

BIG MOOVES:

Renewable Natural Gas from Dairy Waste



NorthWestern Energy is accepting natural gas originating from the biggest byproduct of South Dakota's dairy industry, manure.



? How It Works

- Since April 2024, NorthWestern Energy has been accepting natural gas originating from a renewable natural gas (RNG) facility north of Brookings, South Dakota.
- RNG facilities capture methane from biogenic sources that would otherwise be emitted into the atmosphere. The natural gas is tested for quality and Btu content, verifying it meets the requirements for standard pipeline quality natural gas.



👉 How It's Helping

700,000 Dekatherms of RNG

NorthWestern Energy will accept approximately 700,000 dekatherms of RNG from the Brookings facility each year, an amount that could serve roughly 10,000 residential customers each year.

Economic Opportunity

RNG is considered an economic development tool for South Dakota. The production and distribution of RNG represents an economic opportunity for South Dakota communities, businesses and governments.

Affordability

To maintain customer affordability, NorthWestern Energy currently does not purchase the environmental attributes associated with the gas produced at the facility. The company is delivering "brown gas" (i.e., the molecules of gas without the environmental attributes) to its customers.



"We are proud to be at the forefront of using natural gas from RNG facilities, at no additional cost for our customers, in South Dakota. Renewable natural gas contributes to our collective sustainable future."

- Brian Bird, President and CEO, NorthWestern Energy