

NEWS ALERT

University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh, USA - Testing Cortec® EcoWorks® AD Biobased Bags for Anaerobic Biodigester Facility



Influent feedstock collected from student union
Cortec® Bag - Metabolix® PHA



Bag was left intact and remained knotted
for 28 days.



Close-up of digestate in the segregated blue bin.
White specs in the photo identified as mold.

Beginning this spring semester, the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh's (UW Oshkosh) sustainability office, in partnership with Cortec® Corporation, Sodexo, Reeve Union, and the Wisconsin (WI) State Energy Office, launched the "Feed the Beast" campus campaign. Waste receptacles turned green beasts holding "Feed me" signs are lined with EcoWorks® AD bags donated to the University by Cortec® Corporation. These bags are in the testing phase to measure the potential for converting compostable waste to fuel (or feed) in UW Oshkosh's first-of-its-kind dry fermentation anaerobic biodigester. Based on preliminary testing, Cortec's EcoWorks® AD bags are passing the expectations of the tests.

The UW Oshkosh anaerobic biodigester facility is expected to initially produce up to 5 percent, and eventually as much as 10 percent, of the campus' electricity and heat after officially beginning to produce useable energy last October. It is the first dry fermentation anaerobic digestion (AD) facility to be constructed in North America, and will serve as a living, learning laboratory for the University students and faculty. Producing energy from a clean and sustainable source will set an example in reducing dependence on fossil fuels and moving in the direction of energy independence.

Cortec® EcoWorks® AD bags, constructed from the latest biobased polymer, containing 77% biobased content, are designed to biodegrade in anaerobic digestion, natural soil and marine or water environments, backyard composting systems, and municipal composting facilities. In anaerobic digestion (AD) the film breaks down in as little as 15 days.

EcoWorks® AD has also been awarded USDA Biopreferred designation for Packaging Materials (www.biopreferred.gov). It is heat, moisture, and chemical resistant making it an ideal film for community organic waste diversion and anaerobic digestion programs. 100% anaerobically digestible per ASTM D5511 standard test method.