

# Promoting RNG and Nutrient Recovery in Washington State

Senior Energy Policy Specialist

## Goal: Create economic value and environmental benefits with improved organic waste management

- Reduce fugitive greenhouse gas emissions, especially methane
- Reduce carbon intensity of natural gas utilities
- Address excess nutrient problems and diversify revenue streams for agriculture, especially dairies
- Offset waste management facility operating costs
- Displace energy and carbon intensity of fertilizers

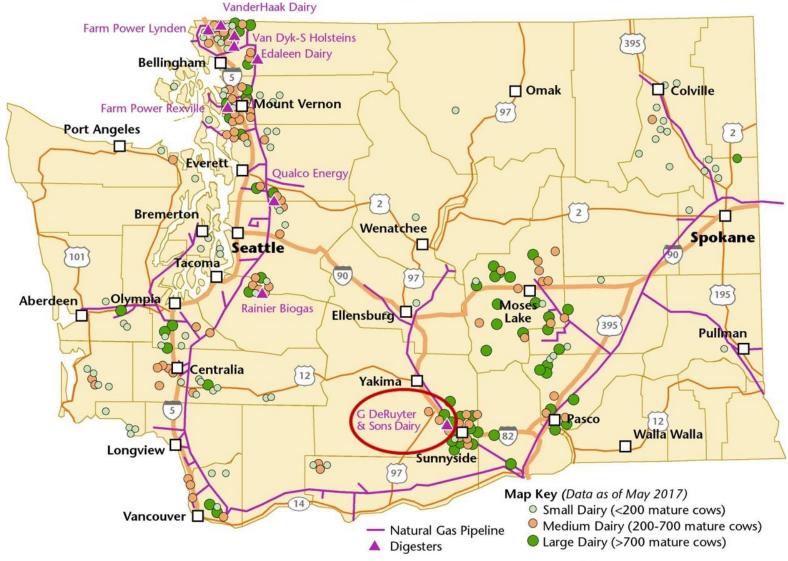
## **Initial Efforts**

- Stimulus funding for on-farm digesters
- WSU Waste-to-Resources funding
- Clean Energy Fund RD&D grants
- Conservation Commission digester grants

Positive results, but significant public investment, limited power sales, and uncertain future...

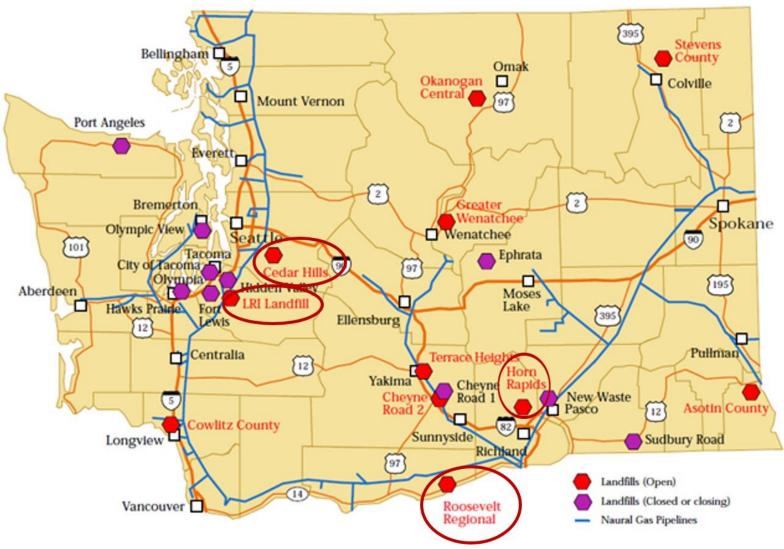


#### Dairies: Stable, Innovating, but Stalled





#### **Landfills: Making Progress**





#### Wastewater Treatment: Emerging Opportunities





## 2017 RNG Roadmap

#### **Power Sales Model Mature**

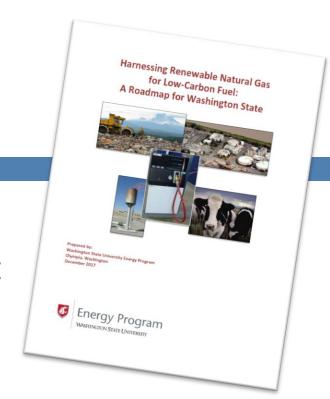
- Utility RPS compliance targets met
- RNG market moving to transportation

#### **Incentives Need an Overhaul**

- Previous tax breaks expired
- Definitions dated, conflicting

**Pipeline Quality Standards** 

**Uncertain Policy Framework** 



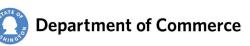
Link: bit.ly/2mowmWn



## **2018 Legislation (HB 2580)**

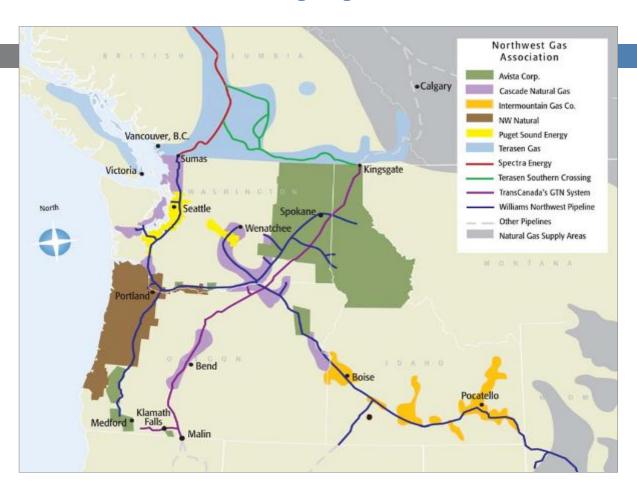
- Restore and expand production incentives
- Broader technoeconomic assessment
- Update policy options
- Public sector preferential purchasing
- Regional voluntary pipeline standards





## First Step: Better data, pipelines

- Facilities within 5 miles
- Feedstocks within 30 miles
- Public-private partnerships, priorities for public funding
- Data sets dated, incomplete and/or inferred





### Start with the larger dairies...



**Primary Dairies** 

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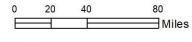
>100 scfm



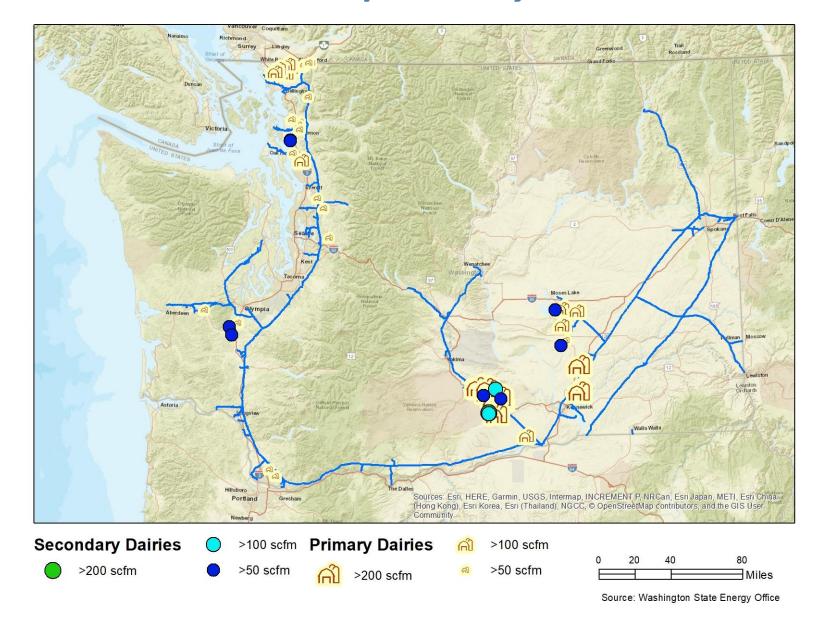
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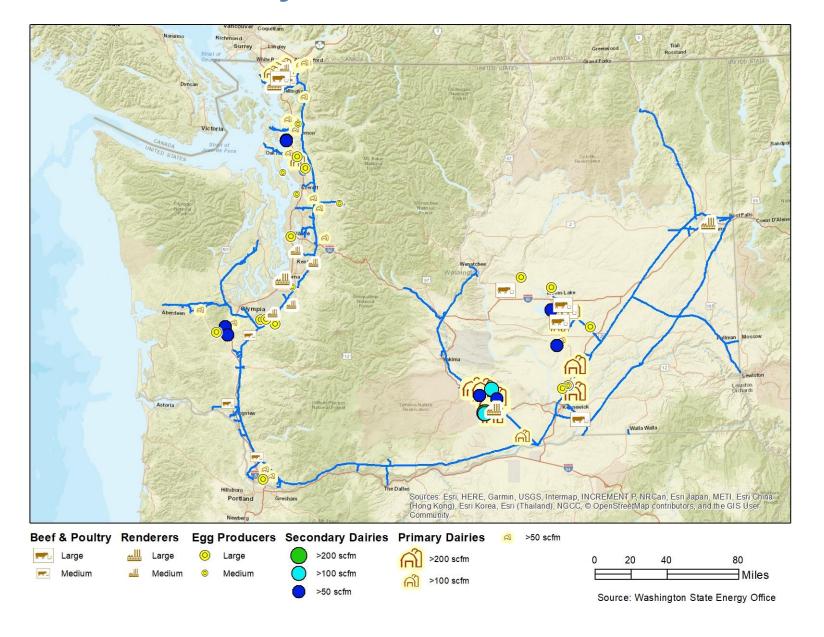
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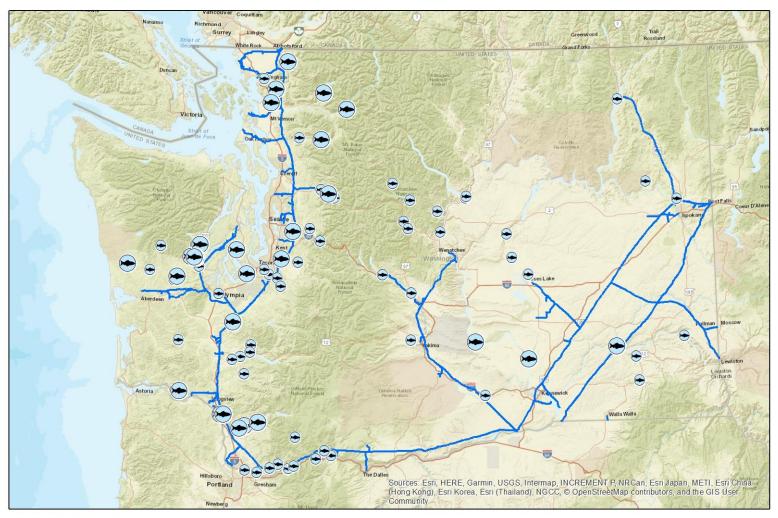
#### ...add dairies in close proximity to other dairies...



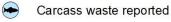
#### ...other sources of animal waste...



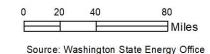
### ...don't forget hatcheries...



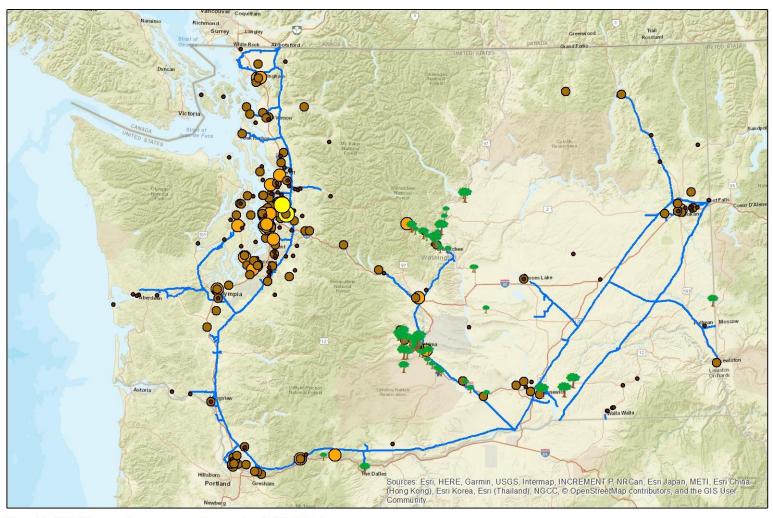
#### Fish Hatcheries



No report



#### ...fruit growers, brewers and distillers...



#### Tree Fruit & Vineyards

>100k tons/yr and/or >50 employees

>50k tons/yr and/or >10 employees

Smaller packers

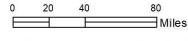
#### **Breweries & Distilleries**

>1m gal/yr beer or >100k gal/yr spirit

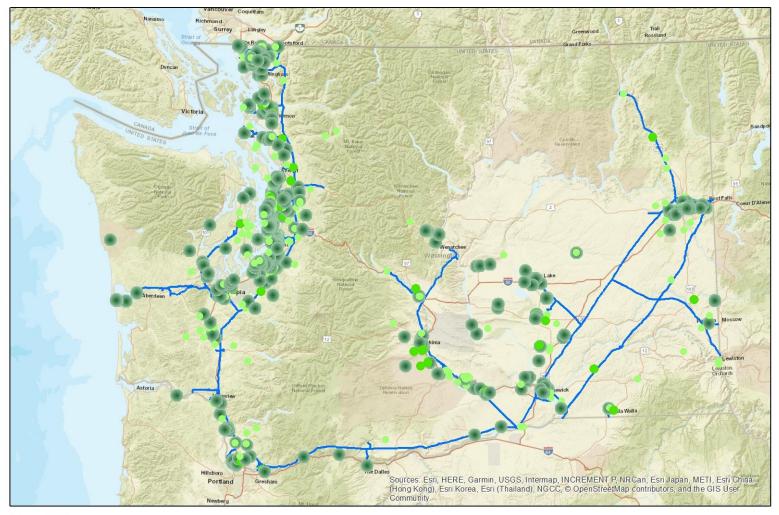
>100k beer or >10k spirit

>10k beer or >1k spirit

>1k beer or >100 spirit



#### ...and plenty of food processors



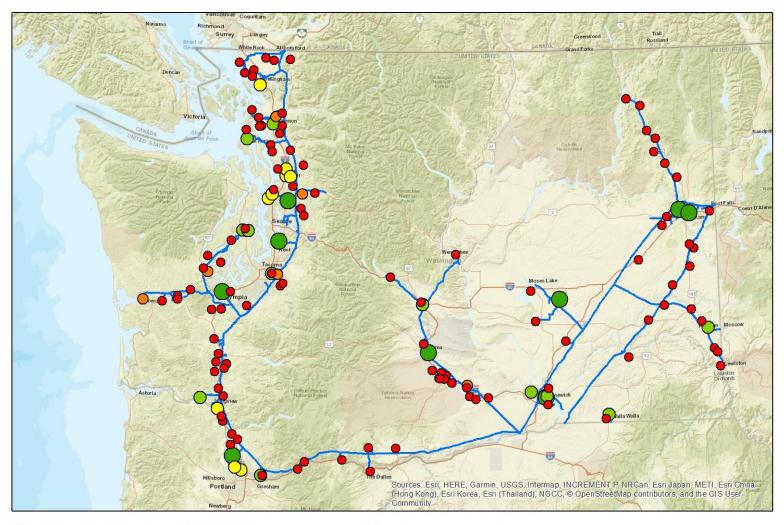
#### **Food Processors**

- High sales volume or employment (high energy value)
- Medium sales volume or employment

Other processors



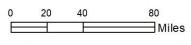
#### Facilities start with wastewater...



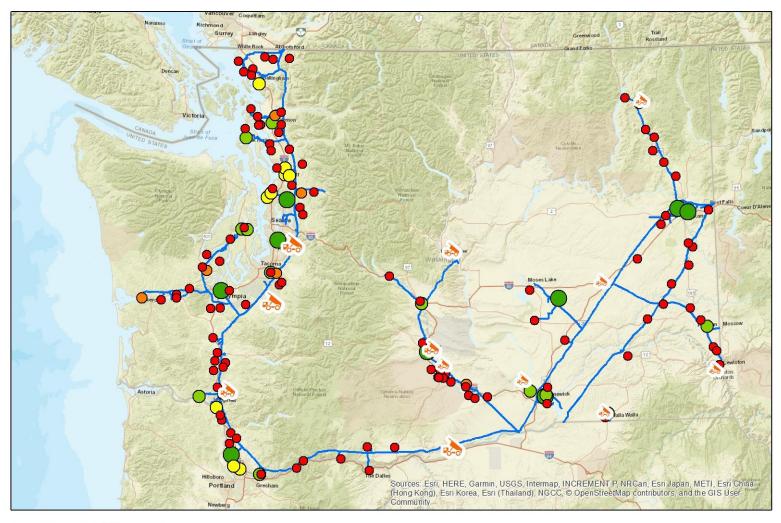
#### **Wastewater Treatment Facilities**

- Digester, >100 scfm and/or biogas capture
- Digester, 30-100 scfm

- No digester, >30 scfm
- Digester, 10-30 scfm
- Others



#### ...add open landfills...



**Open Landfills** 



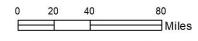
>300 scfm



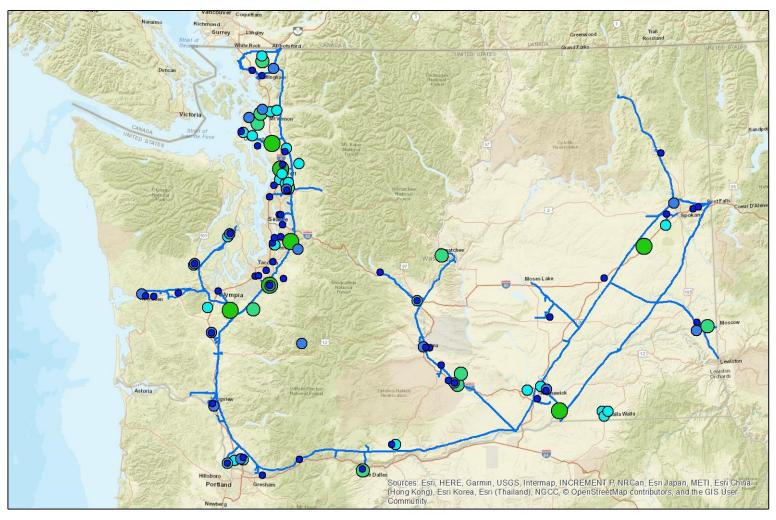
>1,000 scfm



<300 scfm



#### ...and composters, other public infrastructure



#### Other Infrastructure

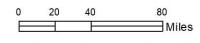
Compost (<10k tons/yr)</p>

Compost (>50k tons/yr)

Closed Landfill

Compost (>10k tons/yr)

Transfer Station



#### **New Initiatives**

- Clean Energy Fund Dairy Digester Grants
- Natural Gas Conservation Standard: Gas utilities identify and acquire all available and cost-effective measures; UTC to establish targets by 2022
- RNG Programs: Utilities may propose RNG program for compliance, must offer voluntary RNG service for retails customers
- Public Preferential Purchasing: RNG and nutrients



## **Future Opportunities**

- Low-Carbon Fuel Standard: State vs Puget Sound
- State-level Pipeline Quality Standards
- Food Waste/Wasted Food Reduction: Study & Plan
- Industrial Symbiosis Assessment
- Sustainable Farms & Fields
- WSU Soil Health Initiative
- NEWT: Nutrient, Energy & Water Technologies





#### For more information:

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