Economic feasibility of converting cow manure to electricity:
A case study of the CVPS Cow Power program in Vermont

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On-farm electrical generation fueled by methane from animal waste presents dairy farmers in Vermont an opportunity to invest in a renewable energy source which cuts greenhouse gas emissions, reduces farm related odors, manages a waste stream, and creates a new source of revenue. Initial capital investment costs are significant and information on the economic returns is important for project planning. The price paid to farms for electricity and the support from the community, electric utility provider, and legislative partners are key factors in determining project success.