

Title:	Setting the basis for the development of a national standard for the grading of biogas
Abstract:	Although much has been said by government about moving towards renewable energy as indicated in the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) for electricity (2010), the focus seems to be more on wind and solar energy rather than inclusive of biogas. This approach may be disappointing to farmers and investors interested in biogas. According to Joubert (2011) biogas has a potential for job creation, environmental and food production benefits. However, as suggested by this study, there is need to develop a national standard for the quality and usability of biogas produced therefore making biogas a viable energy product. This has been initiated in countries like Sweden, Germany, Switzerland and France (Persson et al. 2006) wherein national standards for biogas were developed. The grading of biogas and the development of a biogas grid will expand the usefulness of biogas while encouraging industry to consider its organic waste as a resource for power generation. When this is achieved and a national standard has been developed, biogas industry can be expanded in South Africa relieving Eskom's energy grid while reducing the impact of coal-fired power station on the environment.
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Start date:	2013
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Feedstock:	Sewage, restaurant waste and animal waste
Value chain products:	Compost, Methane
Geographic source of the feedstock:	Gauteng and North West