



## Press Release

# Canadian Biogas Association Commends the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario for Biogas Endorsement

**Ottawa, Ontario (July 7, 2017)** – The Canadian Biogas Association (CBA) commends the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario (ECO) for her 2016/2017 Annual Energy Conservation Progress Report, [Every Drop Counts: Reducing the Energy and Climate Footprint of Ontario's Water Use](#). Every Drop Counts focuses on the connection between water and energy in Ontario's municipal water and wastewater systems and highlights the valuable opportunity to turn sewage plants into renewable energy centres through anaerobic digestion.

"The CBA is pleased to see biogas technology recognized as a powerful tool with numerous benefits that deserves focused government attention and support. Biogas from wastewater treatment plants offers a significant opportunity to manage carbon sources, reduce GHG emissions, and displace fossil fuels" stated Jennifer Green, Executive Director of the Canadian Biogas Association.

The CBA supports ECO's recommendations that the Ministry of Infrastructure make anaerobic digestion and energy recovery technology eligible for water/wastewater infrastructure funding, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change simplify the regulatory approvals process associated with anaerobic digestion at wastewater treatment plants, including systems that co-digest off-site organics, and that the Ontario Energy Board set a renewable natural gas content requirement and cost recovery criteria for gas utilities. The CBA further recommends that ECO's recommendations be extended to the entire biogas sector.

After publishing the report, Environmental Commissioner, Diane Saxe, added that "Biogas from sewage can offer renewable, low-carbon energy, replacing fossil fuels for heating, for electricity generation and for transportation. To create even more biogas, wastewater plants could process food-type wastes along with the sewage. This would also keep food-type wastes out of landfills, where they release methane, a powerful greenhouse gas."

The Canadian Biogas Association encourages the Ontario government to consider the recommendations put forward in the report and work with industry to develop conditions where anaerobic digestion and energy recovery become standard at wastewater treatment plants to achieve the environmental, energy, and economic benefits that biogas technology can provide.

### **About the Canadian Biogas Association**

As the collective voice of Canada's biogas sector, the Canadian Biogas Association is developing the biogas industry to its fullest potential through capturing and processing organic materials to maximize the utility and value inherent within that material. Our members span the entire value chain of the sector and consist of farmers, municipalities, and private sector owners and operators of biogas systems, technology suppliers and consultants, financial and learning institutions, utilities, and waste industry and organic residuals generators.