

# Biogas: The Dirty Truth

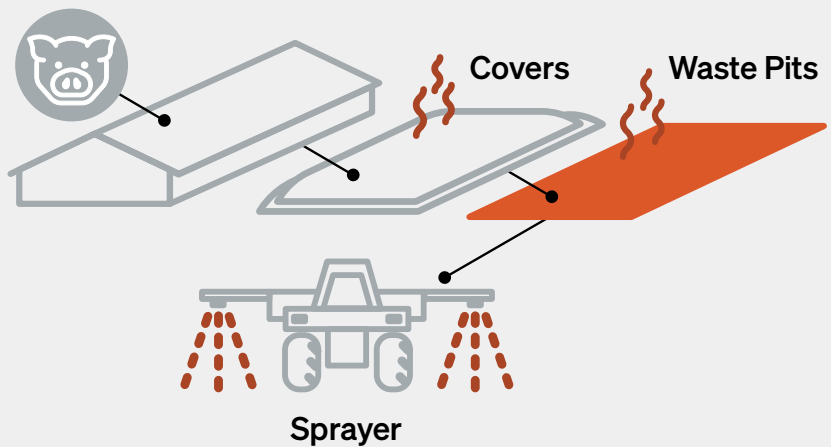


SOUTHERN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CENTER

**Biogas is dirty energy.** Storing billions of gallons of untreated hog waste in lagoons, which are essentially pits of urine and feces, pollutes our rivers and streams, dirties our air, creates an unbearable stench, makes people sick, and can even lead to premature death. Black, Latino, and Native American families disproportionately bear the burden of this pollution. Biogas would lock in these injustices. Industry plans to cap some hog waste pits to capture gases and pipe gases offsite. But the serious pollution problems remain and will get even worse.

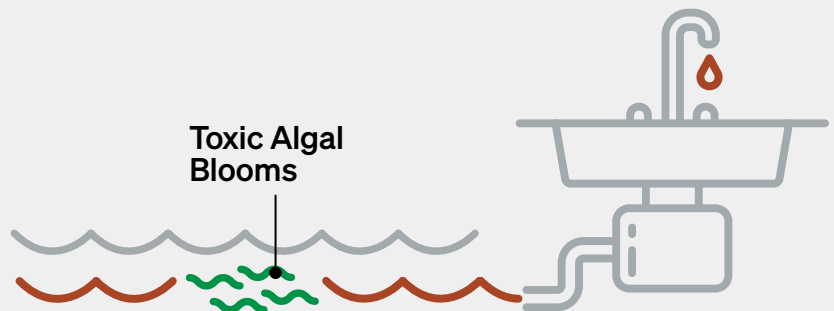
## Hog Operations

Industrial hog operations store untreated feces and urine in football field-sized pits and spray it onto nearby fields—the cheapest, most harmful way possible to handle the billions of gallons hog waste produced at the 2,000+ industrial hog operations in N.C. Industry is doubling-down on this polluting system to make biogas. Capping one hog waste pit while leaving the others uncovered creates more air pollution and threatens our waterways even more.



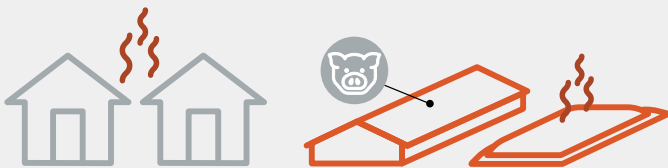
## Water Pollution

Untreated hog waste contains harmful nutrients, bacteria, and pathogens that contaminate drinking water and pollute our water ways, causing toxic algal blooms and fish kills. Biogas will make this water pollution even worse.



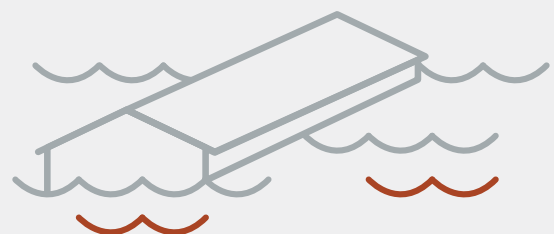
## Harm to People and Communities

Families—disproportionately Black, Latino, and Native American families—who live nearby and downstream from waste pits and sprayfields suffer. The sprayed waste drifts onto properties and causes people to get sick. Covering just one lagoon doesn't solve the stench problem, and makes other air pollution even worse.



## Flooding

During major rain events, uncovered lagoons can overflow and sprayfields can flood, sending untreated hog feces and urine into rivers and streams.



# Take Action Now and Tell DEQ to Protect Our Families, Air & Water

The N.C. Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) will host four public hearings in April on an upcoming one-size-fits-all permit for hog operations that want to cap hog waste lagoons and produce biogas. Three meetings will be in-person and a fourth will be online via WebEx:

- **April 5, 2022:** James Sprunt Community College, Monk Auditorium, 133 James Sprunt Drive, Kenansville 28349 Duplin County
- **April 7, 2022:** Sampson County Exposition Center, 414 Warsaw Road, Clinton 28328 Sampson County
- **April 19, 2022:** Statesville Civic Center, 300 S. Center Street, Statesville 28677, Iredell County
- **April 21, 2022:** A virtual meeting will also be held through Webex from 6-9 p.m. for those unable to attend the in-person hearings
  - <https://bit.ly/3FFGRLL> | Event number: 2436 024 6769
  - Event password: NCDEQ (62337 from phones)
  - Join by phone: 415-655-0003 | Access code: 2436 024 6769
  - Members of the public who wish to speak at the virtual meeting should sign up online by 4 p.m. on April 21.

The public can also submit written comments to [PublicCommentsDWR@ncdenr.gov](mailto:PublicCommentsDWR@ncdenr.gov) or by leaving a voicemail at 919-707-9129 by **May 2, 2022**.

**Attend one of these hearings or submit comments to make your voice heard!**