



# Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community

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August 14, 2024

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
Katrina Hapka  
520 Lafayette Road North  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

RE: Dem-Con HZI Bioenergy (DCHZI), LLC Anaerobic Digestion Facility - EAW

Dear Ms. Hapka,

The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SMSC) supports the DCHZI project as an innovative solution to providing renewable energy from food waste. The proposed project will process food waste and organics from Ramsey and Washington counties into renewable natural gas (RNG) through anaerobic digestion. The project will also use pyrolysis/gasification to create a marketable biochar which can be used as a soil amendment and sequesters carbon helping to meet the state climate change initiatives.

Specifically, the DCHZI digester will process up to 50,000 tons of organic waste from Ramsey and Washington counties creating 200,000 MMBtu of RNG per year, 10,000 tons of biochar, and reducing over 30,000 tons per year of CO2 equivalent. This emission reduction from the proposed digester is equivalent to removing 6,147 passenger vehicles from the road each year ([Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator | US EPA](#) ).

The Dakota people have long considered their relationship with the earth as a kinship. Following the tradition of planning seven generations ahead, the SMSC intends to protect and preserve the environment for future generations. This project is complementary to the SMSC's Dakota Prairie Compost Facility currently under construction and will assist the metro region in reaching the 75% recycling goal by 2030. We support the waste management hierarchy and view the waste stream as a resource stream working to recover maximum value from discarded materials. The proposed project provides the infrastructure necessary to help meet these goals and is a critical step toward developing a sustainable waste management strategy protective of Minnesota's environment and natural resources.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Tribal Operations Administrator Steve Albrecht at [steve.albrecht@shakopeedakota.org](mailto:steve.albrecht@shakopeedakota.org).

Sincerely,

Natasha K. Hacker  
Vice-Chairwoman