

Manila Water tests first waste-to-energy project

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In Photo: Manila Water senior leadership team and management committee members offer a toast during the lighting ceremony for the company's pilot waste-to-energy (WTE) project. Joining Manila Water Chairman Fernando Zobel de Ayala (center) are (from left) Manila Water officers CFO Juan Luis Oreta; Rodell Garcia, chief information officer; Janine Carreon, Corporate Human Resources Group director; Esmeralda Quines, East Zone Business Operations Group director; COO Ferdinand de la Cruz; Abelardo Basilio, Strategic Asset Management Group director; Geodino Carpio, Corporate Operations Group director; President and CEO Gerardo Ablaza Jr.; and Thomas Mattison, Corporate Project Management Group director.

Manila Water Chairman Fernando Zobel de Ayala led the lighting ceremony for the company's pilot waste-to-energy (WTE) project recently at the South Septage Treatment Plant (SpTP) in Taguig City.

He was joined by Manila Water President and CEO Gerardo Ablaza Jr., and members of the Senior Leadership Team and Mancom.

The pilot WTE project is considered as the first ever undertaken by Manila Water and the first WTE facility in the country that utilizes septage, or waste materials removed from septic tanks, as a feed source.

Septage sludge collected in the South SpTP, as by-product of treating used water at the plant, is converted to biogas through the anaerobic-digestion process and the biogas produced is then converted to electricity.

Manila Water Corporate Operations Group Director Geodino V. Carpio said the project is a demonstration of the company's "Operations Zero" agenda, an aspiration denoting zero-cost operations.

"We are always excited when we find ways to reduce expense in terms of power consumption and volume of biosolids that we need to haul to the province," Carpio said.

"Coming up with this project took a number of years of research, testing and feasibility calculations. On full scale, after this pilot, this facility will produce surplus power greater than what this plant requires to operate. Various models are now being evaluated on how we can scale up and commercialize this system," Carpio added.

The pilot WTE project is a concrete testament to Manila Water's commitment to integrate innovation in its operations as a way to promote efficiency and to continuously elevate the company as a world-class water and used-water services provider.

Once the WTE system operates full scale, it can fulfill more than 100 percent of the power requirements of the South Septage Treatment Plant, reducing greenhouse-gas emissions of the facility by 267 tons of carbon dioxide in a year

and translating to up to P17-million annual savings for the company on power expenses.

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