



CenterPoint Energy is committed to innovative technology that meets energy demands. An example of this innovation is renewable natural gas (RNG) from organic sources.

What is RNG?

RNG is a low- or no-carbon renewable gas derived from renewable organic resources (such as animal manure, wastewater and food waste) or from renewable electricity (such as wind or solar). The status of RNG can be compared to renewable electricity technologies in the early 2000s. There is considerable potential, but supportive public policies and incentives are needed to take advantage of this potential.

Benefits of RNG

- Reduces greenhouse gas emissions
- Supports rural economic development
- Diversifies energy sources
- Improves waste management

Where organic RNG technology is today

- RNG derived from organic waste is already commercially available but is currently more expensive than conventional natural gas. As the industry grows, prices may decline.
- The organic RNG industry is growing rapidly. In the last five years, RNG supply has increased by almost 300%.
- Most RNG today is used to fuel natural gas vehicles due to incentives from the federal government and some states. Policies to encourage use of RNG in homes and businesses will be an important next step for the industry.

What states are doing



Operational RNG production facilities are shown as green pins as of January 2021. map source: rngcoalition.com/rng-production-facilities

Minnesota regulatory developments

In November 2020, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission unanimously approved CenterPoint Energy's proposal to open its natural gas distribution system to made-in-Minnesota RNG.

Minnesota RNG suppliers will be able to "interconnect" with CenterPoint Energy's pipeline system. They are required to meet gas quality standards, including ongoing testing, to ensure that the RNG is interchangeable with conventional natural gas. Suppliers will pay for their interconnection, with no cost to CenterPoint Energy customers.

The interconnection proposal was supported by the Minnesota Department of Commerce, which called it "innovative." In addition, 20 different organizations and businesses, including prospective RNG producers and project developers, submitted comments to the Commission in support of the proposal.

In 2021, CenterPoint Energy expects to seek regulatory approval for a green tariff program that would give its Minnesota customers the option to purchase RNG as a portion of their gas supply.

Example of a biogas plant

