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Renewable and Sustainable Projects

Renewable Energy - Agricultural Methane Capture

In German y it is a customary farming practice that cattle and swine manure be stored either in open tanks or lagoons prior to the farmland application process. During this stage of storage, significant amounts of methane arise through a process known as "anaerobic mineralization". This results in the dispersion of uncontrolled, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions into the earth's atmosphere.

Country - Germany

Agricultural methane projects put this process to use at the piggery of Sandbeiendorf, Germany, with approximately 670 tonnes of methane emitted annually- the equivalent of approximately 14.100 tons of carbon dioxide. This process is 21 times more efficient at off setting carbon than any present off setting process. Chemical projects such as this are the next step in the evolution of off setting.

Rather than being stored in lagoons, Sandbeiendorf swine manure is fed into a biogas plant where it is technically digested and transformed under controlled conditions. This reduces the emissions potential of the digested manure to less than 10 percent of the emissions potential of the untreated 'stored' manure.

Additionally, the methane gas technically generated in the biogas plant is being converted into heat and electricity through a CHP (Combined Heat and Power) unit attached to the plant. This gives the added benefit of energy generated from renewable sources which can spare fossil fuel sources.

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