

Award for council's wastewater biotechnology

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Digesters upgraded by Calibre Consulting for Palmerston North City Council's wastewater treatment plant.

Calibre Consulting has won an INNOVATE NZ silver award for its innovative use of biotechnology in Palmerston North City Council's wastewater system. Calibre designed new technology for the council's digester solids treatment plant.

The award was presented by the Association of Consulting Engineers NZ at its annual conference.

According to council wastewater asset engineer Phil Burt, the new biogas technology has resulted in significant savings of around \$3 million for the council.

"It also provided a 300 percent increase in the production of green electricity from biogas which the council has been able to sell back to the national grid," he says,

"As well, it is significantly more efficient, cost-effective and environmentally friendly, has a much higher capacity than traditional systems and has also extended the life of other wastewater systems."

The wastewater system uses sustainable 'digester' solids technology to transform organic waste from sewage into green energy biogas.

The new technology enabled the council to more than double the capacity of the digester solids treatment and meant it did not need to build new digesters.