

One Massachusetts Company Has a Big Sustainability Story to Tell on Earth Day

Vanguard Renewables Reaches Major Climate Milestones

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/EINPresswire.com/ -- Vanguard Renewables, a Boston-based organics-to-renewable energy company, has a

lot to celebrate this Earth Day. Since 2014, Vanguard's Farm Powered solution, which captures greenhouse gas emissions from dairy manure and food and beverage waste to create renewable energy, has sequestered nearly 500 thousand tons of greenhouse gas emissions and recycled more than 831 thousand tons of organic waste, or the equivalent of the weight of more than 5,000 Statues of Liberty, at their Farm Powered anaerobic digesters.



Vanguard Renewables Logo

To put the greenhouse gas emissions numbers into perspective, it is the equivalent of any one of the following statistics:

- Taking more than 104 thousand cars off the road for one year
- Planting nearly 8 million trees
- Generating the power to charge more than 160 million individuals' cell phones for one year

The company partners with food and beverage manufacturers including Cabot Creamery, Polar Beverages, and Ben & Jerry's (Unilever) to divert their inedible food and beverage waste to one of Vanguard's six Farm Powered anaerobic digesters located on generational dairy farms in Massachusetts and Vermont.

"When I founded Vanguard Renewables, I wanted to reinvent how our country deals with food waste because we don't do it very well," said John Hanselman, Founder and Chief Strategy Officer, Vanguard Renewables. "More than 50 million tons of food is sent to landfills and incinerators annually in the US. This is equivalent to 1,000 of the R.M.S. Titanic filled with food waste every year. I am so proud to share how our partnerships with farms and food and beverage manufacturers are chipping away at the climate crisis by turning waste into a force for good one dairy farm at a time."

Vanguard Renewables is doubling down on its mission to help reduce carbon emissions by

building an additional 100 anaerobic digesters on dairy farms in major metro markets across the U.S. by 2026. Since its founding in 2014, the company has produced more than 82 thousand MWh (megawatt hours) of renewable electricity and nearly 75 thousand MMBTU (million British thermal units) of renewable natural gas.

“It’s a team effort; our accomplishments are not possible without our dairy farm and food and beverage waste partners like Cabot Creamery,” said Neil H. Smith, CEO, Vanguard Renewables. “Due to our operational track record and the trust of our partners, Vanguard is uniquely positioned to help our nation reach its aggressive emissions goals by 2030.”

New England-based Cabot Creamery, a food industry sustainability leader, was an early adopter of diverting inedible organic waste from a municipal wastewater treatment plant to Vanguard Renewables’ Farm Powered anaerobic digesters and purchasing energy derived from the waste to power its facilities. Since working with Vanguard Renewables to recycle their organic waste, Cabot has recycled nearly 30 thousand tons of inedible food waste and purchased nearly 37 million kilowatts of energy to power their plants.

This effort has sequestered approximately 17 thousand tons of greenhouse gas, which is the equivalent of taking nearly 4 thousand cars off the road annually, planting more than 275 thousand trees, and greater than 5.5 million individuals charging their cell phones every year. Additionally, the unavoidable waste from Cabot’s manufacturing operations has produced enough renewable energy to power the equivalent of 681 thousand buses annually. Adding to that impact, Cabot purchases a portion of the energy their waste generates at the farm-based anaerobic digesters to power their manufacturing facility in West Springfield, Massachusetts.

“We value our collaboration with Vanguard Renewables as a model of how to use on-farm anaerobic digestion technology to optimize the value of cow manure while reducing food waste and generating renewable energy,” noted Bill Beaton, CEO of Agri-Mark/Cabot Creamery Co-operative. “This is a wonderful example of our farms and our manufacturing facilities cooperating to create award-winning, closed-loop solutions.”

Vanguard Renewables’ Farm Powered anaerobic digesters are located on generational dairy farms, recycling food waste and daily manure into renewable energy. Byproducts of the anaerobic digestion process include a low-carbon, highly nutrient, and nearly odorless liquid fertilizer that saves Vanguard’s farm partners the substantial expense of purchasing now costly chemical fertilizers and supports regenerative agriculture practices; another byproduct is bedding for the herd that is recycled in the digester.

About Vanguard Renewables

Vanguard Renewables is a national leader in developing food and dairy waste-to-renewable energy projects. The Company is committed to advancing decarbonization by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from farms and food waste and supporting regenerative agriculture on partner farms. Vanguard co-founded the industry-leading Farm Powered Strategic Alliance

(FPSA) alongside food industry leaders Dairy Farmers of America, Unilever, and Starbucks to develop a circular solution for food waste reduction and recycling, and decarbonization of manufacturing and the supply chain. The Company owns and operates six on-farm anaerobic digester facilities in the northeast and plans to expand to more than 100 sites nationwide by 2026. Established relationships and renewable natural gas offtake agreements with national utilities including Dominion Energy, Enbridge, ONE Gas, National Grid, and Eversource, and its strategic alliance with Dairy Farmers of America, position the Company to significantly increase U.S. production and delivery of renewable natural gas to commercial and residential customers across the country. To learn more about Vanguard Renewables, Farm Powered organic waste solutions, the FPSA and its members, and Vanguard's numerous awards and recognitions, visit the website.

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