

Cambridge Food Waste Program

Transforming food waste into **clean energy**

After Food Waste carts are collected, food scraps are processed at an anaerobic digestion (AD) facility. What is AD?

- Food scraps are added to an AD tank where good bacteria called microbes eat the scraps.
- More than 90% of the food is converted into biogas. The gas is captured and converted into clean energy.
- The small amount of solids that remain are used as a sustainable alternative to fossil-fuel fertilizers.

The AD facility the City uses is at the Greater Lawrence Sanitary District (GLSD) in North Andover, MA. Instead of using electricity from the grid to clean wastewater, GLSD uses clean energy produced by Cambridge food waste, making it a net-zero emissions facility. In addition to the environmental benefits, separating food scraps from the trash reduces disposal costs and can deter rodents better than placing food in City trash carts.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- www.biocycle.net/food-waste-recycling-environmental-and-economic-assessment
- www.epa.gov/anaerobic-digestion

Please visit: www.CambridgeMA.Gov/Recycle and/or email: Recycle@CambridgeMA.Gov

