



**John Holland / Modesto Bee**

John Fiscalini (center, light blue shirt) talks about his system for turning dairy cattle manure into electricity. It includes digestion by anaerobic bacteria in the tank on the right. The visit to the farm west of Modesto was part of a tour sponsored by Sustainable Conservation, a San Francisco-based group. (JOHN HOLLAND/jholland@modbee.com)

More on [sacbee.com](http://sacbee.com) powered by [Lingospot](#)



**Thai authorities fire near protesters**  
THANYARAT DOKSONE, 1 week, 5 days ago



**Cattle feed may be cause of air woes**  
Mark Grossi



**Schwarzenegger fights to protect his climate-change and redistricting legacy**  
Kevin Yamamura, 2 weeks ago

# Tour takes in green farm tech

By Bee Staff Reports

Published: Friday, Apr. 30, 2010 - 10:42 pm

Last Modified: Friday, Apr. 30, 2010 - 10:57 pm



Microsoft Internet Explorer 8  
Faster, Safer, Easier. Download IE8 Now!



Share



SacConnect

Chat with your friends

The dairy cows at Fiscalini Farms showed off their contribution to the clean-energy movement Wednesday.

The farm west of Modesto was among the stops on a tour showing how manure and other waste can supplant fossil fuels.

The tour was organized by Sustainable Conservation, a San Francisco group that works with farms and other businesses. The contingent included people from business, government and environmental groups.

At Fiscalini, which is known for its cheese, owner John Fiscalini talked about the system that extracts methane from manure and burns it to produce electricity for the Modesto Irrigation District. The system, which started running last June, is the first in Stanislaus County.

Methane is considered one of the most potent contributors to climate change; burning makes it much less harmful.

The group also visited Hilmar Cheese Co., where it saw a milk truck powered by methane from dairy manure.

In Turlock, the group saw a city-owned vehicle fueling station that uses compressed natural gas but could be converted to methane from biological sources.

Near the Altamont Pass, the tour stopped at a landfill where methane is extracted from the rotting trash and turned into fuel for garbage trucks.

"(The tour) really showcased the investment that progressive people and companies and municipalities are making in the future," said Allen Dusault, a program director at Sustainable Conservation.

© Copyright The Sacramento Bee. All rights reserved.

## About Comments

Reader comments on Sacbee.com are the opinions of the writer, not The Sacramento Bee. If you see an objectionable comment, click the "report abuse" button below it. We will delete comments containing inappropriate links, obscenities, hate speech, and personal attacks. Flagrant or repeat violators will be banned. See more about comments here.

More comments on this story:

### [Farm Fresh To You, Serving Northern CA](#)

Receive a box of organic  
[www.farmfresh toyou.com](http://www.farmfresh toyou.com)

### [Sacramento Bee Jobs](#)

Now Hiring - Sacramento Bee! Make up to \$37 per hour.  
[www.CandidHire.com](http://www.CandidHire.com)

### [Gibbs Farm](#)

Infos including pictures for Gibbs Farm in Lake Manyara.  
[www.goodearthtours.com](http://www.goodearthtours.com)

Ads by Yahoo!



Microsoft Internet Explorer 8  
Faster, Safer, Easier. Download IE8 Now!



Share



SacConnect

Chat with your friends