



Johnson Utilities: Reducing Dependence on External Energy Suppliers

THE PROBLEM With the goal of meeting and exceeding standards set forth by governing authorities, Johnson Utilities LLC, a local utility provider, wanted to reduce its dependence on external energy suppliers by exploring opportunities to maximize the use of biofuels. Johnson Utilities wanted to evaluate the technical and economic feasibility of a Pongamia tree plantation pilot project to produce biofuel and biomass.

THE CLIENT Johnson Utilities LLC

THE SERVICE Assessment project including system maps with flows and technical specifications, an economic, technical and environmental feasibility assessment of the Pongamia plantation project and a decision tool that provided Johnson Utilities the ability to evaluate a variety of economic and environmental scenarios when valuing this strategic initiative.

THE SOLUTIONS AND OUTLOOK The team delivered analysis comparing the sustainability assessments of the various options for the envisioned system from a broad, system-level perspective; a financial value proposition showing estimated capital budget, operating budget and cash flows; financing options, grant and funding opportunities, recommendations and a sensitivity analysis used to identify the factors critical to the success of this initiative. The ultimate recommendation was that a Pongamia tree plantation was not a feasible biofuel solution for Johnson Utilities.

Dan O'Neill

General Manager, Global Sustainability Solutions Services
Walton Sustainability Solutions Initiatives
dan.oneill@asu.edu | 480.965.9666

sustainabilitysolutions.asu.edu