



The
Climate
Trust

News Release

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The Climate Trust invests in converting cow waste into energy

Nonprofit partners with Farm Power Northwest, Invenergy to help small Washington dairy farms

PORTLAND, Ore. - The Climate Trust is combating climate change one cow at a time. The Portland-based nonprofit is purchasing emission reductions from an anaerobic digester project in northwestern Washington state that will reduce methane emissions from cow waste and convert it into enough electricity to power more than 550 homes annually.

"We're making hay of agricultural waste. This project promotes sustainable agriculture, green collar jobs and renewable energy, in addition to reducing greenhouse gas emissions," said Sean Clark, Director of Offset Programs for The Climate Trust. "That's quite a feat for 1,500 dairy cows."

The project is primarily funded by the Grays Harbor Energy Center, a 620-megawatt natural gas plant in Grays Harbor, Wash., owned by Invenergy LLC, which is funding The Climate Trust to offset its greenhouse gas emissions. The Climate Trust was approved as the implementation agency for the reduction requirement by the Washington Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council.

The project will be implemented by Farm Power Northwest, which is building a regional biodigester in Mount Vernon, Wash. The biodigester will collect manure from Harmony Dairy and Beaver Marsh Farms, which combined have 1,500 dairy cows, into a heated concrete tank. The methane from the waste will be captured and combusted in a generator, which will deliver electricity to the grid. Methane is a greenhouse gas that is 21 times more harmful than carbon dioxide.

"We're pleased to help Invenergy meet its offset goal with an innovative project type that meets state requirements and is recommended by the Western Climate Initiative," Clark said. "As a nonprofit and one of the only providers of regulatory-grade offsets in the United States, we are a unique resource for companies looking to meet their regulatory requirements and to share our lessons learned with regulators and policymakers."

Farm Power was founded by brothers Kevin and Daryl Maas, who grew up in Skagit County, Wash. They said one of their incentives in creating the project is to help protect family farms and rural culture. "We created this project in the hopes that we could help smaller farms be sustainable, both economically and environmentally," Kevin Maas said. "We wanted to prove that we could scale this kind of technology to fit medium and small dairy farms."

The Climate Trust is buying and retiring the GHG offsets from the avoided methane emissions which are estimated to be equivalent to 60,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide over the 10-year life of the project. Other byproducts, including nutrient-rich liquid manure and a clean fiber product that can be used for livestock bedding, will be returned to the farmers. The biodigester, which is being built by Andgar Corp in Ferndale, Wash., is expected to be operational by August.

Additional carbon funding for the project was provide by NW Natural, a natural gas utility company in Portland, Ore. The Climate Trust intends to use a portion of the reductions for NW Natural's Smart Energy program, a voluntary offset program that allows NW Natural customers to offset their natural gas use.

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Project Partners

About The Climate Trust

The Climate Trust is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit based in Portland, Ore., whose mission is to promote climate change solutions by providing high-quality greenhouse gas offset projects and advancing sound offset policy. Since its founding in 1997, the Trust has directed about \$8.3 million in funding projects that are projected to offset about 2.5 million metric tons of carbon dioxide. For more information, please visit climatetrust.org.

About Farm Power Northwest LLC

Northwest Washington's 100,000 dairy cows form a vital part of a diverse agricultural community on some of the world's best farmland. Farm Power was formed to generate new value from those cows, developing manure-to-energy project that benefit dairy farmers and their communities. Just like its partner farmers, Farm Power is investing for the long term in a sustainable food and energy supply. For more information, visit farmpower.com.

About Invenergy LLC

Founded in 2001 in Chicago, Invenergy is a leading clean and renewable energy company focused on the development, ownership, operation and management of large-scale electricity generation assets in the North American and European energy markets. The company's portfolio includes wind farms and gas thermal plants generating almost 4,000 megawatts of power, with 15,000 megawatts in development and construction. For more information, visit invenergyllc.com.

About NW Natural and Smart Energy

NW Natural is headquartered in Portland, Ore., and serves about 655,000 residential and business customers in Oregon and Southwest Washington. It is the largest independent natural gas utility in the Pacific Northwest and one of the fastest-growing local distribution companies in the nation. NW Natural is partnering with The Climate Trust on Smart Energy, a voluntary offset program that allows Oregon customers the opportunity to offset the carbon dioxide emissions from their energy use. For more information, please visit nwnatural.com/smart.