



Governor Cuomo Announces Approval of Clean Energy Food Waste Recycling Facility on Long Island | March 20, 2019

State-of-The-Art Technology Diverts Waste from Long Island Landfills Promoting More Sustainable Communities and Affordable Energy. Supports Governor's Nation-Leading Green New Deal Initiatives to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Ensure New York is Carbon-Free by 2040.

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo today announced the Board of Trustees of the Long Island Power Authority voted to approve the first stand-alone large-scale anaerobic digester - a type of food waste recycling facility - in the New York City metropolitan area. The project, which will be operational in 2020, will produce four megawatts of clean energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions on Long Island by 85,000 metric tons a year, the equivalent to removing 18,000 cars from the road. The clean energy project directly supports Governor Cuomo's Green New Deal, a clean energy and jobs agenda that puts New York State on a path to a carbon-free economy and supports the State's goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030.

"New York State continues to lead the way with clean energy initiatives and innovative solutions that benefit both our neighborhoods and our planet," Governor Cuomo said. "By implementing this groundbreaking technology on Long Island, we can not only produce clean energy and reduce greenhouse gases, but also spare our landfills and keep our communities cleaner and greener for decades to come."

The project will create-at least full-time jobs and help retain more than 100. The facility provides a lower cost waste disposal option for food service businesses such as supermarkets, bakeries, restaurants, commercial food processors, cafeterias, catering halls, and hotels. The Town of Brookhaven will also have the capability to divert 10,000-15,000 tons per year of food waste to the project from the more expensive disposal options currently used.

The project, to be operated by American Organic Energy (AOE) at Long Island Compost in Yaphank, will process approximately 180,000 tons of local food waste per year. This waste would have otherwise been transported by gas and diesel-powered trucks to distant landfills, along with 30,000 tons of fats, oils and greases (FOG). Working with GE Water and Scott's Miracle-Gro, AOE will collect, separate, pre-process, break down, and transform Long Island's food waste into convertible energy, electricity, fertilizer, and nutrient-rich clean water.



Greenhouse gas emissions are expected to be reduced by 85,000 tons of CO₂ per year, equivalent to removing 18,000 cars off the road. It will also reduce truck traffic on Long Island roads by 1.4 million miles per year, compared to current landfill disposal practice. In addition, Long Island Compost will convert certain stationary equipment from diesel to electricity, which is expected to reduce diesel fuel consumption by an estimated 200,000 gallons per year.

Anaerobic digestion is a biological process that occurs when organic matter is decomposed by bacteria in the absence of oxygen. During the decomposition process, the biogas released can be recovered, treated and used to generate energy in place of traditional fossil fuels.

The agreement also establishes annual and hourly limits on the delivery of energy to LIPA. The average residential bill impact would be approximately \$0.10 per month, competitive with pricing of other comparable clean energy facilities under contract to LIPA. The anaerobic digester is expected to be operational by December 31, 2020.

The project is also supported by New York State Energy Research and Development Authority's (NYSERDA) Cleaner Greener Communities initiative, which provided \$1.35 million and also was chosen for a \$400,000 Empire State Development award by the Long Island Regional Economic Development Council.

Tom Falcone, LIPA's Chief Executive Officer, said, "Under Governor Cuomo's leadership, New York continues to find innovative ways to produce and deliver clean energy to consumers. Turning food waste into energy here on Long Island diverts waste from Long Island landfills, reduces carbon emissions, and helps LIPA meet New York's aggressive clean energy goals."

Alicia Barton, President and CEO of NYSERDA said, "By transforming waste into energy, digester projects like this will reduce harmful emissions and material going into landfills, while providing economic and environmental benefits to Long Island residents. NYSERDA is proud to collaborate with LIPA to advance clean energy solutions that support New York's nation-leading clean energy goals under Governor Cuomo's Green New Deal."

Empire State Development President, CEO & Commissioner Howard Zemsky said, "Clean energy projects like this facility aren't just good for the environment, they're good for the health of our communities and help build a greener economic future for our entire state."



Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone said, "Governor Cuomo understands the importance of investing in renewable energy initiatives to ensure a sustainable future for our communities and communities across the state. We are focused on expanding our efforts to create a cleaner, more efficient Long Island, and I thank the Governor for his continued support in making projects like these possible."

Brookhaven Supervisor Ed Romaine said, "Through this partnership, Brookhaven will continue to move forward with our plans to create an energy park at our landfill as we cap and close this facility, piping methane to this anaerobic digester to produce an estimated 1.5 megawatts of energy. Using food scraps and other organic matter in this facility to create compost and energy is an important part of our overall strategy to reduce our waste stream on Long Island to benefit our environment. I want to thank Governor Cuomo for his support of this important an innovative clean energy project."

Senator Todd Kaminsky said, "For a sustainable future, Long Island must stop sending excess food to landfills, and instead utilize state-of-the-art technology that turns waste into clean energy. The future is now, and the approval of this large-scale anaerobic digester is a breakthrough that marks the beginning of a new, green era."

Adrienne Esposito, Executive Director of the Citizens Campaign of the Environment said, "This project, the largest this side of the Mississippi, has many societal benefits including creating renewable energy, reducing solid waste and reducing truck traffic. Today the project is cutting edge, tomorrow it will be standard operating procedure. This transformational project was seven years in the making, the permits are now completed, and we are thrilled the construction can begin."

Sammy Chu, CEO, Edgewise Energy, and Chairman, US Green Building Council - Long Island Chapter said, "This project represents a very exciting opportunity for Long Island. It not only supports Governor Cuomo's goal of decarbonizing our electric supply but also addresses our growing regional waste crisis. This is the type of creative solution that we need right now."

Kevin Law, President, and CEO of the Long Island Association said, "The anaerobic digester is the most sophisticated food waste processing facility in the region. This technology will digest food waste taken from supermarkets, restaurants, and hospitals and turn this material into a source of clean energy. The LIA is in full support of this project which will benefit Long Island's economy, environment and energy portfolio."



Neil Lewis, Executive Director of the Molloy College Sustainability Institute said, "This project addresses the interconnection of energy, food and carbon emissions. This anaerobic digester helps with the solid waste problem on Long Island by reducing food waste, while also generating electricity. Biogas is a renewable form of energy that should be put to work for us, rather than causing emissions issues in landfills and being wasted."

Julie Tighe, President, New York League of Conservation Voters (NYLCV) said, "We are in full support of this effort to deploy technology and solutions that can help New York State achieve its ambitious climate, clean air, and economic development goals. We applaud LIPA and look forward to continued efforts to help Long Island develop a robust organic waste-to-fuel industry."

New York State's Green New Deal

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's Green New Deal, the nation's leading clean energy and jobs agenda, will aggressively put New York State on a path to economy-wide carbon neutrality. This initiative will provide for a just transition to clean energy, spurring the growth of the green economy and mandating New York's power be 100 percent clean and carbon-free by 2040, one of the most aggressive goals in the U.S. The cornerstone of this newly proposed mandate is a significant increase of New York's successful Clean Energy Standard to 70 percent renewable electricity by 2030.

As part of the unprecedented ramp-up of renewable energy, New York has already invested \$2.9 billion into 46 large-scale renewable projects across the state as it significantly increases its clean energy targets, such as: quadrupling New York's offshore wind target to a nation-leading 9,000 megawatts by 2035; doubling distributed solar deployment to 6,000 megawatts by 2025; and deploying 3,000 megawatts of energy storage by 2030. To support this ambitious work, NY Green Bank intends to use its expertise in overcoming financing gaps to foster greater environmental impacts per public dollar by raising over \$1 billion in third party funds to expand climate financing availability across New York and the rest of North America.

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