

Methane Capture Projects

Agricultural Methane Capture

This project captures methane from animal waste at three farms in Germany. Methane is 21 times more potent than CO₂ as a greenhouse gas. The CarbonNeutral Company's support will generate emission reductions of 51,000tCO₂ equivalent between 2004 and 2007.

Technology partner

ARA Carbon Finance

Country

Germany

About your project

Animal waste from dairy and pig farms is most often stored in open lagoons, and significant amounts of methane are released into the atmosphere as the waste decomposes. Methane has 21 times the global warming potential of CO₂.

This project creates a more virtuous circle. Anaerobic digesters and Combined Heat and Power (CHP) plants have been installed at three farms. Inside the digesters, the animal waste breaks down in an oxygen-free environment. The methane produced is captured and used in the CHP plants to generate both electricity and heat. The electricity is sold into the national grid and the heat is used on the farms. As a further benefit of the project, the digested manure at the end of the process is a much higher quality fertiliser than produced in the open lagoon system.

The project is a great example of industrial ecology. There are no wastes in the system – all outputs are put to use. Methane emissions from rearing livestock are a considerable source of global greenhouse gas emissions and this project demonstrates very well how the impacts of farming can be reduced.



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