



AGreen Energy, LLC
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AGreen Energy and National Grid Announce First AGE Plant Powered by Cow Manure and Food Scraps is Now Generating Electricity

RUTLAND, MA – [AGreen Energy LLC](#) (AGE) and [National Grid](#) announce that AGE's first anaerobic digester, powered by cow manure and food scraps, is operating and generating enough electricity to power approximately 300 Massachusetts homes. The digester was designed and built by quasar energy group and is located at the [Jordan Dairy Farm](#) in Rutland, Mass., which provides the manure. Food scraps – organic materials – are to be sourced initially from Cabot Creamery, Kayem Foods, Cains Foods, and HP Hood & Sons for AGE. Several of these companies plan to purchase energy produced by AGE at their plants.

Using the natural biodegrading process, the digester yields a stable biogas, which powers a 300kW engine on-site. This engine sends the vast majority of the energy generated back to National Grid, and it is made available for purchase in the form of [renewable energy certificates](#). Each cow provides enough energy to power one Massachusetts home for one year.

Massachusetts is the first state in the nation to clear a permitting pathway for anaerobic digesters that use both organic materials from food scraps and manure on small- and medium-sized farms. This model helps sustain local dairy farms while limiting nutrient runoff, sequestering greenhouse gases, and keeping organic waste out of landfills. Everything in the digestion process can be repurposed or recycled—for example, the digester's liquid by-product can be used as odorless, nutrient-rich organic fertilizer after the gas is made into electricity.

“Clean, green energy is the name of the game in today’s energy marketplace,” said Edward White, vice president, Energy Products, National Grid. “Partnering with AGE is an exciting opportunity for us to invest in cutting-edge technology to ultimately bring significant energy and financial savings to our customers and communities across the Commonwealth.”

“National Grid has been a collaborating partner in our effort to bring green energy to Massachusetts while preserving local dairy farms for future generations,” adds Bill Jorgenson, managing partner of AGreen Energy.

“Anaerobic digesters fundamentally improve the long term financial health and viability of family dairy operations,” comments Mel Kurtz, President of quasar. “For a multigenerational farming operation like Jordan Dairy, innovation and progressive thinking are the means by which they can position themselves for growth and prosperity in an ever changing world.”

AGreen Energy is a consortium of five Massachusetts dairy farms, in partnership with Ohio-based quasar energy group and New England Organics, a division of Casella Waste Systems. quasar designed and built the digester using equipment that is predominantly made in the USA. New England Organics manages the facility and delivers the organic materials from food processing facilities, which are combined with manure at the farms to produce the bio-gas. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has been a key partner in working with the farms to protect the environment while reaching the State goals for renewable energy and recycling organics to achieve zero waste by 2020. The AGE facilities are all state of the art process controlled where an off site operator can run the plant using an iPhone. AGE supplies professional management not possible for one farm to do alone. Two more AGreen digesters are scheduled to be online by late 2012.

quasar energy group (quasar) is a Cleveland, Ohio based waste-to-energy company with a superior laboratory and engineering facility on the OSU-OARDC campus. quasar designs, builds, owns and operates anaerobic digestion facilities using primarily Ohio manufactured components to produce clean renewable energy. For more information on quasar, go to www.quasarenergygroup.com.

[National Grid](#) is an international energy delivery company. In the U.S., National Grid delivers electricity to approximately 3.3 million customers in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York and Rhode Island, and manages the electricity network on Long Island under an agreement with the Long Island Power Authority (LIPA). It is the largest distributor of natural gas in the northeastern U.S., serving approximately 3.4 million customers in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York and Rhode Island. National Grid also owns over 4,000 megawatts of contracted electricity generation that provides power to over one million LIPA customers.