CEFC FINANCE

Helps Businesses & Councils Benefit from Energy-From-Waste Technology

From agricultural production waste to landfill sites, Queenslanders have untapped energy sources literally at their disposal.

The Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC), an Australian Government funded financier working to increase investment in clean energy technologies, is helping unlock important opportunities across the economy to harness waste and turn it into energy.

CEFC Bioenergy and Energy-from-Waste Sector Lead Henry Anning said converting waste from agricultural production, mining, sustainable forestry, businesses, households and landfill has the potential to reduce business operating costs, reduce reliance on grid electricity and create a more sustainable way to manage waste disposal.

"Our own research into this sector has identified new Australian investment opportunities of up to $3.3 billion in energy generation from urban waste alone, and up to $5 billion for broader bioenergy opportunities," he said.

"But bioenergy and energy from waste technologies are not widely deployed in Australia. They contribute only 0.9 per cent of Australia's electricity output which is well below the OECD average of 2.4 per cent."

The CEFC has found that, depending on feedstock used, generating electricity and heat from bioenergy and waste resources is largely cost competitive with other new-build energy generation.

The CEFC has a track record financing energy-from-waste technologies, including several Queensland based initiatives. For example:

- The CEFC has financed an expansion of Landfill Gas Industries (LGI) operations to help grow its ability to turn methane-emitting landfills into successful energy generators. LGI works with a number of South-East Queensland councils, operating biogas-fired generators at their landfill sites and selling the electricity generated into the grid.
- The CEFC also provided finance towards JBS Australia's biogas facilities at its Dinmore meat processing plant. The plant, which extracts biogas from the meat processing plant's wastewater, is helping JBS reduce its dependence on grid connected natural gas by about 50 per cent and has helped reduce carbon emissions by 89 per cent. The project,

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which retrofitted an existing wastewater treatment plant, was the first of its kind in the Australian Red Meat Processing Industry and is the sort of project that could be replicated to suit similar food processors with a biological waste stream.

Meanwhile, in Western Australia, the CEFC's finance helped major garden products supplier Richgro develop an anaerobic digestion plant that processes organic waste, producing enough power for Richgro's Jandakot operations. The plant takes solid and liquid commercial food waste from supermarkets, food processors breweries and fruit and vegetable producers. Surplus energy is sold through the Western Power Grid. The liquid waste from the anaerobic digestion process is used in composting.

Mr Anning said the CEFC considers a range of factors when looking to invest in energy from waste projects including the technology involved and the feedstock supply. It also considers whether the project has a contract for the energy produced and whether there are suitable construction and operation and maintenance arrangements in place.

"We're looking to accelerate deployment of energy from waste technologies through finance for individual projects, as well as through our investment in the Australian Bioenergy Fund – an equity fund for bioenergy and energy from waste projects managed by Foresight Group," he said.

"For smaller projects, we're working with the nation's biggest banks - Commonwealth Bank, NAB and Westpac – to make it easier for businesses seeking loans of between $10,000 to $5 million.

"Through these banking programs, businesses can approach their banking relationship manager, and if the equipment they are looking to install meets the CEFC's criteria for energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies, then they can secure discounts to the banks' general asset finance rates and terms that work with the projects they are financing to get them benefiting from these technologies sooner."

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Learn more about the CEFC and its finance by visiting
www.cefc.com.au

Read the CEFC's Market Report into Energy From Waste in Australia at http://www.cleanenergyfinancecorp.com.au/media/222699/cefc-energy-from-waste-market-report-november-2016.pdf

Or follow the below links for specifics about accessing CEFC finance for both energy from waste projects and energy efficiency technologies through existing banking relationships.

Commonwealth Bank: https://www.commbank.com.au/business/asset-finance/energy-efficient-finance.html
Westpac: https://www.westpac.com.au/business-banking/business-loans/equipment-finance/energy-efficient-finance/
NAB: https://www.nab.com.au/business/loans-and-finance/equipment-finance/energy-efficient-bonus