



Report Excursion

Target group: farmers

Objective: To visit an existing installation with interested farmers.

Number of participants: 17

Date: 2016-03-11

Hours: 11h00 to 17h00

Place: Farmer Van Der Schoot, Oelegem

Agenda:

Visit of the farm, explanation by farmer, manufacturer and Bio Energy Farm consultant.

Report:

This excursion is part of a bigger event called "Open Energie dag". On this day 22 farms were open to be visited. There were also three digesters open for visit. One in Sint-Eloois-Winkel, one in Oelegem and one in Merchtem. Each location had three sessions: 11h to 13h; 13h to 15h and 15h to 17h.

The farmer first introduces his farm to the attendees. He has 190 dairy cows, and the manure is freshly delivered to the digester by manure scrapers. They clean the floor every two hours. The fresh manure is dropped in a small pre-storage. Each morning 11m³ fresh manure is pumped from the pre-storage to the digester. Of course this also means that 11m³ digestate is pumped to the big external storage of 2000m³. They also add some cheese leftovers to the digester. The manure has a retention time of 40 days. The engine has an electrical power of 20 kW and produces on average 150.000 kWh per year. This is enough to cover the energy demand of the farm. The payback time of the installation is 5 to 7 years.

The installation asks for daily monitoring for the farmer. He spends about half an hour per day on the installation. That's something that you have to accept when you place a digester.



