

Natural Gas Innovation Act Summary

Minnesota has long been a state that embraces innovation in energy policy and environmental protection. With a current mandate of 25 percent renewable energy, close to half of the state's electricity already comes from renewable sources such as wind, solar and hydroelectricity.

Building on this tradition, the Natural Gas Innovation Act, introduced by CenterPoint Energy, would establish a regulatory framework that would enable Minnesota's investor-owned natural gas utilities to provide customers with access to renewable energy resources and innovative technologies — reducing the state's greenhouse gas emissions and advancing the state's clean energy future. Additional benefits would include diversifying the state's energy sources, promoting technological innovation, improving waste management and supporting rural economic development.

This proposed legislation defines key terms and clarifies the legislative intent that natural gas utilities can assist the state in meeting its existing renewable energy and greenhouse gas reduction goals.



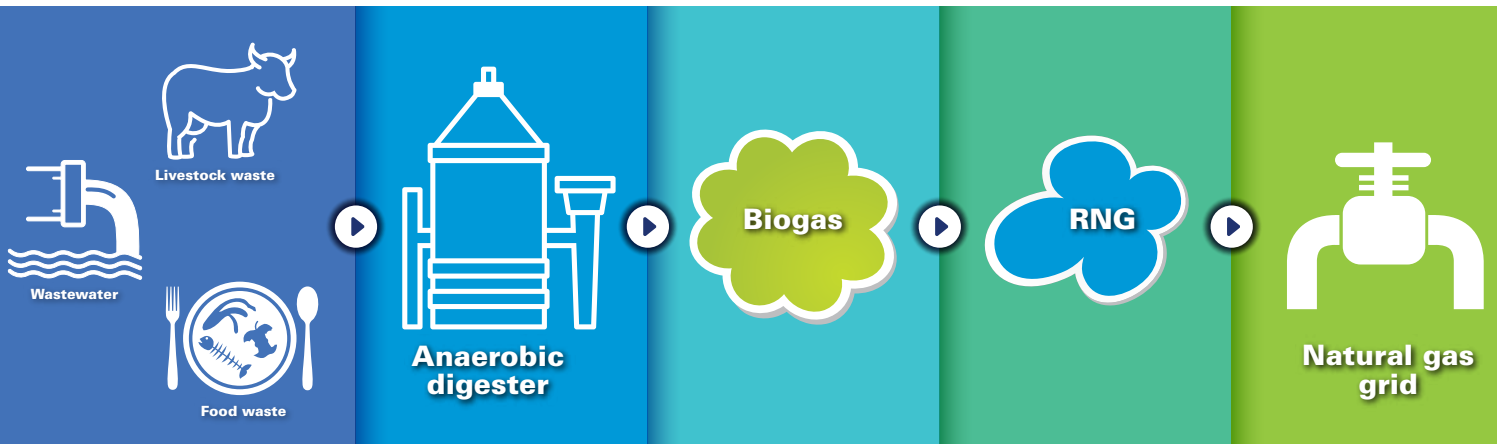
Renewable natural gas can be produced from livestock waste, wastewater and landfills.

This legislation seeks to establish a regulatory policy to support investor-owned natural gas utilities that choose to use renewable energy resources and innovative technologies.

Alternative resource plans

- An alternative resource plan will propose the use of innovative technologies such as:
 - **Renewable natural gas** (produces energy from organic materials such as landfill waste, wastewater, agricultural manure, food waste, agricultural or forest waste)
 - **Renewable hydrogen gas** (produces energy from water through electrolysis with renewable electricity such as solar)
 - **Energy efficiency** (avoids energy consumption in excess of the utility's existing conservation programs)
 - **Innovative technologies** (reduces or avoids greenhouse gas emissions using technologies such as carbon capture)
- The cost of an alternative resource plan must not exceed 5 percent of the utility's annual revenue requirement, as approved by the Public Utilities Commission, and the utility may recover approved, plan-related costs from customers.
- The commission process allows input from interested stakeholders and the opportunity to consider cost as well as the greenhouse gas impact of the alternative resource plan.

How renewable natural gas is produced



Renewable natural gas inventory

The Minnesota Department of Commerce is required to develop an inventory of the state's potential renewable natural gas resources, including a list of all potential sources in the state and estimates of the potential production and energy content from each source.

To learn more about the Natural Gas Innovation Act, contact Susan Turbes, CenterPoint Energy Minnesota Government Affairs director at 612-321-4850 or Susan.Turbes@CenterpointEnergy.com.

Minnesota communities served



New carbon capture technology helps customers reduce greenhouse gas emissions from their natural gas use.