



Water Department takes big sustainability step through gas sales

-A 50% reduction in the City of Dayton's carbon footprint-

-First of its kind in the Midwest, one of few in U.S.-

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The Dayton Department of Water will collaborate with a private firm to capture, process and sell renewable natural gas, following City Commission approval of a 20-year contract.

The agreement allows the Department of Water to sell digester gas that is naturally produced at the Guthrie Road water reclamation facility to DTE Biomass Energy.

DTE will construct a pipeline and other infrastructure needed to treat digester gas and produce pipeline-quality natural gas, reducing emissions and providing revenue to the City of Dayton.

Dayton's water reclamation facility accepts millions of gallons of wastewater daily from residential, business, and industrial customers throughout Dayton and parts of Montgomery County. The facility uses anaerobic digestion, a process that uses microbes to break down organic waste and generate biogas (digester gas) as a by-product.

The biogas is composed of methane, carbon dioxide, and trace amounts of other gases. The methane is currently used at the water reclamation facility to heat buildings with boilers and to run co-generation engines. Unused gas is burned in a flare.

Once the project is in place, all biogas will be captured and treated by DTE. The capture of the flare gas and purchase of carbon offsets will result in a 50% reduction in the City of Dayton's entire carbon footprint.

It is estimated the Department of Water will receive revenue of \$1.3 million annually for the length of the contract, for a total of \$26 million. With the additional costs of purchasing natural gas to heat the facility and purchasing carbon offsets, net earnings of \$800,000 per year are expected, for a 20-year net of \$16 million.

The gas capture/sales operation at Dayton's water reclamation plant will be the first of its kind in the Midwest and one of few in the U.S.

"The Department of Water continues to identify and implement technologies at existing operations to enhance sustainability efforts while increasing efficiencies across the

utility," said Director Michael Powell.

"We are excited to be hitting major milestones toward the City of Dayton's goal of zero carbon emissions by 2050," added Office of Sustainability Manager Meg Maloney. "We are halfway to reaching our goal, ahead of schedule."

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