

Paris, June 30th, 2025

Inauguration of the biogenic CO₂ unit from anaerobic digestion at Terres d'Aquitaine, Gironde, France: SUEZ pushes the boundaries of biowaste recovery

On June 30, David Lamy, CEO of SUEZ, Recycling & Recovery France, inaugurated the new biogenic CO₂ recovery unit derived from anaerobic digestion of biowaste at SUEZ's Terres d'Aquitaine site in Saint-Selve, Gironde. The event was held in the presence of Alain Rousset, President of the Nouvelle-Aquitaine Region. On this occasion, the Group announced the European certification of its digestate, marking a first in France. These significant advancements position this Gironde-based platform as a benchmark for the circular economy, driving the energy and agricultural transition in local territories.

"With Terres d'Aquitaine, SUEZ establishes itself as a leading player by managing the entire organic waste treatment process on a single site and converting every flow into a valuable resource for the region. We are proud to further develop this site, which perfectly reflects SUEZ's vision: transforming waste into levers for the ecological transition of local territories.", emphasised **David Lamy, CEO of SUEZ, Recycling & Recovery France**.

"We value the genuine dialogue we have with SUEZ's operations manager at the Terres d'Aquitaine site regarding our respective challenges. This exchange is essential, as there are industrial constraints: ramping up an anaerobic digester is not an easy ride. The start of the contract was deferred by a few months, with full confidence on both sides. The spirit of our partnership with the site teams and SUEZ is to build a relationship that will stand the test of time.", added **Florent Blanc, project manager at Rougeline**.

"The goal of this innovative process is to create a circular economy by locally recovering biogenic CO₂ and developing an innovative sector dedicated to enhancing the agronomic value of the region.", explained **Alain Rousset, President of the Nouvelle-Aquitaine Region**.

With an annual production capacity exceeding 45 GWh of biomethane—a local and renewable energy source injected into the gas distribution network of the company GRDF—3,500 tons of biogenic CO₂ recovered locally, and 100% of solid digestate converted into certified soil amendments for agricultural use, Terres d'Aquitaine provides the region with a concrete, circular, and locally integrated solution.

Terres d'Aquitaine: a cutting-edge site for organic waste recovery in Nouvelle-Aquitaine

The Terres d'Aquitaine site, operated by SUEZ since 2006, is dedicated to the recovery of organic waste. This includes biowaste from supermarkets, local authorities, the agri-food industry, as well as agricultural residues produced within the Nouvelle-Aquitaine region. In addition to its work in waste collection and promoting sorting practices, SUEZ now integrates all stages of biowaste recovery at this single site. These stages include material separation, anaerobic digestion, composting, the production of biogas and high-quality digestates, which are then distributed to end users. Centralising the entire biowaste transformation process in one location ensures optimal performance, quality, and traceability.

Since its creation, Terres d'Aquitaine has undergone numerous developments and received support from the Nouvelle-Aquitaine Region and ADEME. SUEZ has invested more than €22 million to anticipate and meet the needs of local authorities and businesses, as well as regulatory changes.

Terres d'Aquitaine, a showcase of SUEZ's expertise and innovation in anaerobic digestion

Anaerobic digestion is a sensitive biological process that can be affected by both internal and external factors, such as the quality of incoming waste, temperature fluctuations, or the presence of inhibitors. To ensure optimal performance of the site's facilities, SUEZ uses advanced intelligent management systems and cutting-edge artificial intelligence tools. These technologies enable real-time analysis of incoming materials, early detection of process deviations, and optimisation of biogas production. This innovative approach guarantees stable operations and consistent high-quality outputs.

As an operational showcase, the site combines industrial expertise, continuous innovation, and strong local engagement. It demonstrates SUEZ's commitment to positioning anaerobic digestion as a strategic cornerstone of a high-value-added circular economy, driving the energy transition and supporting the sustainable development of local communities.

A new biogenic CO₂ recovery unit, supported by the Nouvelle-Aquitaine Region, serving agriculture and the local community

SUEZ is going one step further by launching a biogenic CO₂ recovery unit to provide a new solution for the valorisation of by-products from the anaerobic digestion of biowaste, in line with a fully circular approach. Operational since May 2025, this cutting-edge technology will complement the range of solutions already implemented at Terres d'Aquitaine, ensuring the entire organic waste value chain is addressed.

Co-funded by the Nouvelle-Aquitaine Region with a contribution of €560,000, representing 40% of the total investment, this facility will ultimately enable the recovery of up to 3,500 tonnes of biogenic CO₂ per year from the biowaste processed on-site.

The biogas produced through anaerobic digestion is purified to remove impurities and separate the biomethane from the CO₂. This CO₂ is then captured, purified, and liquefied on-site using V'COOL® technology, which was developed by SUEZ's partner, PRODEVAL. This renewable CO₂ is sold under a contract with Rougeline, an association of six agricultural cooperatives in southern France. It is already being used by two vegetable producers in the Landes region to enhance the photosynthesis of greenhouse-grown tomato plants, as a replacement for fossil CO₂. This provides a tangible solution for improving agricultural yields while reducing the carbon footprint of greenhouse farming. Additional local applications could also be explored, such as CO₂ fire extinguishers, algae production, or refrigeration for the food industry.

A certified organic soil improver: a first in France

Since January 2025, the solid digestate (a by-product of the anaerobic digestion process of natural organic matter or organic residues) produced at Terres d'Aquitaine, has been awarded a new European certification, recognising its high agronomic value. This secured and rigorously controlled product expands the range of solutions available to farmers for soil enrichment, reducing reliance on chemical inputs. Over 9,000 tonnes of certified digestate will be sold annually by TERRIAL, a SUEZ/AVRIL joint venture, under an exclusive agreement, benefiting local stakeholders.

In addition, SUEZ and TERRIAL are continuing research efforts to develop fertilising materials at the Terres d'Aquitaine site and combine the benefits of organic soil improvers and fertilisers to support plant growth and protect soil health, even in challenging environments or areas affected by drought.

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Press release



About SUEZ:

Faced with growing environmental challenges, SUEZ has been delivering essential services that protect and improve our quality of life for more than 160 years. SUEZ provides its customers with innovative and resilient solutions for water and waste services. With 40 000 employees across 40 countries, the Group works with customers to create value over the full lifecycle of their assets and services, and to drive their low carbon transition. In 2024, SUEZ provided drinking water for 68 million people worldwide and sanitation services for 44 million people. The Group generated 8 TWh of energy from waste and wastewater. In 2024, SUEZ has generated revenues of 9.2 billion euros.

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