Biogas generation an important feature in Urban Farm in Chicago

An old meatpacking plant on Chicago’s south side is being converted into an industrial-scale urban farm. aptly named ‘The Plant’ www.plantchicago.com

The project is part vertical farm, part food business, part research lab and part education center. One-third of ‘The Plant’ will be comprised of aquaponic growing systems and the other two-thirds will be an incubator for sustainable food businesses. ‘The Plant’ will offer low rent, low energy costs and a licensed shared kitchen. Artisanal food businesses, including a beer brewery, a bakery, a kombucha (fermented tea) brewery and a mushroom farm will collaborate to try to make ‘The Plant’ a self-sustaining and net-zero energy facility. Waste from one business will feed another. For example, spent grains from the brewery will feed the tilapia and solids from the tilapia waste will feed the mushrooms.

An anaerobic digester funded by a $1.5 million dollar grant will convert plant and waste matter into energy. By 2015, the digester is expected to capture all of the methane from 27 tons of food waste per day. The methane will be burned in a combined heat and power system. The long-term goal of ‘The Plant’ is to operate completely off the grid.

See Video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_SKlA_JaWNc