



CRI

Centre for Regulatory Innovation

Regulators' Capacity Fund

Agriculture and Agri-
food Canada (AAFC)

6 July 2021 – 31 March
2022

\$205,000

Analysis of Regulatory Barriers Impacting Agricultural Biogas Development in Canada

Canada's enhanced climate plan includes measures to support agricultural clean technologies and low carbon fuels. Biogas is an innovative solution to transform agricultural by-products and crop residues into renewable green energy resources while also reducing organic waste in landfills. Agricultural biogas facilities can generate new revenue streams for farms, increase rural employment diversity, and create jobs as part of a green economy.

Despite all of the benefits of biogas technology, there is a complex regulatory environment that creates barriers for the biogas industry. Better understanding of the regulatory hurdles highlighted by the biogas sector would enable AAFC to identify regulatory hurdles and potential opportunities for regulatory harmonization that could encourage Canadian biogas sector development in agricultural environments.

In order to improve their understanding of the current regulatory framework, AAFC researched the regulatory barriers impacting agricultural biogas project development and identified potential tools to aid small and medium enterprises in the sector. The process included engagement with industry stakeholders; research into federal, territorial, and provincial frameworks; and the eventual preparation and dissemination of a report that describes the regulatory framework, identifies barriers, and recommends solutions in order to better support the use of this innovative emerging technology by Canadian industry.

Numerous barriers were identified, including a lack of understanding or support for this technology and lack of communication or harmonization among regulatory bodies. Solutions identified to address regulatory barriers include: developing tools to help stakeholders navigate the regulatory pathways; educating government on the benefits of biogas; increasing inter and intra governmental collaboration and harmonization; and identifying regulatory interventions that could better enable the development of biogas in Canada. As a result of the study, AAFC will identify or establish a working group to champion regulatory harmonization across provinces. These efforts could eventually open the biogas sphere to more Canadian enterprises and thereby increase Canada's international competitiveness.

