



# Dairy Digester Research and Development Program

Dairy digesters play a crucial role in reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, particularly methane, which is produced during manure decomposition. By capturing methane and converting it into renewable energy, dairy digesters significantly lower the environmental footprint of dairy operations.



CDFA's Dairy Digester Research and Development Program (DDRDP) is designed to provide financial assistance for the implementation of anaerobic digesters in California's dairy operations. Digesters harness the natural breakdown of dairy manure to generate renewable energy, in the form of electricity, renewable natural gas (RNG), and hydrogen. DDRDP helps reduce GHG emissions, particularly methane, and contribute to a sustainable agricultural system.

By encouraging the implementation of dairy digesters, DDRDP enables dairy farmers to transform manure into valuable renewable resource while contributing to the circular economy and environmental stewardship. This technology also offers social benefits, including local job creation and enhanced farm profitability, by providing dairy operations with an additional revenue stream through energy production.

## DDRDP BY THE NUMBERS



**24.8 million metric tons**

of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent  
(MTCO<sub>2</sub>e) will be reduced  
over 10 years...



...equivalent to removing  
**5,700,000**  
cars off the road for one year

"CDFA's partnership with us and our neighbors helped us take the financial leap and their program has proven to be one of the most effective at enhancing the environmental sustainability of the California dairy industry in recent years."

- Simon Vander Woude, Owner,  
Vander Woude Dairy (Merced,  
CA)

**MORE INFO**

[www.cdfa.ca.gov/OARS](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/OARS)

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cdfa  
The Office of  
Agricultural Resilience  
& SUSTAINABILITY

## Environmental Benefits



Renewable Energy Generation



Improves Air Quality



Reduces Greenhouse Gas Emissions



Protects Water Quality



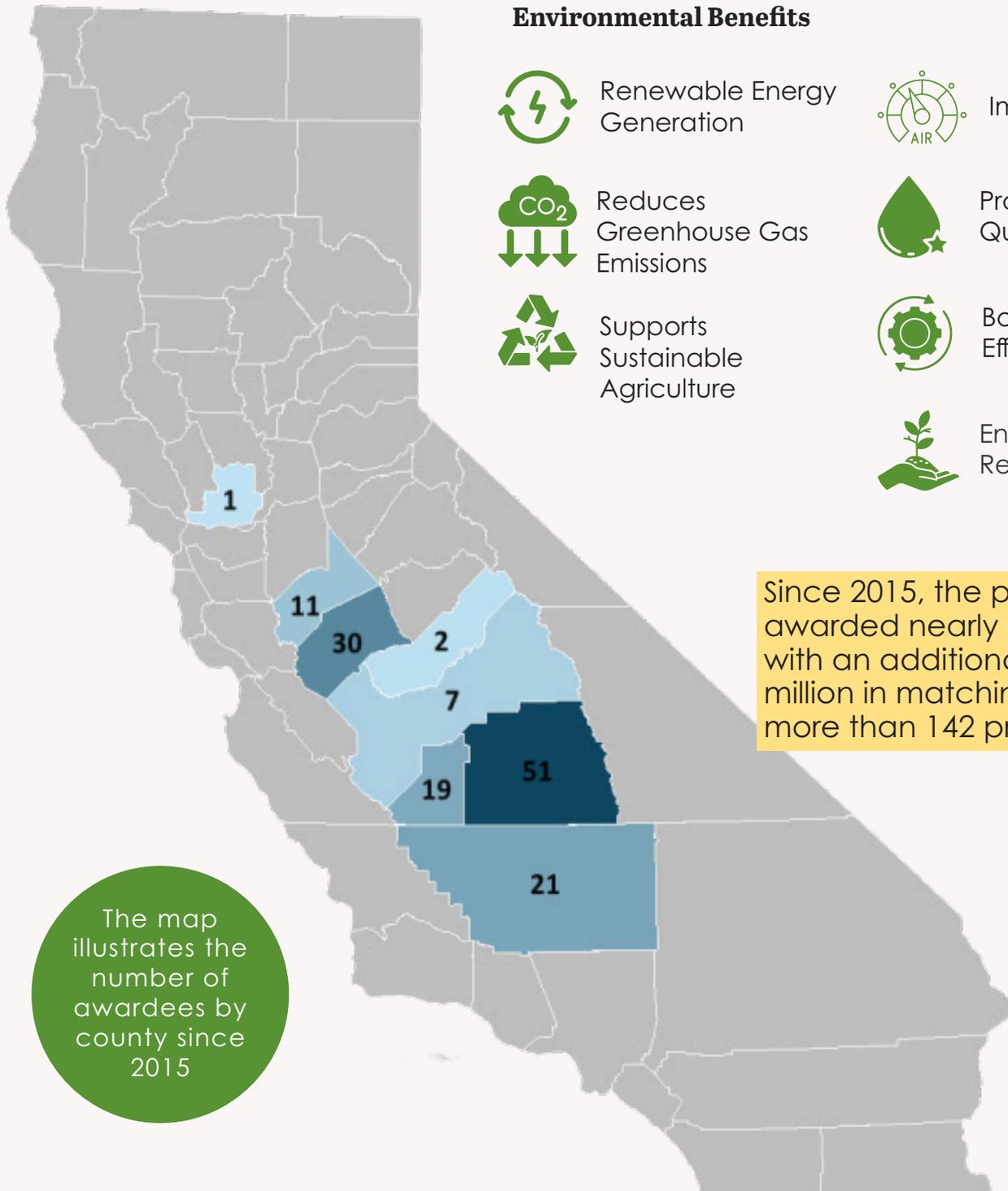
Supports Sustainable Agriculture



Boosts Farm Efficiency



Enhances Nutrient Recycling



Since 2015, the programs has awarded nearly \$229 million, with an additional \$521 million in matching funds to more than 142 projects.

The map illustrates the number of awardees by county since 2015

## Funding Distribution Process/Equity

CDFA awards DDRDP grants through a competitive solicitation open to all dairy producers. CDFA strives to maximize greenhouse gas reductions while providing grants to dairies that represent a diversity of sizes and production strategies.

**MORE INFO**

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