

SB 334 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
House Committee On Energy and Environment

Carrier: Rep. Barnhart

Action Date: 05/10/17
Action: Do Pass the A-Eng bill.
Vote: 7-0-2-0
Yeas: 7 - Barnhart, Helm, Holvey, Marsh, Power, Reschke, Smith DB
Exc: 2 - Bentz, Johnson
Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact
Revenue: No revenue impact
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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) to develop, maintain and periodically update an inventory of biogas and renewable natural gas resources available to the state. Requires inventory to include: list of potential sources and estimated production quantities in the state; estimate of energy content and range of technologies available; and list of existing biogas production sites. Requires ODOE to utilize required inventory to develop and periodically revise estimate of: potential quantity of renewable natural gas in state; potential use to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality; and technical, market, policy and regulatory barriers. Requires ODOE to appoint advisory committee to assist in required inventory. Directs ODOE to report findings to interim committee of Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2018. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- How biogas and renewable natural gas resources can be used
- Inventory will help gain greater understanding of available supplies of resources

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) is tasked with ensuring reliable, access to energy for all Oregonians, a task which includes ensuring available energy from diverse resources. ODOE is also tasked with helping the State of Oregon meet its adopted climate goals. The term "biogas" refers to a mixture of different gases that are produced by the breakdown of organic matter. It can be produced from raw materials such as agricultural or food waste, plant material, municipal waste, sewage or manure through the process of anaerobic digestion or fermentation. Biogas is typically made up primarily of methane, carbon dioxide and hydrogen sulfide.

Senate Bill 334A directs ODOE to develop and maintain an inventory of biogas and renewable natural gas resources, including the estimated potential production quantities of each source and its estimated energy content, as well as an estimate of the range of technologies available for both production and conversion and an assessment of supply-chain infrastructure.