

WAGA ENERGY COMMISSIONS TWO NEW LANDFILL GAS UPGRADING UNITS 20,000 households supplied with biomethane, and 30,000 tonnes of CO₂ avoided each year

A pioneer in the production of biomethane from landfills, Waga Energy commissioned two new WAGABOX® units in January 2020, in Normandy and Occitania. Their construction was financed by Waga Energy and Meridiam, a firm specializing in the development, financing and management of public infrastructure projects. With nine WAGABOX® units in operation, Waga Energy now supplies more than 20,000 French households with biomethane, and avoids the emission of 30,000 tons of CO₂ per year into the atmosphere.

Waga Energy, a young innovative company dedicated to the production of biomethane from landfills, started up two new WAGABOX® units in January 2020. The first is installed in Normandy and offers a capacity of 25 GWh/year. The second is located at the Liéoux landfill (Haute-Garonne), operated by Sivom SGMAM (Saint-Gaudens, Montréjeau, Aspet and Magnoac), and has a capacity of 35 GWh/year. The construction of these new WAGABOX® units represents an investment of 6 million euros, co-financed by Waga Energy and Meridiam, the main investor in both projects.

Five years after its creation, Waga Energy now operates nine WAGABOX® units in France, installed on landfills managed by public authorities (Trigone, Lorient Agglomération, SGMAM) or industrial players (Coved Environnement, Suez, Veolia). Representing a capacity of 180 GWh/year, these units supply more than 20,000 households with biomethane, a clean, local and renewable gas that replaces fossil natural gas in the distribution network. They thus avoid the emission of 30,000 tons of CO₂ per year into the atmosphere.

Meridiam is one of the European leaders (France, Germany, Spain, Poland, Belgium) in the recovery of organic household, industrial or agricultural waste into renewable energy (electricity, heat and green gas) and natural fertilizers. With these two new projects, the company is now developing, financing and managing 12 biomethane plants in France, which avoid approximately 50,000 tons of CO₂ per year, equivalent to the emissions of more than 30,000 cars. These projects demonstrate the company's commitment to energy transition and its contribution to reducing soil and air pollution by avoiding CO₂ emissions.

Improving environmental performance storage sites

For Mathieu Lefebvre, CEO and co-founder of Waga Energy: « WAGABOX® technology contributes to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and fighting global warming, a major challenge of our generation. It improves the environmental performance of storage sites, which become places for producing renewable energy and storing the carbon contained in waste. With this innovation, we are helping to develop in France one of the world's most energy/climate- and cost-efficient final waste treatment processes. Our ambition is to accelerate its international deployment by supporting environmental players who, like us, are embarking on the path of energy transition ».

For Thierry Déau, CEO of Meridiam: «*These projects are a further illustration of our ability to support innovative SMEs in the region and to contribute to the emergence of a local industry that promotes ecological transition in all its forms and which the biogas sector perfectly embodies. The projects carried by Waga Energy reflect our desire to contribute to the emergence of a truly circular economy. In Occitania, our intervention is accompanied by a bioGNV component through support for a project to deploy biogas-fuelled refueling stations, intended in particular to supply the region's household waste bins. With these projects, we will therefore ultimately be able to contribute to an exemplary regional industry from waste to wheel*».

The reference solution for biogas recovery storage sites

The result of ten years of R&D, born out of French excellence in gas engineering, WAGABOX® technology has become the benchmark solution for upgrading landfill gas into grid compliant biomethane. Produced naturally by the breakdown of organic matter present in household waste, landfill gas contains a high proportion of methane (CH₄), an energy gas and the main component of natural gas. However, this methane must be purified to obtain biomethane that can be injected into the gas grid. The operation is extremely complex as landfill gas contains air and its composition and flow rate vary according to climatic conditions. As they do not have an efficient recovery solution to recover it, half of the 20,000 landfills the world simply release this gas to the atmosphere, contributing to global warming as methane is a powerful greenhouse gas. In some countries, including France, operators flare landfill gas or burn it in engines to produce electricity, with energy yields three times lower than the biomethane production of a WAGABOX® unit.

Combining membrane filtration and cryogenic temperature distillation, WAGABOX® technology meets all the challenges of landfill gas recovering. It provides operators with a turnkey solution to develop circular economy projects on a regional scale. By recovering a by-product of waste treatment, it also produces the most competitive biomethane on the market.

About Waga Energy

Fondée en 2015, Waga Energy mobilise l'expertise française dans l'ingénierie des gaz pour produire du biométhane, substitut renouvelable du gaz naturel fossile, en valorisant le gaz produit spontanément par la dégradation des matières organiques sur les sites d'enfouissement des déchets. Waga Energy conçoit, finance et exploite les unités WAGABOX® dans le cadre de contrats passés avec les opérateurs de déchets. Ce modèle, associé à une innovation technologique, garantit la valorisation optimale de cette ressource au service de la transition énergétique et de la lutte contre le réchauffement climatique.

www.waga-energy.com

About Meridiam

Meridiam a été fondée en 2005 par Thierry Déau, avec la conviction que l'alignement des intérêts des secteurs public et privé peut apporter des solutions critiques aux besoins collectifs des communautés. Meridiam est une société d'investissement indépendante à mission spécialisée dans le développement, le financement et la gestion d'actifs et de projets d'infrastructures publiques durables et à long terme dans la mobilité des biens et des personnes, la transition énergétique et les infrastructures sociales. Avec des bureaux à Addis-Abeba, Amman, Dakar, Istanbul, New York, Luxembourg, Paris, Toronto et Vienne, Meridiam gère actuellement 7 milliards d'euros d'actifs, et plus de 75 projets et actifs à ce jour. Meridiam est certifié ISO 9001 : 2015, ISO 26000 Advanced par VigeoEiris et applique une méthodologie systématique et propre en matière d'ESG (critères environnementaux, sociaux et de gouvernance) et d'impact basée sur les objectifs de développement durable de l'ONU (UNSDG).

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