



News Release

Ground breaking Ceremony for North America's 1st Zoo-Based Biogas Plant, ZooShare Biogas Co-operative

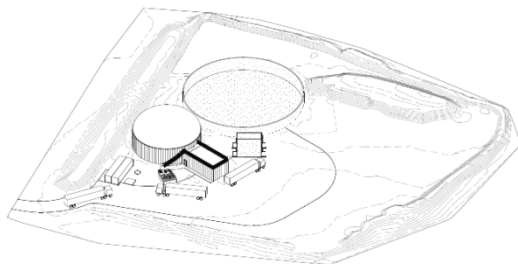
(Toronto, Ontario – April 19, 2016) – ZooShare Biogas Co-operative Inc. (“ZooShare”) held a formal ground breaking ceremony today to mark the start of construction on its 500 kilowatt (kW) facility, the first zoo-based biogas plant in North America. The plant, located across from the Toronto Zoo, will recycle manure from the zoo and local food waste from grocery stores into renewable power for the Ontario grid.

ZooShare is a non-profit renewable energy co-op with over 500 members, many of whom are also investors in the project.

“This is a significant milestone for this project,” said Paul Ungerman, Chair of the Board for ZooShare. “Our mandate is to demonstrate that waste is a valuable resource and to educate students and the general public about the environmental benefits of biogas. Today marks the beginning of that vision becoming a reality, and we extend our sincerest gratitude to all of our partners and supporters.”

ZooShare members and staff were joined by the Minister of Energy, Bob Chiarelli, the Chair of the Toronto Zoo Board, Councillor Raymond Cho, and the CEO of Bullfrog Power, Ron Seftel.

"It is a pleasure to celebrate this important milestone for the ZooShare project," said Minister Chiarelli. "Their work is strengthening Ontario's clean energy system by diverting waste, reducing emissions, and helping fight climate change. Innovations like this one set a standard for the future of Ontario's clean, affordable and reliable electricity grid."



The first-ever North American zoo-based biogas plant will cover one and a half acres of the Toronto Zoo's land, located at the current compost facility on the east side of Meadowvale Road. The biogas plant will:

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by the equivalent of 10,000 tonnes of CO₂ each year
- Convert 3,000 tonnes of waste from Toronto Zoo to power each year
- Convert 14,000 tonnes of food waste into power each year

In addition to the 3,000 tonnes of waste from the Toronto Zoo, the plant will also process 14,000 tonnes of inedible food waste from local grocery stores and turn it into power, heat and fertilizer.

“The Toronto Zoo is thrilled to be part of a project that is so highly aligned with our sustainability initiatives and commitments to energy efficient operations,” said John Tracogna, CEO of Toronto Zoo. “ZooShare, once operational, will have the ability to reduce greenhouse emissions by the equivalent of 10,000 tonnes of CO2 each year, and will turn what was previously a cost to the Zoo into a new source of revenue.”

Ontario currently has a young biogas industry; however, it is expected to play a more significant role to meet Ontario’s Climate Change objectives in the future.

With support from their Education Sponsor, Bullfrog Power, ZooShare is also embarking on an educational campaign to raise awareness of biogas and to highlight the significant environmental benefits of biogas technology. An in-classroom workshop, co-designed and delivered by TREC Education, is offered to grade 7 students around the Greater Toronto Area, and ZooShare will begin to offer regular tours of the biogas plant once it is operational later this year.

“This innovative biogas project is a great example of the types of initiatives that need to be developed if we want to mitigate the impacts of climate change. On behalf of our customers, we are proud to be one of the founding investors and the project’s Education Sponsor,” said Ron Seftel, CEO, Bullfrog Power. “With our education partner, Bullfrog Power, we are committed to being catalysts for the growth of biogas plants – so that none of the energy and nutrients contained in organic waste, are wasted. That all starts with education,” said Daniel Bida, ZooShare’s Executive Director.

Construction on the site will begin June 2016 and is estimated to be operational by December 2016, when it will begin producing clean power for the community.

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About ZooShare

ZooShare is developing North America’s first zoo-based biogas plant, which will recycle manure from the Toronto Zoo and local food waste into renewable power for the Ontario grid. This process will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by the equivalent of 10,000 tonnes of CO2 each year, and will return valuable nutrients to the soil in the form of a high-quality fertilizer.

Website <https://zooshare.ca/>

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