



## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[EPA-HQ-RCRA-2015-0836; FRL-9984-87-Region 3]

### **Proposed Information Collection Request; Comment Request; Collection of Information on Anaerobic Digestion Facilities Processing Wasted Food to Support EPA's Sustainable Food Management Programs**

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Environmental Protection Agency is planning to submit an information collection request (ICR), "Collection of Information on Anaerobic Digestion Facilities Processing Wasted Food to support EPA's Sustainable Food Management Programs" (EPA ICR No. 2533.02, OMB Control No. 2050-0217) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act. Before doing so, EPA is soliciting public comments on specific aspects of the proposed information collection as described below. This is a request for approval of a renewal of an existing ICR. An Agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

**DATES:** Comments must be submitted on or before **[INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER**

**DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]**.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit your comments, referencing Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-RCRA-2015-0836 online using [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) or by mail to: EPA Docket Center, Environmental Protection Agency, Mail Code 228221T, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20460.

EPA's policy is that all comments received will be included in the public docket without change including any personal information provided, unless the comment includes profanity, threats, information claimed to be Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Melissa Pennington, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 3, Mail Code 3LC33, 1650 Arch Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103; telephone number: 215-814-3372; fax number: 215-814-3114; email address: pennington.melissa@epa.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

Supporting documents which explain in detail the information that the EPA will be collecting are available in the public docket for this ICR. The docket can be viewed online at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) or in person at the EPA Docket Center, WJC West, Room 3334, 1301 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, DC. The telephone number for the Docket Center is 202-566-1744. For additional information about EPA's public docket, visit <http://www.epa.gov/dockets>.

Pursuant to section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA, EPA is soliciting comments and information to enable it to: (i) evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (ii) evaluate the accuracy of the Agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (iii) enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (iv) minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses. EPA will consider the comments received and amend the ICR as appropriate. The final ICR package will then be submitted to OMB for review and approval. At that time, EPA will issue another Federal Register notice to announce the

submission of the ICR to OMB and the opportunity to submit additional comments to OMB.

*Abstract:* EPA's Sustainable Food Management (SFM) Program promotes the sustainable management of food which is a systematic approach that seeks to reduce wasted food and its associated impacts over its' entire lifecycle. The lifecycle of food includes use of natural resources, manufacturing, sales, and consumption and ends with decisions on recovery or final disposal. Diversion of food waste from landfills is a critical component of this effort. In order to effectively divert food waste from landfills, sufficient capacity to process the diverted materials is required. Knowledge of organics recycling capacity is needed to facilitate food waste diversion and anaerobic digestion facilities provide a significant amount of the needed capacity.

EPA's food recovery hierarchy prioritizes potential actions to prevent and divert wasted food. According to the hierarchy, processing wasted food via anaerobic digestion is a more desirable option than landfilling or incineration because it creates more benefits for the environment, society and the economy. Anaerobic digestion of food waste and other organic materials generates renewable energy, reduces methane emissions to the atmosphere, and provides opportunities to improve soil health through the production of soil amendments. The SFM program supports these efforts by educating state and local governments and communities about the benefits of wasted food diversion. The SFM program also builds partnerships with state agencies and other strategic partners interested in developing organics recycling capacity and provides tools to assist organizations in developing anaerobic digestion (AD) projects.

The nationwide collection of data about AD facilities processing food waste began in 2017 with a survey of all known AD facilities under the initial Information Collection Request (ICR No. 2533.01). EPA published the first annual report of findings based on this data in July 2018. This information collection consists of a request to renew ICR No. 2533.02 in order to

continue to monitor growth and evaluate trends in the capacity for processing of food waste and the amount of food waste being processed via AD in the United States.

Data will be collected using electronic surveys that will be distributed to respondents by email and will be available on EPA's AD website.

*Form numbers:* EPA Form 6700-03, EPA Form 6700-04, EPA Form 6700-05.

*Respondents/affected entities:* Project Developers, Project Owners or Plant Operators, and Livestock Farmers.

*Respondent's obligation to respond:* Voluntary.

*Estimated number of respondents:* 382 (total).

*Frequency of response:* Annually.

*Total estimated burden:* 254 hours (per year). Burden is defined at 5 CFR 1320.03(b).

*Total estimated cost:* \$7,594 (per year), includes \$0 annualized capital or operation & maintenance costs.

*Changes in estimates:* The overall burden has slightly decreased from the original ICR. For this renewal, some questions have been revised for clarity, numerous questions have been eliminated and a series of questions have been streamlined. The time to complete the survey will decrease for operating years 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 for Respondents that previously provided data.

Dated: September 24, 2018.

John A. Armstead, Director,  
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EPA Region III.

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