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# North Country Matters examines food waste to energy project

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Stefan Grimberg and Jan Dewaters

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POTSDAM — According to 2011 estimates, one-third of all food produced globally ends up in the garbage. That is 1.3 billion tons of food per year that goes uneaten. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations estimates that collectively this food waste has a CO2 footprint of 3.6 gigatons of carbon dioxide.

In the U.S., more than one-third of all available food goes uneaten through loss or waste. Food is the single largest type of waste in daily trash.

Our North Country Matters guests, Jan Dewaters and Stefan Grimberg, both with Clarkson University, talk to NCM host Donna Seymour about a food waste to energy demonstration project being run in Canton to address one aspect of the growing food waste problem. It is a collaborative project between Clarkson, Canton Central School, and Cornell Cooperative Extension to turn waste food into energy using an anaerobic digester.

The YouTube link for this show is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TpHvEB956mw>.

In 2022, a new law in New York State will go into effect that will make it illegal for large food vendors – grocery stores, restaurants, schools, etc. to put food into the waste stream. They will have to find ways to donate still-edible food or send it to a composting facility or a digester, if

one exists within 25 miles. This has the potential to transform the food waste problem here in New York and represents an energy producing opportunity for municipalities and businesses.

North Country Matters is a local public affairs video magazine now in its 15th year. The NCM civic partners working to educate North Country residents about critical public policy issues facing our region are the League of Women Voters of St. Lawrence County and the Potsdam Public Library. The shows are filmed in the Fred W. Cleveland Computer Center at the Potsdam Library.

The shows are always available on YouTube. Check the League of Women Voters of St. Lawrence County website (<http://slc-leaguewv.org/>) for specific program links as they become available. And be sure to "like" the NCM Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/NorthCountryMatters/> for up-to-date information on new shows and links to local and state-wide voter education news stories.

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