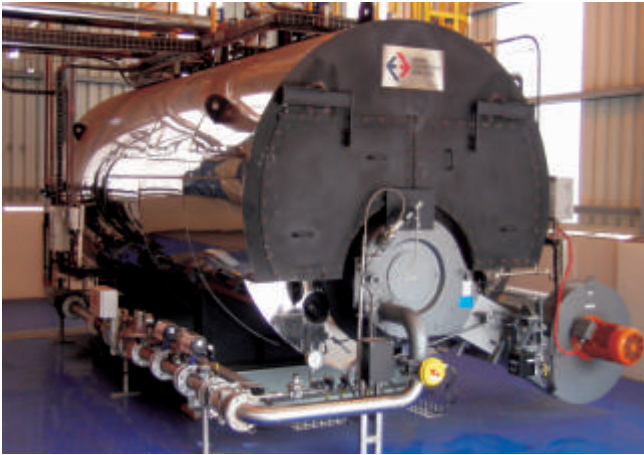


Alrode Biogas recovery

Green with energy



Alrode's revolutionary Biogas Recovery Project has become a landmark environmental and energy saving model.

This two-phase project, where SAB treats its wastewater biologically and subsequently uses its biogas by-product as an alternate energy source for the boiler, has effectively set them on the path towards greener operations.

The benefits of switching from fossil fuel, coal, to a renewable green energy methane, are both environmental and financial. This project also has roll-out prospects to other breweries within the SABMiller group in our endeavours to reduce our environmental footprint.



The Project

The Biogas Recovery Project's first phase primarily treats the brewery's effluent by converting organic material to methane gas, by means of the Anaerobic Digestion process.

Alrode currently produces 5 000 kilolitres of effluent per day, with an organic load of 25 tons per day. The Anaerobic Digester converts 90% of the organic load into biogas.

The biogas has a methane content of 85%. During the second phase of the project, also referred to as the biogas train, the by-product (biogas) of the first phase is used to supply fuel to fire a new dedicated biogas boiler, instead of being flared off into the environment. This fuel switching allows for a decrease in the consumption of 10.4 tons of coal per day.

"In effect, while we're treating effluent, we're creating a green energy opportunity", says Grahame Thompson of Talbot & Talbot Pty (Ltd), the company that built the project.

Its Benefits

The project holds many associated benefits for the brewery, the environment and the municipality.

A tangible financial benefit for the brewery is the decrease in coal consumption, which amounts to daily savings, as the methane used as replacement fuel is essentially 'free'.

The environment also benefits from the project as the brewery has a reduced contribution towards the depletion of a non-renewable resource.

In terms of the municipality, electrical energy and money used to treat the effluent aerobically is saved. These benefits are direct and will be experienced immediately.