

**THE  
SIMPSON  
CENTRE.**



THOUGHT  
FOR  
FOOD.

AUGUST 2025

# HOW PUBLIC PERCEPTION AND MEDIA GAPS SHAPED THE RIMROCK BIODIGESTER CONTROVERSY

[simpsoncentre.ca](http://simpsoncentre.ca)

*Contributors: Craig Lester,  
Tim Parent, Roshanne Sihota,  
Guillaume Lhermie*



**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY**  
FACULTY OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

**THE  
SIMPSON  
CENTRE.**



THOUGHT  
FOR  
FOOD.

**RIMROCK  
BIODIGESTER.**

[simpsoncentre.ca](http://simpsoncentre.ca)

*What began as a feedlot revival in Southern Alberta has turned into one of the province's most divisive agriculture stories, shaped not only by odour and outrage but by shifting media narratives that mostly served to reflect the growing controversy, not investigate it.*

At the intersection of progress and protest lies the Rimrock Biodigester project, a Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) facility near High River, Alberta, developed in partnership with Rimrock Renewables, Tidewater Renewables, and Korova Feeders. Once completed, the partnership has claimed the facility will convert manure from 35,000 cattle into RNG, producing an estimated 450,000 gigajoules annually. That's enough energy to heat thousands of homes in the province.

While some see the technology behind the project as a step forward in Canada's transition to clean energy, the project has become a lightning rod for community opposition, with media coverage increasingly focused on the backlash.



## SHIFTING PUBLIC SENTIMENT

The project wasn't always controversial. When Rimrock Cattle Company bought the long-dormant Western Feedlots site in 2019, the move was welcomed by the community. News outlets at the time, including High River Online and Okotoks Online, focused on jobs, technology, and local partnerships. The coverage was mostly brief, brimming with optimism, and largely uncritical.

However, by 2022, there was a shift in public support. That year, the feedlot operation reached full capacity, and residents of High River started voicing their frustrations over a pervasive odour, a smell that many said they had never noticed before. Around the same time, Rimrock Renewables and Tidewater Renewables revealed plans for a biodigester on the site. Public outcry snowballed, opposition groups formed, media interest reignited, and the narrative evolved.

Community resistance to the Rimrock Biodigester evolved into a well-coordinated grassroots movement. As the smell became an overriding issue for residents, and the regulatory process got underway, they mobilized to create a dedicated online presence, rallying support through a Facebook group called "High River, Are You Sick of the Smell??" to share updates, shore up support, and voice concerns. Their efforts were further amplified through the website [StopThatSmell.ca](http://StopThatSmell.ca), which became a hub for organizing, information sharing, and community engagement.

## UNDERSTANDING BIODIGESTERS

A biodigester is a system that breaks down organic waste, like manure, using microorganisms in an oxygen-free environment. The breakdown process generates biogas, primarily methane, which can be converted into RNG. The leftover material, known as digestate, is often used as fertilizer.

Canada's agriculture sector has been researching and quietly championing the technology for years. Research institutions such as Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, the University of Manitoba, and the Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute have studied the benefits of biodigesters in reducing emissions, producing energy, and minimizing odour. Additionally, the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has said biodigesters can help boost rural development, cut pollution, and improve sanitation by turning farm and food waste into energy.

However, as seen in the case of Rimrock, biodigesters aren't completely without controversy. From concerns over smell and increased rural traffic to ground or surface water contamination and zoning issues, concerns about biodigesters have been raised before, resulting in discussions about "Not In My Backyard" (NIMBY). NIMBY-ism is a phenomenon where individuals or communities strongly oppose new projects or infrastructure, even if they generally support the project's overall goal.

## SHIFTING MEDIA NARRATIVES (2022-2025)

Between 2022 and 2025, there was a surge in Rimrock Biodigester coverage.

In Alberta, biodigesters are regulated through a combination of provincial and federal frameworks. Oversight is tailored to the specific characteristics and impacts of each project. In December 2023, the Alberta government approved the [\\$65 million project](#) following a formal review process. The approval prompted several appeals and requests for public hearings. As the regulatory challenges

## THE SIMPSON CENTRE.



THOUGHT  
FOR  
FOOD.

## RIMROCK BIODIGESTER.

[simpsoncentre.ca](http://simpsoncentre.ca)

mounted, media interest grew, with headlines increasingly reflecting the controversy and disruption it was causing and the contentiousness of the project. Concerns of residents were highlighted, including odour, water and air quality concerns, and potential traffic issues.

Despite the increased coverage, the majority remained surface-level, emphasizing the dispute without digging into the technical or environmental context behind the biodigester itself. Most of the coverage during this time focused extensively or exclusively on community concerns and the NIMBY-style backlash. News outlets, including High River Online and the Western Wheel, covered the appeals and legal challenges as they unfolded, largely through the voices of residents and opposition groups. Proponents of the project missed the opportunity to educate the media and the public about the technology, its role in sustainable agriculture, and the potential environmental outcomes. The media had little context to draw on beyond the concerns raised by locals, and the coverage leaned into opposition narratives without referencing prior reporting or background information. In digital stories, for example, few stories included hyperlinks back to earlier coverage that might have given readers an understanding of the project's evolution.

In February 2024, it was announced that confidential provincial mediation would take place between Rimrock Renewables and those opposed to the project. Both the Western Wheel and The Western Producer covered the announcement. In both instances, the narrative kicked off by speaking with residents who didn't believe the mediation would accomplish anything. The Western Producer mentions the odour issues but also highlights an argument made by the resident they spoke with, that gas plants are not an agricultural project and, therefore, should not be on agriculture-zoned land. That argument would be featured in additional coverage by other news outlets later in the appeals process.

In October 2024, the Environmental Appeals Board (EAB) scheduled a hearing for November of that year to address the appeals. Local coverage reported that the EAB's decision came after confidential mediation between Rimrock Renewables and residents failed to accomplish anything. It also focused on the decision by the EAB to open the floor to public submissions. Rocky Mountain Online outlined the parameters the EAB put in place for a member of the public to be heard during the hearing.

A month later, in early November 2024, the EAB announced the three-day hearing for the proposed biodigester would be postponed until the new year. The board said that with the number of witnesses being called, the hearing would need more than three days. Multiple local news outlets wrote surface-level stories about the hearing delay, which would now take place in January 2025.

As the hearing date approached, High River Online prepared a story looking ahead to the event. The article focused on the talking point from residents that the project was approved for agricultural land, rather than a designated industrial area. The reporter spoke with one of the local opponents of the biodigester project who lives near the site. The individuals questioned whether the land use classification was properly determined, claiming authorities were trying to present the facility as agricultural, not industrial.

Complicating matters, according to the article, was that Tidewater Renewables had sold its stake in Rimrock Renewables to Denmark-based Biocirc Canada Holdings on January 10, 2025. The article called the sale "one of the wrenches that has been tossed into the fray," but doesn't elaborate. Instead, the individual featured in the piece explains how they visited the Biocirc website and found that none of its eight facilities appear to be built close to neighbourhoods, while reiterating their concerns about odour and public health.

The article leans heavily on the perspective of the single opponent, whose emotionally charged language and vivid imagery dominate the narrative. No voices from the regulatory bodies, Rimrock Renewables, Biocirc Canada Holdings or potential project proponents are presented. It omits any discussion of potential environmental benefits and while concerns about smell, zoning and safety are unchallenged.

In March 2025, the Alberta government introduced Bill 44, aimed at encouraging the development of biodigesters and biogas facilities. At the local level, media covered the introduction of the bill, the Alberta government's decision to table it, the potential of the bill to attract job-creation investment, and comments from government officials. In The Western Wheel, the coverage does mention the Rimrock biodigester project in High River, although not by name, while generalizing that the biogas industry remains controversial in Alberta. It also links back to its previous coverage of the controversy. In the urban centers, coverage from outlets including CityNews Calgary focused on Bill 44 and explained its potential to help reduce agricultural waste while creating jobs. It also framed the narrative in the context of the ongoing tariff threat from the current U.S. administration.

In May 2025, the Alberta government upheld its approval of the Rimrock Biodigester facility. a decision the Western Wheel called "a gut punch to nearby residents," referring to a comment made by the same individual it had spoken to previously about the public concerns. The article centers almost entirely on the frustration and perspective of the individual, who describes the decision as a "punch to the gut" and says she and others "put their loves on hold" to deal with this issue.

**THE  
SIMPSON  
CENTRE.**



THOUGHT  
FOR  
FOOD.

**RIMROCK  
BIODIGESTER.**

[simpsoncentre.ca](http://simpsoncentre.ca)



## THE BILL C-59 EFFECT

As the Rimrock Biodigester project moved through the regulatory process and the ongoing public backlash, a significant shift was happening at the national level that would reframe how environmental claims are made and scrutinized across Canada.

On June 20, 2024, [Bill C-59, the Fall Economic Statement Implementation Act, 2023](#), took effect, bringing with it sweeping changes to the Competition Act designed to address concerns around [greenwashing](#), a strategy where companies would market themselves as sustainable without any clear evidence. Under the updated law, companies making environmental claims were required to provide “adequate and proper substantiation.” Vague promises about reducing emissions or fighting climate change were now subject to heightened legal and regulatory scrutiny.

Before the bill took effect, Rimrock Renewables had outlined several environmental benefits of its biogas project on its website. This included a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, a sustainable waste management strategy, improved odour control from its feedlot, and the production of 450,000 gigajoules of RNG, a measure that the company said would curb reliance on fossil fuels.

Sometime between June 20, 2024, and early October 2024, the Rimrock Renewables website was taken offline. The exact date remains unclear, but its disappearance was picked up by several media outlets, including the [St. Albert Gazette](#), the [Calgary Herald](#), and [CTV News Calgary](#). In all three cases, the coverage, originally produced by the [Local Journalism Initiative](#), a Government of Canada-supported initiative that “supports the creation of original civic journalism that covers the diverse needs of underserved communities”, linked the site’s removal to the implementation of Bill C-59 and highlighted an archived version of the website dated just days before the new law took effect.

When asked for comment, Rimrock Renewable declined, citing the ongoing regulatory process. No official explanation was provided about the website’s removal, no regulatory action was reported, and no follow-up coverage took place. While the timing of the website takedown raised public interest, it’s worth noting that the updated legislation applied across industries and required many companies, not just Rimrock, to re-evaluate how they communicate environmental performance. Experts and environmental advocates quoted in the media framed the new rules as a necessary step towards transparent and evidence-based public conversations about sustainability, particularly those industries with ties to the energy and agriculture sectors.

## A TALE OF TWO (AND MORE) BIODIGESTERS

The Rimrock Biodigester is not Alberta’s first foray into turning farm waste into energy, but it’s one of the few to spark this level of controversy.

Just down the road in Aldersyde, Alberta, a similar facility has moved forward with little to no public pushback. Operated by [Catapult Environmental](#), the Aldersyde Organics Resource Facility is being developed in phases, starting with composting and gradually introducing anaerobic digestion. Unlike Rimrock, the project hasn’t inherited any pre-existing odour issues. As a result, there are no Facebook campaigns, no protest websites, and no appeals flooding the regulatory docket.

Observers point to proactive public engagement, a clear rollout strategy, and a more measured communications approach as possible reasons why a backlash never materialized. With lower perceived risks and a focus on transparency, the project appears to have gained community trust before any opposition had a chance to organize.

It’s a similar story near Coaldale, Alberta, where media coverage of the GrowTec Farm anaerobic biodigester [focused on innovation](#), not disruption.

Headlines emphasized the clean energy potential and agricultural ingenuity of the project. Notably, the facility was built in a rural area where there were no lingering community concerns, setting the tone from the start. With no baggage, the narrative stayed focused on progress.

Across the Atlantic, biodigesters in Europe are rarely met with the kind of public resistance and nimbyism seen in High River. A [2023 report](#) highlighted Europe’s production of 22 billion cubic meters of biogas, with major growth forecast by 2040. Countries like Spain have tied the development of biomethane plants to national energy strategies, with [media coverage](#) positioning them as essential to the circular economy and rural revitalization. The framing of the narrative has been future-forward.

**THE  
SIMPSON  
CENTRE.**



**THOUGHT  
FOR  
FOOD.**

**RIMROCK  
BIODIGESTER.**

[simpsoncentre.ca](http://simpsoncentre.ca)



## **RURAL VS. URBAN COVERAGE**

In a sea of headlines, hearings, and heated local opposition, one thing was notably missing: the science.

While both rural and urban media kept up with the story's evolving timeline, neither stepped back to explain how biodigesters work and, more importantly, how and why they've been embraced elsewhere.

Rural outlets like High River Online and the Western Wheel consistently focused their reporting on local reactions and regulatory developments. Their reporting offered a window into public sentiment but rarely went beyond that. There were no peer-reviewed studies cited, and no comparisons were made to other similar projects. Without that context, community concerns were presented as the main thrust of the story.

Urban media fared only slightly better. Outlets like CTV News Calgary and the Calgary Herald did reference the anticipated environmental benefits but offered little in terms of technical analysis or supporting data. Even as greenwashing regulations under Bill C-59 raised questions about industry claims, few articles scrutinized those claims against scientific evidence.

Most of the coverage, both rural and urban, lacked a deeper explanation of the biodigester process. How is methane captured and refined? What is digestate used for? What examples elsewhere can offer a glimpse into the success or failure of such an operation? The result is a missed opportunity to elevate the conversation. Without technical context or comparable case studies, the narrative was shaped by public perception and discourse rather than facts. It allowed questions to go unanswered and understanding to take a back seat to uncertainty and skepticism.

Given the resources of the modern-day newsroom in rural and urban settings, this points to a media environment under pressure, especially in rural areas. With fewer reporters, reduced specialization, and limited local coverage, infrastructure projects like the Rimrock Biodigester may receive less attention unless they generate significant public interest. This might help explain some of the coverage gaps, both in what was reported and what was left out.

## **CONCLUSION**

The Rimrock Biodigester project illustrates the importance of early, clear communication. While the project promises environmental gains through renewable natural gas and emissions reduction, those benefits have been eclipsed by community concerns and regulatory bureaucracy. Media coverage has largely mirrored that tension, emphasizing odour complaints, appeals and public opposition, with limited exploration of the underlying science or comparisons to similar projects both down the road and across the globe. The lack of evidence-based information appears to have shaped the narrative, allowing uncertainty to grow in the absence of clarity and subtly guiding readers towards opposition without offering a full picture of the issue.

In the future, a more proactive approach to public engagement and education may help ensure that conversations are informed by both community input and technical understanding. Without it, perception, not fact, will continue to define the story.



## ALBERTA REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

**THE  
SIMPSON  
CENTRE.**



THOUGHT  
FOR  
FOOD.

**RIMROCK  
BIODIGESTER.**

[simpsoncentre.ca](http://simpsoncentre.ca)

### REGULATORY PROCESS:

The regulatory approval process for biodigesters in Alberta and Canada involves multiple layers of oversight, including environmental, agricultural, energy, water, and municipal regulations.

The specific requirements depend on the project's characteristics and potential impacts.

Source: *Alberta.ca*

#### 01. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION & ENHANCEMENT ACT (EPEA)

*Projects involving biodigesters may require industrial approval under the EPEA, administered by Alberta Environment and Protected Areas (EPA). The necessity for approval depends on the facility's design and potential environmental impact. For instance, facilities processing significant volumes of organic waste or producing substantial energy outputs are more likely to require approval.*

#### 02. AGRICULTURAL OPERATION PRACTICES ACT (AOPA)

*The AOPA governs manure and digestate management. Recent legislative amendments aim to provide clarity on the storage and use of digestate, facilitating its application as fertilizer and encouraging investment in biodigester facilities.*

#### 03. NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION BOARD (NRCB)

*If a biodigester involves the construction or modification of manure storage facilities, approval from the NRCB is required. This ensures that manure management practices meet environmental standards.*

#### 04. ALBERTA UTILITIES COMMISSION (AUC)

*Facilities generating electricity may need approval under the Hydro and Electric Energy Act. Projects producing over 1 megawatt (MW) of electricity typically require AUC approval, while those under 1 MW may qualify under micro-generation regulations.*

#### 05. WATER ACT

*Operations requiring water diversion or usage must obtain licenses under the Water Act. Securing new water sources can be challenging, particularly in southern Alberta where water allocations are limited.*

#### 06. MUNICIPAL APPROVALS

*Local municipalities may require development permits, zoning approvals, and building permits. Early engagement with municipal authorities is crucial to address land use planning and community concerns.*

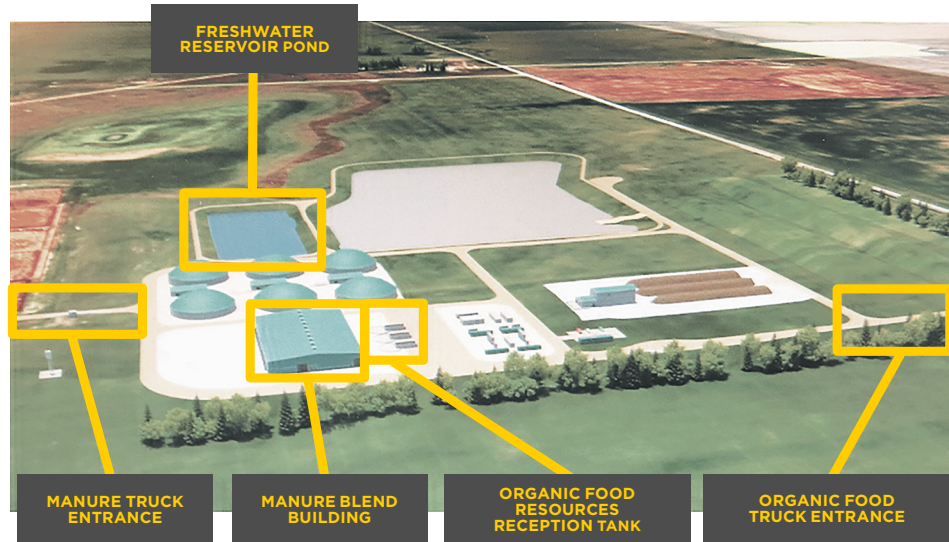




# BIODIGESTER PLANS

Source: Rimrock Renewables Ltd.

**THE SIMPSON CENTRE.**  
THOUGHT FOR FOOD.



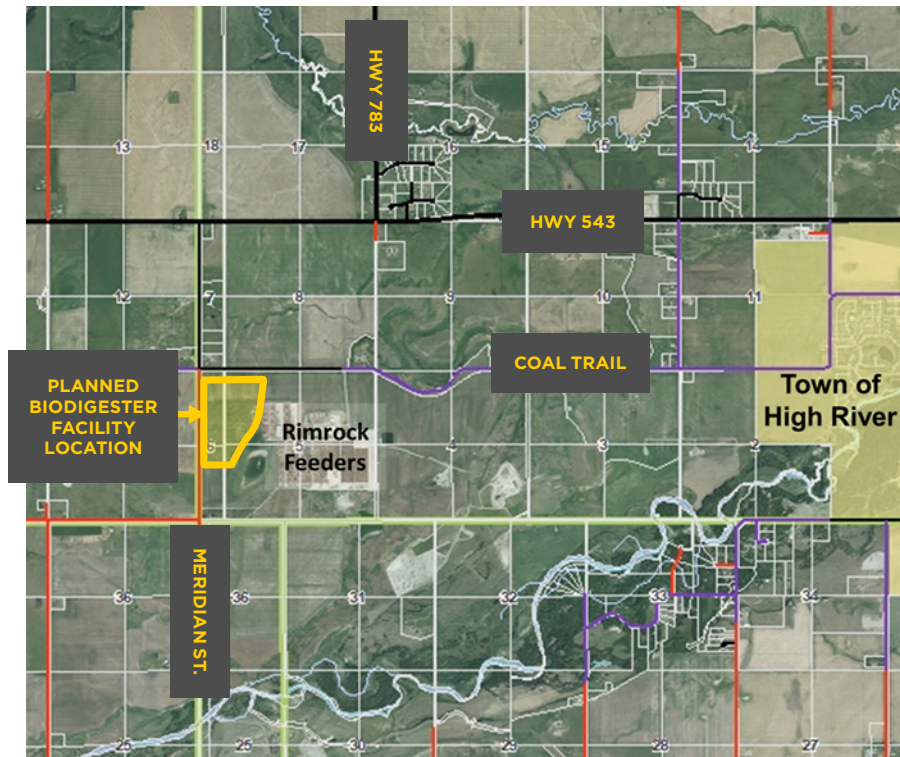
**RIMROCK BIODIGESTER.**

## LOCATION MAP

Pn. W1/2 SW 5-19-29 W4, Ptn. NE 6-19-29 W4 & Ptn. SE 6-19-29 W4

Source: [foothillscountyab.ca/development/rimrock-biodigester-facility](http://foothillscountyab.ca/development/rimrock-biodigester-facility)

[simpsoncentre.ca](http://simpsoncentre.ca)





THOUGHT  
FOR  
FOOD.

**RIMROCK  
BIODIGESTER.**

[simpsoncentre.ca](http://simpsoncentre.ca)

## APPENDIX

### 2019–2021: POSITIVE EARLY COVERAGE

- ↻ High River Online and Okotoks Online covered Rimrock Cattle Co.'s purchase of the Western Feedlots site with enthusiasm.
  - Focus: job creation, technological innovation, and revitalization of the feedlot.
  - Tone: optimistic, uncritical.
  - Articles:
    - “High River Western Feedlots Officially Sold”
    - “County Welcomes Rimrock Feeders To The Foothills”
    - “State-Of-The-Art Rimrock Feeders Coming Together Nicely”

### 2022: TURNING POINT

- ↻ Public sentiment shifted when Rimrock Feeders reached full capacity and odour complaints emerged.
- ↻ Around the same time, plans for the biodigester were made public.
- ↻ Community response:
  - Facebook group: “*High River, Are You Sick of the Smell??*”
  - Website: *StopThatSmell.ca*
- ↻ Local media began covering resident concerns and opposition.
- ↻ Early coverage included interviews with High River's then-mayor Craig Snodgrass and references to NRCB involvement.

### 2023–EARLY 2024: INTENSIFYING OPPOSITION & REGULATORY DEVELOPMENTS

- ↻ December 2023: Alberta Environment and Protected Areas approved the \$65M Rimrock Biodigester project.
  - Coverage:
    - CTV News, Calgary Herald, Western Wheel, and The Albertan reported on resident backlash and immediate appeals.
  - Focus: odour, zoning, environmental and health risks, traffic, and distrust in regulatory decisions.
- ↻ Coverage described the project as “controversial,” driven by odour concerns and NIMBYism.
- ↻ Western Wheel began following the appeal timeline in detail.

### MID-2024: BILL C-59 & WEBSITE DISAPPEARANCE

- ↻ June 20, 2024: Bill C-59 took effect, enforcing stricter rules on environmental marketing claims.
- ↻ Rimrock Renewables' website disappeared around this time.
  - Covered by:
    - St. Albert Gazette, CTV News Calgary, and Calgary Herald
  - Speculation linked the takedown to Bill C-59's greenwashing rules.
  - No comment was provided by Rimrock; media referenced archived versions of the site.

### LATE 2024: EAB HEARINGS & DELAYS

- ↻ October 2024: Environmental Appeals Board (EAB) scheduled a hearing for November.
  - Media: Rocky Mountain Outlook, Western Wheel, and High River Online covered the announcement and parameters for public input.
- ↻ November 2024: Hearing postponed due to volume of witnesses.
  - Media focused on the logistical challenges and the perceived failure of confidential mediation.
  - Articles emphasized resident frustration and distrust.

### JANUARY 2025: EAB HEARINGS COMMENCE

- ↻ Four-day hearing held in January 2025.
  - High River Online and Western Wheel covered the hearing in detail.
  - Coverage heavily favoured resident testimonies and perspectives, with minimal representation from project proponents or regulatory bodies.

### MARCH 2025: BILL 44 INTRODUCED

- ↻ Alberta Government introduced Bill 44 to encourage biogas and biodigester development.
  - Urban and rural coverage:
    - CityNews Calgary, Calgary Herald, Western Wheel, and Lethbridge News Now
  - Rimrock project referenced directly in Western Wheel, but urban outlets kept coverage general.
  - Emphasis: job creation, agricultural waste reduction, investment potential.

### MAY 2025: GOVERNMENT UPHOLDS APPROVAL

- ↻ Alberta government reaffirmed Rimrock Biodigester's approval.
  - Western Wheel quoted a local opponent calling the decision “a gut punch.”
  - Story framed around emotional impact and community frustration.
  - No project proponent or regulator comments included.

## THE SIMPSON CENTRE.



THOUGHT  
FOR  
FOOD.

## RIMROCK BIODIGESTER.

[simpsoncentre.ca](http://simpsoncentre.ca)

*This work was supported by BMO in an agreement that encourages research, research dissemination, and public outreach. The donors will not be involved in the study design, collection, analysis, interpretation of data, the writing of documents, or the decision to submit it for publication.*



## REFERENCES

### Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. (2025).

*Federal offset protocol: Reducing manure methane emissions.* <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/climate-change/pricing-pollution-how-it-will-work/output-based-pricing-system/federal-greenhouse-gas-offset-system/protocols/reducing-manure-methane-emissions.html>

### Bioenergy Insights. (2024, Dec. 5). EBA: Europe

*produced 22bcm biogas and biomethane last year.* <https://www.bioenergy-news.com/news/eba-europe-produced-22bcm-biogas-and-biomethane-last-year/>

### CityNews Calgary. (2025, March 18). Alberta

*encourages more biofuels, but tariff threat looms large on the industry.* <https://edmonton.citynews.ca/2025/03/18/alberta-encourages-more-biofuels/>

### CTV News Calgary. (2024, Oct. 12). Biogas project

*removed website after anti-greenwashing law came into effect.* <https://www.ctvnews.ca/calgary/article/biogas-project-removed-website-after-anti-greenwashing-law-came-into-effect/>

### Duckworth, B. (2019, May 23). Western Feedlots

*gets new owners.* The Western Producer. <https://www.producer.com/livestock/western-feedlots-gets-new-owners/>

### European Biogas Association. (2023). European

*biogas and biomethane market report 2023.* <https://www.europeanbiogas.eu/eba-statistical-report-2023/>

### Ferguson, D. (2022, Sept. 29). Feedlot works to fix

*odour mystery.* The Western Producer. <https://www.producer.com/news/feedlot-works-to-fix-odour-mystery/>

### Ferguson, D. (2023, Dec. 18). Alta. residents to

*appeal biodigester approval.* The Western Producer. <https://www.producer.com/news/alta-residents-to-appeal-biodigester-approval/>

### Food and Agriculture Organization of the United

**Nations. (1996). Biogas technology: A training manual for extension.** <https://www.fao.org/4/ae897e/ae897e00.pdf>

### Giles, J. (2019, Sept. 6). State-Of-The-Art Rimrock

*Feeders coming together nicely.* High River Online. <https://highriveronline.com/articles/state-of-the-art-rimrock-feeders-coming-together-nicely>

### Korotyszyn, R. (2023, Dec. 14). Controversial \$65

*million biodigester approved in Southern Alberta.* The Albertan. <https://www.thealbertan.com/beyond-local/controversial-65-million-biodigester-approved-in-southern-alberta-7983404>

### Korotyszyn, R. (2024, Aug. 30). Source of odours

*from feedlot near High River still unknown.* Western Wheel. <https://www.westernwheel.ca/local-news/source-of-odours-from-feedlot-near-high-river-still-unknown-9453408>

### Korotyszyn, R. (2025, Jan. 14). Four-day appeal

*hearing set for proposed Foothills biodigester.* Western Wheel. <https://www.westernwheel.ca/local-news/four-day-appeal-hearing-set-for-proposed-foothills-biodigester-10074645>

### Korotyszyn, R. (2025, May 15). Appeal fails to stop

*approval of biodigester near High River.* Western Wheel. <https://www.westernwheel.ca/local-news/appeal-fails-to-stop-approval-of-biodigester-near-high-river-10669352>

### Korotyszyn, R. (2025, June 13). Foothills County

*sets the stage for Rimrock Renewables biodigester.* Western Wheel. <https://www.westernwheel.ca/local-news/foothills-county-sets-the-stage-for-rimrock-renewables-biodigester-10804383>

### Lethbridge News Now. (2025, March 19).

*New legislation aims to boost biogas and biodigesters in Alberta.* <https://lethbridgenewsnow.com/2025/03/19/alberta-supporting-waste-reduction-and-biogas-industry-with-updates-to-agriculture-act/>

### Macdonald, D., & Macdonald, S. (2025, March 21).

*News deprivation: Canadian communities starving for local news.* Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. <https://www.policyalternatives.ca/news-research/news-deprivation/>

### McKay, B. St. (2024, Oct. 9). Alberta biogas

*project removed website after anti-greenwashing law enacted.* St. Albert Gazette. <https://www.stalbertgazette.com/local-news/biogas-project-removed-website-after-anti-greenwashing-law-came-into-effect-9547861>

### O'Nyons, H. (2024, Jan. 20). Town of High River

*formally appeals approval of Rimrock biodigester project.* High River Online. <https://www.highriveronline.com/articles/town-of-high-river-formally-appeals-approval-of-rimrock-biodigester-project>

### Rogers, E. (2025, June 17). Contentious Rimrock

*biodigester approved following public hearing.* High River Online. <https://highriveronline.com/articles/contentious-rimrock-biodigester-approved-following-public-hearing>

### Toronto Metropolitan University School of Journalism & University of British Columbia

**SplICE Lab. (2025). Local News Research Project: Interactive map of newsroom closures in Canada (2008-2025).** <https://localnewsresearchproject.ca>

### Wallace, K. (2024, Oct. 10). Appeals for Rimrock's

*proposed biodigester must be submitted by next week.* High River Online. <https://highriveronline.com/articles/appeals-for-rimrocks-proposed-biodigester-must-be-submitted-by-next-week>

### Western Wheel. (2024, Oct. 12). Appeal over

*controversial Southern Alberta biodigester will be heard in November.* Rocky Mountain Outlook. <https://www.rmoutlook.com/beyond-local/appeal-over-controversial-southern-alberta-biodigester-will-be-heard-in-november-9652005>

