-locate waste to energy facilities processing organic liquid and solid waste residual waste streams with industrial heat users to displace the use of fossil fuel for the generation of heat and power.
5. An ideal opportunity exists to combine bio-processing waste with the upgrade of waste water treatment plants. These upgraded plants have the ability togenerate revenue to offset operating costs for local government bodiesand could progressively be developed to the point of zero residual chemical discharge to water or sludge to land.
6. Diversion of waste from landfills to waste to energy facilities reduces CO_2 and methane emmissions improving air quality, enhances the economic resilience of communities through reduction in waste water treatment facility usage, reduction in landfill reliance whilst providing new offtake business opportunities through the production of electricity, heat and bio processing opportunities.
7. The technology for bio-processing waste and waste water is well developed and the footprint is smaller than for existing sewerage processing systems employed, particularly those disposing to land.
8. Technology for treatment of both liquid and solid residual waste streams is well developed and accepted internationally and able to be utilised in New Zealand with minimal (if any) changes therefore mitigating technology risk.