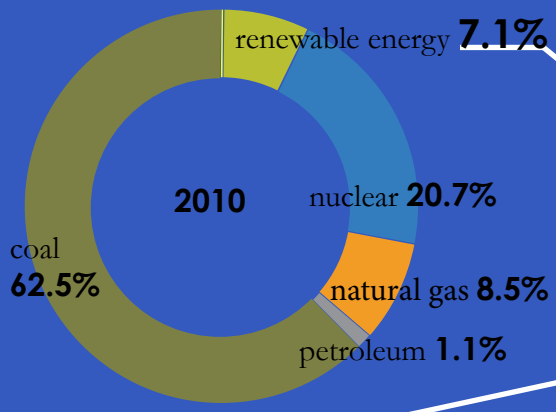
a renewable concept

Electric Power Generation by Source



In 2011, Wisconsin's net electricity generation from renewable energy sources increased to **8.4%**. Renewable energy sources include hydroelectric power, biomass and wind. But there is an untapped resource in renewable energy in Wisconsin: **biogas.**

What is biogas?

Biogas is a mixture of methane and carbon dioxide that can be burned to generate heat and electricity. Biogas is produced when bacteria break down waste in the absence of oxygen. This process is called anaerobic digestion. To make biogas, anaerobic digesters can process waste on farms, such as manure, or at food processing facilities, like wastewater from cheese factories.

Number of On-Farm Anaerobic Digesters

Wisconsin has more anaerobic digesters than any other state in the U.S., with **22** on-farm and **31** total. But, the state also has **1,000** food processing facilities and over **14,000** dairy farms that could potentially produce biogas through anaerobic digestion.

Wisconsin Dairy Farms

Most farms in Wisconsin are smaller, with only about 50-199 cows. However, most biogas production occurs on dairy farms with more than 800 cows because a certain amount of waste is needed to make the equipment cost-effective.

For biogas to take off in Wisconsin, small scale anaerobic digesters must become more affordable, or farmers and business owners must work together and build community digesters.