LESS WE CAN

MEET THE NEWEST RENEWABLE: RENEWABLE NATURAL GAS

WHERE IT COMES FROM

Renewable natural gas is made from organic materials like wood, food and even human waste. When all of these materials decompose they produce methane, which can be converted to renewable natural gas—closing the loop on waste.

HOW MUCH IS THERE?

In its first inventory of technical potential, the Oregon Department of Energy found nearly 50 billion cubic feet of renewable natural gas sources—that's equivalent to the total amount of natural gas used by all Oregon residential customers today.

HOW DOES IT HELP?

Renewable natural gas has a similar climate benefit to wind and solar energy. It dramatically reduces greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change.

OTHER SOURCES

Unlike large-scale utility batteries that can only store energy for several hours, renewable hydrogen produced by wind and solar can be stored for months and months and then delivered in our existing pipeline system to provide energy when it's needed, even when the sun isn't shining and the wind isn't blowing. Developing both renewable natural gas and renewable hydrogen provides a potential path to 100% renewable energy in the pipeline system.

WHAT'S NEXT?

The 2019 Oregon Legislature passed groundbreaking legislation (Senate Bill 98), creating the opportunity for utility purchases of renewable natural gas and renewable hydrogen. The new Oregon law sets voluntary targets to dramatically increase the amount of renewable natural gas that can be delivered to customers. The law includes price limits to protect customers as this market develops.



Learn more at LessWeCan.com

SOURCES

Oregon Department of Energy, "Biogas and Renewable Natural Gas Inventory SB 337 (2017)," 2018. Online at www.oregon.gov/energy.



ADDING RNG IN 2020

NW Natural plans to put homegrown renewable natural gas into its pipeline system through several projects in 2021: at the City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services' Columbia Boulevard Wastewater Treatment Plant; at the Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission facility in Lane County; and at Shell New Energies in Junction City.

There are more than 129 renewable natural gas facilities in operation today in the U.S. and Canada.

More at www.rngcoalition.com

