

Small Farm Digester RFP: Frequently Asked Questions

Updated August 25, 2015

Q. Can you provide a Word document version of the application to facilitate completing the application?

A. The format on our website is now Microsoft Word, so you may use it to fill in application details. Where possible, convert your filled-in application to PDF when submitting on CD or flash drive.

Q. Some small farms are on a residential rate due to the small size of the farm. Are these farms excluded from the RFP?

A. No, these customers may apply.

Q. Some small farms only have one electric meter that serves both the barn and the house. The residential portion cannot be separated from the rest of the farm. Are these farms still eligible for the RFP?

A. Yes; if the residence and farm are all on one meter they may still apply.

Q. There are heifer farms that raise dairy cows, but they do not milk their cows. Would these be eligible for the Program if it is below the animal unit equivalents limit?

A. No; the customer must be at or below the animal unit equivalents maximum in order to be considered for funding.

Q. How do I know whether my farm is at or below the animal unit equivalency?

A. Animal unit equivalents should be calculated in accordance with the Wisconsin DNR designations under that Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) permit requirements. More information can be found at the DNR website:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/AgBusiness/CAFO/WPDESNR243.html>

Q. Is expansion of an existing small farm anaerobic digester eligible?

A. No; only new digester systems are eligible for funding.

Q. The RFP requires a payback of more than 1.5 years and the payback must not exceed the warranty period. Many of the digester components only have a 1-2 year warranty and payback is typically more than five years. How do we resolve this for the small digester RFP?

A. The intent of this requirement is to ensure that the payback period does not exceed the life of the project. If you have a performance warranty for the anaerobic digester system as a whole, that is acceptable. If you can provide formal, written confirmation that the anaerobic digestion system will be operational beyond the payback period we can accept that as well.

Q. Is there any way to get into contact with applicants that are considering a digester but unsure about technology providers?

A. No; we do not disclose any customer/applicant information.

Q. Is outside material allowed to be taken into a project digester?

A. No, the inputs to the system must be on-site.

Q. Since this is a quadrennial program have there been any talks about extension for funding after the four years?

A. Focus on Energy has been given no specific direction for funding beyond 2018.

Q. Will Focus provide more information, or guidance on formation of smaller farm cooperatives?

A: If all the farms meet the eligibility requirements of our RFP, they may apply.

Q: Is there funding for the study of feasibility and cost-effectiveness of small farm digesters?

A. Technical assistance and feasibility studies are not eligible for funding under this particular Program, but we do have available study grants for anaerobic pretreatment and digesters under a separate offering. Please visit our website for more information on this opportunity:

<https://focusonenergy.com/business/renewable-energy>

Q. I do not have access to email, but have some questions about the RFP. Is there someone I can call to speak with instead?

A: Written communication is required to ensure that all relevant information is made available to all interested parties.