AgSTAR’s Anaerobic Digester Project Development Handbook

Vanessa McKinney, U.S. EPA AgSTAR Program Manager
WHAT WE’LL SEE TODAY

1. U.S. EPA AgSTAR Program
   Who we are and what we do.

2. Overview of New Anaerobic Digester Project Development Handbook
   A resource to help farmers & others build more digesters.

3. Additional Resources
   Visit www.epa.gov/agstar for more information.
AgSTAR Program

1. Promote Anaerobic Digestion
   Advancing economically and environmentally sound livestock manure management.

2. Strong Ties
   Working with industry, government, NGOs and university stakeholders.

3. Helping Hand
   Assisting those who enable, purchase, or implement farm anaerobic digestion projects.

PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM
Collaborative program sponsored by EPA and USDA.
AgSTAR’s New Anaerobic Digester Handbook

- A comprehensive compilation of the latest knowledge in the industry on best practices for anaerobic digestion (AD)/biogas systems.
- Farm-focused, but concepts are applicable for all AD/biogas systems.
- Goal: ensure long-term success for AD/biogas systems by providing a framework for project development.

- Audience: Anyone interested in AD/biogas systems as a farm manure management option
  - Policy makers
  - Farmers
  - Financiers/investors
  - Private Developers
Handbook Overview

• 11 Chapters that outline key considerations for farm-based digester projects
  ✓ Process Fundamentals
  ✓ Digester Feedstocks
  ✓ Products and Equipment - Energy and Digestate
  ✓ Economic and Financial Factors
  ✓ Screening and Feasibility Assessments
  ✓ Business Relationships
  ✓ Permitting
  ✓ Public and Community Outreach
  ✓ Safety, Operations and Maintenance
10 Keys to Digester Success

1. Plan for Success: Identify project goals, risks and develop baseline inventory.
2. Recruit an experienced, objective implementation team.
3. Follow a sustainable business model to meet financial goals.
4 Secure suitable feedstock supply and test its biomethane potential.

5 Use the most appropriate technology to match the type and amount of feedstock.
10 Keys to Digester Success

6. Assess best value uses for biogas and digestate.

7. Develop off-take agreements.

8. Identify benefits to climate, health, sustainable food supply, and environment.

9. Conduct community outreach and education to obtain project buy-in.

10. Continually optimize operations and maintenance.
Visit our website for more resources

**AgSTAR: Biogas Recovery in the Agriculture Sector**

**Project Development Handbook**

The 3rd edition of AgSTAR's *Project Development Handbook* outlines necessary development steps and questions industry professionals must address in order to increase the chances of farm-based digester project success.

- Webinar covering a deep dive into handbook – COMING SOON
- Project Profiles that Highlight the range of AD projects in the United States.
- Meet an Operator & AD Ombudsman Case Studies
- Subscribe to our listserv!
- New AD Operator Guidebook COMING SOON

AgSTAR is a collaborative program sponsored by EPA and USDA that promotes the use of biogas recovery systems to reduce methane emissions from livestock waste. Learn more.
THANK YOU

www.epa.gov/agstar

VANESSA MCKINNEY

McKinney.Vanessa@epa.gov