

European first :

Paprec Energies to Capture CO2 at a Waste-to-Energy Plant in Brittany

Paprec, France's leader in recycling and a European specialist in waste recovery and green energy production, presents a French first at the waste-to-energy plant in Pontivy. Paprec Energies will install a system at this plant, designed by the group, that will capture half of the CO2 emissions. The captured CO2 will be of food-grade quality and can be reused in industry. Only one other waste-to-energy plant in Europe (in the Netherlands) is equipped with such a process. The Sittom-Mi, the intermunicipal union of Pontivy responsible for the transfer and treatment of household waste in Morbihan, is thus enhancing the decarbonization of its territory, while also increasing its energy independence.

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There is a long history of trust between SITTOM-Mi, which manages the waste-to-energy plant in Pontivy, and Paprec Energies. Indeed, the plant, which processes non-recyclable waste from Morbihan, was designed in the 1980s by Tiru, now Paprec Energies, which has been operating it ever since.

Always on the lookout for the latest technologies and innovations, Paprec Energies has just proposed a major first to its long-time partner : equipping the plant with a system to capture half of the CO2 emissions produced by fossil fuels. This amounts to 10,000 tons of CO2 captured, which is equivalent to the annual emissions of 1,450 people.

To develop the CO2 capture process, "we relied on new technologies that are sometimes used in other industries, such as cement plants or steel mills," explains Sébastien Petithuguenin, President of Paprec Energies. The first step: the CO2 is chemically captured, with the molecules dissolved in a solvent. It then undergoes compression and liquefaction processes. These two steps ensure the removal of oxygen and produce CO2 with 99.9% purity, making it food-grade.

The destination of this CO2 has already been determined with interested industrial partners. It will be sold in liquid form and will replace fossil fuels in soda carbonation or be injected into greenhouse systems to boost production. "The implementation of this virtuous system promotes industrial decarbonization and circular economy between producers and consumers," says the customer community.

"With this project, Paprec Energies and Paprec Engineering confirm their ongoing commitment to innovation. Our goal is to offer our clients the best possible technologies, in order to continuously improve waste recovery, decarbonize the economy, and develop energy independence for regions," says Sébastien Petithuguenin, President of Paprec Energies. The system is expected to be operational in spring 2027.

About Paprec:

Founded in 1994 by Jean-Luc Petithuguenin and still led by the family, Paprec is France's leader in recycling and one of Europe's major players in waste management and green energy production. The group has 16,000 employees across 350 sites in ten countries. Its revenue for 2024 is projected to be €3 billion. Since its inception, the group, which remains

predominantly owned by the Petithuguenin family, has invested €3 billion in its plants and technological tools in France.