


MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

April 6, 2011

MEMORANDUM

To: Trustee Finance Committee

From: Fred L. Poston 

Subject: **Authorization to Plan**
South Campus Anaerobic Digester

RECOMMENDATION

BE IT RESOLVED that the Trustee Finance Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees authorize the Administration to plan for the project entitled South Campus Anaerobic Digester.

BACKGROUND

Program Need:

The Anaerobic Digestion Research and Education Center (ADREC) is actively engaged in academic and industrial research and education. In the spring of 2011, a research anaerobic digester will go online, providing a large-scale integrated research system. The proposed second phase of the anaerobic digestion system would provide additional research, teaching, and outreach opportunities for the Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering Department and ADREC.

This proposed project would include alternative digester technology and integrate additional biogas utilization equipment, both of which would improve MSU's capacity and competitiveness for national research grants and industrial support (research, training, and pilot testing).

The proposed system would also enhance nutrient management on South Campus Farms, improving the environmental and economic sustainability of the farms. At the university level, the project will provide an opportunity to further reduce the amount of landfill waste and the carbon footprint of campus, while providing a source of renewable energy.



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General Description of the Project:

The project is expected to include several storage tanks, a two stage anaerobic digester, liquid manure storage, and a biogas utilization system.

The anaerobic digester would improve the manure management on campus, divert organic food waste from the East Lansing Wastewater Treatment Plant and landfill, and provide a source of renewable energy to campus. The anaerobic digester would be located at the Dairy Cattle Teaching and Research Center on South Campus Farms.

Communication Plan:

During the planning phase, the campus community, including faculty and staff from AgBioResearch, Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering, Agriculture Product Center, MSU Power Plant, ORCBS, the Office of Campus Sustainability, and the City of East Lansing will be given an opportunity to provide feedback on the project as it is being designed. Input from the project planning team will also be solicited during design.

Preliminary Project Cost Information:

Based on current pricing information, the preliminary cost estimate is \$3.5 million, which will be funded from revenues derived from the digester products and private donations.

cc: D. Brower, R. Flinn, J. Kacos, M. Haas, G. Klein, B. Kranz, K. Lindahl,
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