

Assembly Bill 1428 (Galgiani)
Energy: biogas digester and manure-fueled customer-generator pilot program.

Summary: This bill expands an existing pilot project allowing net energy metering for customer-owned electric generation projects fueled by manure methane production (biogas digestion) by allowing an additional 20 megawatts (MW) statewide from manure-fueled projects using thermal decomposition or other means for converting manure into energy.

Background: Under existing law, the Public Utilities Commission has regulatory authority over public utilities, as defined. Existing law authorizes the commission to fix the rates and charges for every public utility, and requires that those rates and charges be just and reasonable. Under existing law, electric service providers, as defined, are required to provide eligible customer-generators with net energy metering, as defined. Under existing law, electrical corporations are required to provide eligible biogas digester customer-generators, that commence operation by December 31, 2009, with net energy metering, as defined, under a pilot program.

Status: 5/24/2007 From Second Reading: Read second time. To Consent Calendar

Recommended Position: Watch

Justification: Beneficial use of manure by thermal decomposition (e.g., incineration, gasification and pyrolysis) can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and energy imports. However, these processes tend to increase emissions of criteria pollutants when compared with processes using natural gas as fuel for energy generation. Currently, demonstration plants using biogas digestion process have generated limited data indicating their potentially higher emissions in NO_x and CO. The thermal decomposition processes are expected to have the same higher emissions for NO_x and CO and potentially much higher emissions for PM₁₀. Even with these concerns, the additional demonstration plants that this bill is encouraging to be built could help provide additional emissions data and better define the Best Available Control Technologies for reducing emissions from these processes.

Support:
California Grain and Feed Association
Pacific Egg and Poultry Association

Opposition:
Unknown