



## RENEWABLE NATURAL GAS (RNG)

## PROJECT PROFILE

### What is the RNG project?

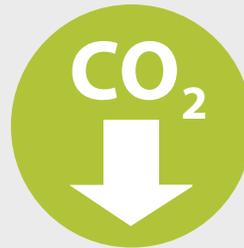
The MWMC is embarking on an exciting project to purify biogas – a byproduct of the wastewater treatment process – in order to produce renewable natural gas (RNG). Producing RNG is a win for the community and the environment. The project will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, fully utilize a byproduct of the wastewater treatment process, and provide a new revenue source that will benefit ratepayers. The MWMC’s goal is to start producing RNG in early 2021.

*Image to left shows what the built project will look like when completed.*



### Environmental Benefits

Using RNG replaces fossil fuels with a clean vehicle fuel. This project is expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the wastewater treatment process by as much as 7,500 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents annually.



The Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission (MWMC) is a partnership between the Cities of Eugene and Springfield and Lane County. The MWMC protects our community’s health and the environment by providing high-quality wastewater services to the Eugene-Springfield metropolitan area.

Metropolitan Wastewater  
MANAGEMENT COMMISSION



partners in wastewater management



## Financial Benefits

Selling RNG will potentially provide the MWMC with an additional revenue source, offsetting future costs for Eugene-Springfield ratepayers. The project will be paid for with the MWMC's existing capital reserves.

## HOW IS RNG MADE?

### What is Renewable Natural Gas (RNG)?

RNG is biogas (a methane byproduct of the wastewater treatment process) that has been purified, so that the remaining gas is around 98% methane and can be used interchangeably with conventional fossil fuel natural gas. RNG can be compressed and injected into natural gas pipelines for distribution, or it can be liquefied or compressed and transported by truck. RNG is a resource that can be used and created in perpetuity from renewable sources.

### How We Make RNG

Solids from the wastewater treatment process are processed on-site at the treatment plant in anaerobic digesters, generating biogas (primarily methane and carbon dioxide) as a byproduct. RNG is produced by removing the carbon dioxide and impurities from the biogas, leaving pure methane which is essentially the same as natural gas.

## DID YOU KNOW?



Biogas, which is similar to RNG, has been safely handled at the wastewater treatment plant in Eugene since it began operating in the 1950s. The MWMC has preventative measures in place to ensure safety with RNG at the wastewater treatment plant, including maintenance practices, staff training, and equipment requirements.

NW Natural has one of the tightest and most modern pipeline systems in the nation. Learn more about NW Natural's Pipeline Integrity Management Program at [nwnatural.com](http://nwnatural.com).