



Developing and implementing agricultural systems and practices that maximize the potential for agriculture to mitigate global climate change.

2 December 2004

To whom it may concern:

Washington State University's *Center for Sustaining Agriculture and Natural Resources* is seeking co-sponsors for a workshop on anaerobic digestion to be held in Sunnyside, WA on Friday, February 25, 2005. The workshop will focus on providing reliable, up-to-date information about anaerobic digestion to dairy producers and other interested stakeholders in the state.

Early in 2002, Craig MacConnell of Whatcom County Extension led a stakeholder-driven educational workshop on anaerobic digestion (AD) of dairy manure in Whatcom County. Part of the impetus for the workshop was the new federal phosphorous standard for dairy nutrient management. The workshop was extremely successful as noted by the "standing room only" level of participation. As a result of that workshop and additional efforts, a Whatcom County dairy broke ground in June 2004 on the first *commercial* dairy anaerobic digester in Washington State.

With the rising level of interest in waste biomass-to-energy technologies and projects in the region, it is an appropriate time to convene a second workshop where producers and other stakeholders can receive reliable information about benefits and risks of AD, and the technical and economic performance of available technologies, and have questions answered by experts in the field. Sunnyside is between Yakima and the Tri-Cities, at the center of eastern Washington's growing dairy producing region. Dairy farmers from the area have demonstrated a great deal of interest in anaerobic digestion as a solution to environmental and economic concerns facing the dairy industry.

The workshop will be a combination of formal presentations on various aspects of anaerobic digesters (ie. technology, economics, project development, etc.) and informal question and answer sessions with expert panels. We will include both local/regional and national presenters.

A partnership of university and private stakeholders, including the *Washington State Dairy Federation*, *Northwest SEED*, the *Institute for Washington's Future*, and the *Harvesting Clean Energy Program* are planning the workshop. We are seeking co-sponsorships for the workshop in the amounts of \$500 and \$1000. Co-sponsors will be acknowledged verbally during and on all promotional and informational materials for the workshop. Please contact Chad Kruger (509-663-8181 x235) if you are interested in being a co-sponsor.

Sincerely,

Anaerobic Digestion Workshop Planning Committee