



10 Keys to Digester Success

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AgSTAR is highlighting one of the many resources available to help farmers and developers implement successful farm-based AD projects: [10 Keys to Digester Success](#). This resource introduces 10 key factors that can help ensure your project achieves the intended economic and environmental results you seek.

1. **Plan for success.** During the planning stage, identify and define clear project goals.
2. **Recruit and secure an experienced team.** Work with an experienced team to initiate and implement the project.
3. **Develop a sustainable business model.** Not only should the project be cost-effective, it must meet the project's financial goals including revenue and profit generation and return on investment.
4. **Secure suitable feedstock supply.** Identifying suitable feedstocks may include evaluating the chemical, biological, and physical characteristics.
5. **Use the most appropriate technology.** Choose the AD technology that matches the project conditions and feedstock characteristics.

6. **Analyze options for biogas and digestate use.** Consider market availability, capital and operating costs, and potential revenue to determine the most beneficial use for biogas.
7. **Develop off-take agreements.** Establish off-take agreements for energy and digestate products, including the prices and detailed specifications for all delivered materials.
8. **Evaluate added benefits.** Consider the added benefits of using AD, such as climate, soil, water quality, sustainable food supply, community relations, and odor control.
9. **Conduct community outreach.** Community outreach and education is critical to obtain buy-in and approval from the community.
10. **Plan for operation and maintenance.** Good operation and maintenance practices are key for effective operation of AD/biogas systems.

A Connected Resource

AgSTAR is eager to keep growing the number of successful AD/biogas systems in the U.S. In addition to details about AD/biogas system best practices, the Project Development Handbook contains links to dozens of additional resources from experienced professionals in the field to ensure that users have access to information beyond what is covered in the Handbook. Be sure to check out the new Anaerobic Digester [Project Development Handbook](#) as well as the [AgSTAR website](#) to learn more.

Look for more in-depth “AgSTAR Focus” listserv messages straight to your inbox throughout 2021!