



communiqué de presse

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**ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION:  
SUEZ STORAGE CENTRE IN SAINT-MAXIMIN (OISE, FRANCE) NOW PRODUCES  
BIOMETHANE USING THE WAGABOX® INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY**

**SUEZ has developed a new biogas<sup>1</sup> and biomethane<sup>2</sup> recovery solution, in collaboration with the start-up WAGA ENERGY and with the technical and financial support of ADEME<sup>3</sup>. This innovation improves the energy efficiency of non-hazardous waste storage facilities, reduces greenhouse gas emissions and contributes to circular economy. The biomethane is injected into the local natural gas distribution network operated by GRDF, supporting the region's ecological transition.**

This new technology, officially launched in Saint-Maximin (Oise, France) today, will optimise the waste's energy potential and enable SUEZ to become France's leading producer of biomethane and the operator managing the largest number of biomethane plants in France.

For Philippe Maillard, CEO of Recycling & Recovery France at SUEZ, *"Thanks to increasingly efficient technologies, we are able to enhance energy efficiency and produce renewable energy that is then used locally within our regions. At our Saint-Maximin plant in Oise, we have been recovering the waste we store into electricity for a long time. From today, we will also recover it into enough biomethane to meet the annual gas requirements of the equivalent of 2,000 local households. A perfect example that we would like to deploy widely for our clients."*

Recovery of biogas from waste storage facilities is a key factor in managing waste and preserving resources. In France, currently only 60% of the biogas produced in these facilities is recovered as electricity or heat. The technology developed by WAGA ENERGY and deployed at the Saint-Maximin plant meet this challenge by recovering biogas even more efficiently than the usual process. From June 2017, 20 GWh of biomethane will be injected into the network every year, equivalent to the gas requirement of 3,000 households.

After ten years in development, the WAGABOX®, supported by the "Investissements d'Avenir" (investment for the future) programme, is the first industrial unit capable of extracting biomethane from the mixture of gases produced by decomposing waste which is full of carbon dioxide, nitrogen, oxygen and impurities. Following a purification step, the biogas converted into biomethane, which is almost identical to natural gas, can be injected into the GRDF distribution network.

Mathieu Lefebvre, CEO of WAGA ENERGY, said, *"By applying the WAGABOX disruptive technology, SUEZ will be able to recover 90% of the biogas produced from waste as 98% pure biomethane, which will be injected directly into the natural gas distribution network. The launch of the WAGABOX, only twelve months after the contract was signed, proves our capacity to manage complex industrial projects for operators of non-hazardous waste storage facilities within short-time frames."*

<sup>1</sup> Biogas: a gas produced by the degradation of non-hazardous biodegradable waste in the absence of oxygen.

<sup>2</sup> Biomethane: produced by purifying biogas, from which the CO<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>2</sub> and other impurities are extracted, leaving only the methane.

<sup>3</sup> The French Environment and Energy Management Agency

The innovative and ambitious project of Saint-Maximin prompted ADEME, France's Environment and Energy Management Agency, to provide technical support and €438,920 in funding from its special heat fund.

The launch of this facility with WAGA ENERGY helps meet targets laid out in the French law on energy transition for green growth and is in line with SUEZ's strategy to increase biogas production by 30% to 50% within the next five years.

In France, SUEZ recovers almost 5 million tonnes of waste as 100% renewable energy, to meet the heat requirements of 430,000 inhabitants and the electricity consumption of 580,000 inhabitants. In Europe, SUEZ will recover this year more than 9 million tonnes of waste in renewable energy, to meet the heat requirements, will sell 7 TWh of energy which is the equivalent of the annual consumption of a city with 2 million inhabitants, such as Vienna or Hamburg, thus avoiding more than 1.5 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.



## **SUEZ**

*We are in the era of the resource revolution. In a world facing high demographic growth, runaway urbanisation and the scarcity of natural resources, securing, optimising and renewing resources is essential for our future. SUEZ (Paris: SEV, Brussels: SEVB) delivers wastewater treatment services to 58 million people and reuses 882 million m<sup>3</sup> of wastewater. SUEZ also recovers 16.9 million tons of waste a year, produces 3.9 million tons of secondary raw materials and 7 TWh of local renewable energy. Finally, SUEZ avoids 9.5 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e GHG emissions for its customers. With 83,921 employees, SUEZ is present on five continents and is a key player in the circular economy for the sustainable management of resources. SUEZ generated total revenues of 15.3 billion euros in 2016.*

## **WAGA ENERGY**

*WAGA ENERGY, founded in 2015, calls on French expertise in gas engineering to provide the operators of storage facilities with a solution to purify their biogas. The WAGABOX produces 98% pure biomethane that can be injected directly into the local natural gas network. Combined with technological innovation, the solution offers efficient recovery of this renewable resource.*

## **ADEME**

*The French Environment and Energy Management Agency (ADEME) is active in the implementation of public policy in the areas of the environment, energy and sustainable development. The agency provides expertise and advisory services to businesses, local authorities and communities, government bodies and the general public, to enable them to establish and consolidate their environmental action. As part of this work, ADEME helps finance projects, from research to implementation, in the areas of waste management, soil conservation, energy efficiency and renewable energy, raw material savings, air quality, noise reduction, the transition to a circular economy and the reduction of food waste. ADEME is a public agency under the joint authority of the Ministry of Environmental and Solidarity Transition and the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation. [www.ademe.fr](http://www.ademe.fr) or follow us on @ademe*

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