

Prioritizing Direct Methane Reduction & Climate Justice in CARB's Short Lived Climate Pollutants Scoping Plan Strategy

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Dairy Impacts in the San Joaquin Valley

- Water quality & quantity
- Air pollution
- Odors, flies & truck traffic
- Greenhouse gas emissions



Image source: [UC Davis](#). “Manure lagoons”



Image source: [IATP](#) “Hidden props for factory farms in California climate programs.” (Oct 31, 2017).

Dairy Biogas & Digesters: A False Solution

- **Exacerbates drinking water & air pollution** by allowing large dairies to continue & expand.
- **Does not address enteric, truck & other emissions**, GHGs and pollutants
- \$\$\$\$\$\$ - **endless subsidies** fall on the backs of tax & ratepayers
- **No real air monitoring**, evaluation of impacts.
- Continued **industry consolidation**, squeezing out small-scale and more sustainable pasture-based farms
- **Benefits gas & large-scale dairy industries only**, not communities
- Burning **dairy gas is not clean**



Image source: [Civil Eats](#). "Are Dairy Digesters the Renewable Energy Answer or a 'False Solution' to Climate Change?" (April 2020)

False Promises, Mistaken Assumptions

✗ Dairy digesters are necessary for managing dairy methane

REALITY: Proven dry manure management techniques and other integrated practices prevent methane creation in the first place.

✗ Dairy digesters fully address GHG emissions from dairies.

REALITY: Dairy digesters do nothing to address enteric emissions from cows, or other GHG emissions from dairies.

✗ Dairy Digesters help small dairies thrive

REALITY: Huge dairies receive most digester handouts. The average size of CA subsidy recipients is about 7 thousand cows.

✗ The manure is there anyway, we may as well use it

REALITY: Contaminating mega-dairies are a result of policy decisions. The State has encouraged & failed to regulate excessive dairy manure pollution, at the expense of air, water, and local communities.

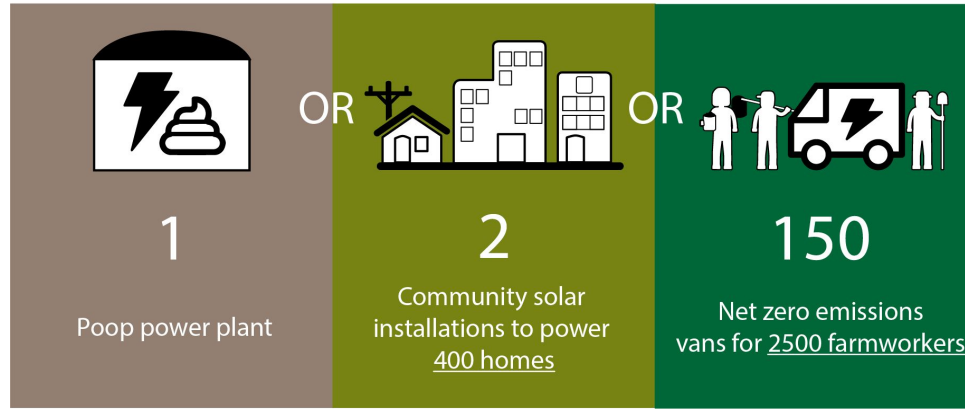
Image source: full LCJA one-pager, [here](#)

During Scoping Plan time period, CARB will be able to directly regulate dairy methane and should plan for that now.

Scoping Plan Recommendations

- Scenarios must not incorporate the proliferation of biogas infrastructure. Investing in biogas is a long-term commitment, not a “bridge solution” or “bridge fuel” as it is too often mischaracterized.
- The State must not rely on credits schemes and offsets that miscalculate impacts of dairy biogas sourcing
- Scenarios should not assume *any* new or continued operation of dairy digesters. Prioritize direct methane and co-pollutants reduction, plus detailed monitoring at individual dairies, and fund real climate solutions that benefit local communities & small-scale sustainable farmers, not just industry

\$5 MILLION CAN BUY:



Thank you

Additional Resources

Articles/stories on dairy digesters & biogas production:

<https://insideclimatenews.org/news/09082021/california-dairy-methane-emissions/>

<https://lookout.co/santacruz/environment/climate/story/2021-08-09/can-california-reduce-dairy-methane-emissions-equitably>

<https://asmith.ucdavis.edu/news/methane-dynamics>

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/jun/01/there-are-ghosts-in-the-land-how-us-mega-dairies-are-killing-off-small-farms>

<https://www.marketplace.org/2021/07/21/for-dairy-farmers-this-technology-turns-methane-from-cow-manure-into-cash/>

<https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/opinion/commentary/story/2021-08-13/california-drought-water-agriculture-almonds-alfalfa-water-intensive>

<https://leadershipcounsel.org/ca-environmental-groups-state-should-not-subsidize-dairy-biogas-production/>