

Clean Water for North Carolina



Preventing Harm to Communities: Directed Biogas

Communities located near North Carolina hog farms have been battling the injustices of the industry’s waste management practices for decades. Now there is a new threat that would entrench the current unjust methods while introducing additional harms to these same communities and exacerbate climate change.

Greenwashing a Problem

While the methane from biogas is often labeled as a “green” alternative to fossil fuels, it falls short of other renewable energy sources and remains a potent greenhouse gas. Directed biogas projects—like Align RNG in Duplin County—rely on unsustainable models of industrial agriculture. Collecting biogas from hog operations requires the continued use of the lagoon and sprayfield system, despite the years of documented environmental and health concerns that impact nearby community members. Neighbors of these animal operations deserve a safe place to live, without the risk of groundwater contamination, antibiotic resistant bacteria, and air they can’t breathe.

Potential Solutions

- ✓ Promote the growth of renewable energy sources that don’t require the expansion of or the dependence on animal agriculture.
- ✓ Install Environmentally Superior Technologies at hog farms that transition away from the lagoon and sprayfield waste management system.
- ✓ Move from concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) toward smaller, more sustainable farms that are independent of mega-corporations.



How YOU Can Help

- Speak out at the upcoming 2022 Digester System General Permits public meetings! Senate Bill 605, known as the 2021 Farm Act, describes the general permit requirements.
 - April 5, 6:00-9:00 pm: James Sprunt Community College, Kenansville
 - April 7, 6:00-9:00 pm: Sampson County Expo Center, Clinton
 - April 19, 6:00-9:00 pm: Statesville Civil Center, Statesville
 - DEQ will host a virtual meeting on April 21, 6:00-9:00 pm.
 - See: <https://deq.nc.gov/digesterpermits>
 - Submit written comments to DEQ by May 2, 2022 to PublicCommentsDWR@ncdenr.gov OR leave a voicemail at 919-707-9129
 - Resources: [SELC Biogas General Permit Talking Points](#); biogastruth.com