Project Benefits

Community Benefits

The proposed project is exempt from property taxes per State statutes 70.11(21) and 70.111(18), but the applicant is willing to pay the Town's portion of the property taxes. For an approximation of the annual property tax payment to the Town of Wrightstown, the estimated value of the project is $60 million. Using the Town's mill rate for residential of $2.95 per $1,000 of assessed value, that provides the Town with an estimated annual tax revenue of $177,000 from this project. The project does not require sewer or water service from the Town and will not utilize the local school system. This project will be a significant revenue source for the Town of Wrightstown with little cost to the Town.

During the construction phase of this project, there will be a financial benefit to the community. It is estimated that over $25 million in work will be available for local subcontractors. Once the project is operational, there will be opportunities for local subcontractors to support the facility. The plant will require assistance from electrical, mechanical, HVAC, welding, landscaping, civil and other contractors on an on-going basis. The construction of this facility will have a positive financial impact on the surrounding community.

The construction of this facility will also support numerous equipment manufacturers in the area. Companies such as Durr Megtec in De Pere and FEECO in Green Bay will have a plant they can bring prospective customers to showcase their equipment. Not only will it help them with future sales, it will also benefit the community as they stop at the local diner for lunch or the gas station on their way to or from the facility.

Once the project is operational, it will create up to 20 new long-term full-time positions. These positions include engineers, mechanics, technicians, operators, accountant, logistics positions, and administrative positions. The additional employment will have a positive indirect economic benefit to the community.

The project will significantly reduce the odor associated with manure storage and application. Following the anaerobic digestion process, there is over a 90% reduction in the odor compared to non-digested dairy manure. Town residents will appreciate the odor reduction during the land application of manure.

Project Benefits

Benefits to Participating Farms

The primary benefit to the participating farms is manure volume reduction. One of the biggest challenges in the dairy industry is managing the volume of manure that gets applied in short windows in both the spring and fall each year. Manure volume can also present challenges in the spring of the year when storage structures are almost full, but the weather is not favorable for land application.

This project provides farms with more sustainable manure management practices. With reduced volumes, farms are able to distribute the nutrients their crops need to grow at times that better match up with the needs of the crops. This provides them with more efficient and cost-effective ways to manage their manure. It also allows them to utilize cover crops on more of their fields which will help keep soil in place in the spring when the snow melts and heavy rains come. Soil loss from agricultural fields in the spring is one of the largest contributors of sediment and phosphorus in the Lower Fox River Watershed. All the participating farms recognize the need to improve the surface water quality for future generations and believe this project is a tool that can help.

Reduction in manure volume and added flexibility in manure application will also allow the farms to manage their potential risk of changing regulations. In the event regulations regarding the land application of manure changes, the participating farms will be in a better position to adapt to the new regulations with limited financial impact to their businesses. Given the low milk prices over the last few years, changes that increase the cost of production could put many farms out of business.

In addition to volume reduction, the farms will also see an odor reduction. The anaerobic digestion process converts compounds that cause manure to smell into biogas. This significantly reduces the odor associated with manure storage and land application. Many of the farm participants are looking forward to this benefit as they are active members of this community and would like to reduce the odor associated with the land application of manure for their neighbors, family, and friends.

The project will also return the clean water produced by the plant to the participating farms that are pumping their manure. This water can be utilized for many uses around the farm such as parlor wash down, equipment cleanup, and irrigation water. By utilizing the water from the project, it will reduce their demand for ground water. The two farms that are pumping their manure can utilize all the water that is produced by the project.

Overall, this project will provide long-term sustainability to these farms. Many of the participating farms are multi-generational farms that have been active members in the community. Many of these farms are also transitioning to the next generation and view this project as an opportunity to provide greater stability for the next generation. Farmers are the original stewards of the land and recognize the numerous environmental benefits this project provides. This project will reduce the environmental impact of farming on the community and assist them in protecting our natural resources.

Project Benefits

Environmental Benefits of Project

This project will have a positive environmental benefit to the community. The goal of this project is to improve air and water quality while improving the sustainability of the participating farms. Local air quality will improve by capturing the methane that is currently emitted during the summer months from the manure storage lagoons and converting it into renewable natural gas. Methane is considered one of the main gases contributing to global climate change.

The project will also improve the water quality in the Lower Fox River Watershed and Green Bay. With the increased use of cover crops, reduced volume of manure applied in the spring and fall of the year, and lower application rates of manure per acre, less sediment and phosphorus will make their way into local surface waters. With time, this will slowly improve the quality of water.

This project also helps preserve the local aquifers by allowing the farms to reuse the water produced by the plant in place of ground water in their daily operations. The water produced by the plant could also be available to the local fire department in the event of an emergency.

This project will also help preserve agricultural land in the Town. With a more sustainable farming industry, more of the land will remain as crop land to support the area farms.