

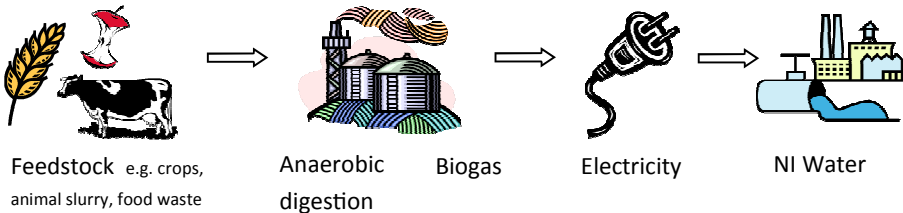
NI Water to purchase electricity from anaerobic digestion and other renewable energy plants



NI Water

NI Water is the sole provider of water and sewerage services in Northern Ireland. There are approximately 795,000 domestic, agricultural, commercial and business properties connected to the public water supply and 660,000 connected to the public sewerage system. NI Water supplies 619 million litres of water every day and treats 134 million m³ of wastewater each year. NI Water owns:

- 65 water treatment works
- 1124 wastewater treatment works
- 287 water pumping stations
- 1194 wastewater pumping stations



NI Water and renewable energy

NI Water is one of the largest electricity users in Northern Ireland and is actively working to reduce its carbon footprint and increase the proportion of renewable energy used by the company. NI Water has aligned with the Government targets of 10% renewable energy use by 2010 and up to 15% by 2015 (dependent on cost), and will commit, where feasible, to purchase electricity from renewable generators situated near to existing NI Water electricity loads at water and wastewater treatment works and pumping stations.

Anaerobic digestion

Anaerobic digestion (AD) is the breakdown of organic materials by micro-organisms under controlled conditions in the absence of oxygen. Many different feedstocks are suitable for AD, including crops (such as grass), animal slurries and food waste. The AD process produces biogas, which typically consists of 55-70% methane (CH₄), 45-30% carbon dioxide (CO₂) and some minor constituents. As a source of methane, biogas is valued as a fuel and is commonly used for heat and/or electricity generation.

NI Water and anaerobic digestion

NI Water's commitment to purchase renewable electricity extends to electricity generated by AD facilities. Where feasible, NI Water will purchase electricity from AD plants situated near to an existing NI Water electricity load at a water or wastewater treatment works or pumping station. The rate paid for renewable electricity will be negotiated on a site-by-site basis and will depend on the proximity of the AD plant to the NI Water site, among other factors.

For further information, please contact:

Charlie Pollock • NI Water, Energy Section, Westland House, 40 Old Westland Road, Belfast, BT14 6TE • Email: charlie.pollock@niwater.com • Tel.: +44 (0) 28 9035 4813



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