

# CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR 2015 PROJECT SUMMARY

Name(s)

Sean P. Weiss

**Project Number** 

**J0221** 

**Project Title** 

From Waste to Watts

### **Abstract**

# Objectives/Goals

In this experiment, I tested which animals# waste produces the most easily harnessed methane energy.

# Methods/Materials

I used animal waste from cow, horse, dog and pig to undergo fermentation and harvest methane gas, which can then be converted to energy. I will need to be able to harness the energy quickly and efficiently to make sure I get maximum methane output. From there I need to find a way to measure and analyze the methane collected and carry out calculations to convert the information.

#### Results

I found that cow waste has the potential to produce more energy than any other animal because it produces a long-term count of methane gas. It was able to produce easily captured methane for over a month and still continues to produce weeks later. It can reach its full methane potential from 75 degree Fahrenheit incubation. Overall, cow waste has a great potential for making a cleaner planet and a cleaner source of power.

# Conclusions/Discussion

My research has proved my research-based hypothesis correct. I hypothesized that if cow waste undergoes fermentation fastest, then it will make the most stable and usable methane gas because fermentation helps to produce methane. Finally the dog waste didn#t produce any methane but I do have a solution to that problem. It needed to be incubated at a higher temperature in order to produce any methane. All in all my experiment was a large success because I have found a cleaner source of energy for us to make a cleaner society.

## **Summary Statement**

I found a way to harvest green, usable energy produced from the methane gases from animal waste and identify the animal waste with the highest energy potential.

# Help Received

I worked alone on this project and only had help from my mom getting the animal waste from the local farm.