



Press release

Saint Palais, France, 7th December 2018

Veolia partners with Waga Energy to produce biomethane from Saint-Palais landfill

Veolia uses the Wagabox® technology, developed by the young innovative company Waga Energy, to produce biomethane from its Saint-Palais landfill site (Central France). Thanks to Wagabox®, Veolia produces biomethane, a renewable substitute for natural gas, injected directly into the natural gas grid operated by GRDF. The unit will supply 3,000 homes with clean, local and renewable energy while avoiding 4,000 tonnes of CO₂ emission per year.

Since 6th November, 2018, residents of Saint Palais (Central France) and surrounding areas consume renewable gas from the Veolia landfill site located in the town, thanks to a new upgrading unit developed by the French innovative company Waga Energy. Called Wagabox, this unit delivers 98% pure biomethane from landfill gas. This biomethane is injected directly to the natural gas grid operated by GRDF and feeds about 3,000 households around while avoiding 4,000 tonnes of CO₂ emission per year.

"We are very proud of this first collaboration with Veolia, a global leader in optimized resource management. The highly innovative project that we carried out together in Saint-Palais marks a step further toward fighting climate change", declares Mathieu Lefebvre, President and co-founder of Waga Energy.

The fermentation of organic matter at storage sites produces a complex gas, composed mainly of methane but also air and impurities. In France, operators have to collect and flare it to avoid greenhouse gas emissions. Some of them, like Veolia, use it to produce electricity through CHP engines. As this equipment is no longer sufficient to absorb the gas production, Veolia contracted with Waga Energy to deploy a new and more efficient recovery solution.

"Our mission is to turn waste into resources: recycled raw materials or energy. This collaboration with Waga Energy is a perfect example. This is also a good example of a circular economy in a territory as about 3,000 households are now supplied with clean, local and renewable gas produced from the waste" says Bernard Harambillet, General Manager of Veolia's Waste Recycling in France.

The result of ten years of development, Wagabox® is a breakthrough technology for upgrading landfill gas. Combining membrane filtration and cryogenic distillation, it separates methane from other components and provides a biomethane compliant with grid injection requirement, whatever the raw biogas quality. The energy yields are three times those of burning landfill gas to generate electricity. Biomethane can be easily stored and transported through existing gas infrastructure.

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Waga Energy funded, built, owns and operates the Wagabox through a long-term partnership with Veolia for gas supply. The investment is 3.5 million euros supported mainly by Waga Energy. Veolia fund a 1.4 pipeline connecting its landfill to the natural gas grid. Biomethane is sold to gas utilities and revenues are shared between Waga Energy and Veolia.

The Saint Palais landfill receives 90% of the waste from the communities and industrialists of the department of Cher. It now produces biomethane for Cher inhabitants in a loop of renewable and local energy.

Veolia group is the global leader in optimized resource management. With nearly 169 000 employees worldwide, the Group designs and provides water, waste and energy management solutions which contribute to the sustainable development of communities and industries. Through its three complementary business activities, Veolia helps to develop access to resources, preserve available resources, and to replenish them. In 2017, the Veolia group supplied 96 million people with drinking water and 62 million people with wastewater service, produced nearly 55 million megawatt hours of energy and converted 47 million metric tons of waste into new materials and energy. Veolia Environnement (listed on Paris Euronext: VIE) recorded consolidated revenue of €25.12 billion in 2017 (USD 30.1 billion). www.veolia.com

Waga Energy was founded in 2015 by four engineers including three from Air Liquide Group. This innovative company is committed to developing solutions for the energy transition. The company is base in Meylan, France, in the heart of Grenoble's world-renowned high-tech ecosystem. Waga Energy's 20-strong team possesses all of the knowledge and experience needed to complete landfill-gas-to-energy projects, from design and financing to construction, installation and operation.

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