



# **Organics Diversion**

**Relative Impacts on LFG Generation and Operations** 

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# Topics



- Current Status of Organics Diversion
- Example Facility
- Possible Energy Concerns
  - Effect on Waste Stream
- Organics Effects on LFG Production
- Organics Effects on LFG Design and Planning
  - Facility Economics
- Potential Project Goals
- Planning

## **Typical Waste Stream**



- MSW
- Organic Materials
  - Food Waste
  - Garden Waste
  - Paper Waste
  - Other Organics
     Organic Subtotal

**Inorganic Materials** 

19% 33% 7% **68%** 

9%

32%



#### Status of Legislation/Regulation

#### STATES WITH ORGANIC BANS OR PROGRAMS





#### **Framework of Bans – Various States**

	СТ	VT	MA	СА	RI
Effective Date	January 2014	2014	October 2014	April 2016	January 2016
Materials	SSOM	Food scraps			SSOM
Who is affected	Commercial & Industrial	Universal	Commercial & Industrial	Commercial & Industrial	Commercial & Industrial
Tonnage	104 tons/yr (2 ton/wk)	104 tons/yr (2 ton/wk)	52 tons/yr (1 ton/wk)	8 CY/wk	104 tons/yr (2 ton/wk)
Tonnage Goal	52 tpy (2020)	Phase to full ban in 2020 – no distance limit		4 CY/wk-2020 (2 if not near diversion goal in 2020	
Reach/Radius	20 miles	20 miles	No limit	Not stated	15 miles
Key Exemption	Schools & hospitals				Schools



#### **Status of Legislation/Regulation**

States that Ban Organics or Mandate Organics Recycling - October, 2014





Ban/mandate some yard debris: Arkansas\*, Delaware, Florida\*, Georgia\*, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska\*, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Vermont, West Virginia, Wisconsin

\*Allow yard debris disposal in landfills that generate energy

<u>Ban/mandate food scraps</u>: California, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Vermont. Also of note: New York City, Seattle

Source: Haaren, Themelis and Goldstein, State of Garbage in America, BioCycle Magazine, Oct 2010, updated 5-2011, 3-2012, 4-2013, 6-2014, 10-2014

## **LFG** Potential



#### Rule of Thumb:

A cubic yard of waste will produce the same amount of LFG as another cubic yard of waste with the same composition; the question is when that gas production will occur.

Remember not to mix apples and oranges!



#### **LFG Basics**







#### **Methanogenic Substrate Flow**







#### **Example Facility**

- MSW Landfill
- Waste Acceptance of 500,000 tons per Year
- Organic Fraction Only Exclude Non-Putrescible Waste
- 40 Year Life for Base Case
- Looped GCCS Design with Perimeter Header
- One Flare/Energy Plant Location
- No Leachate Recirculation





#### **Factors in LFG Modeling**

- Accurate Disposal History
- Waste Characteristics
- Volume of Cover Soils Placed
- Actual LFG Recovery Data
- Relative Moisture of the Waste Mass
  - -Known Leachate Mounding
  - -Leachate Recirculation





## 500,000 TONS OF WASTE





#### **Example Facility – Option #1, Extending Life**



# Effects of Organics Reduction on LFG Production – Landfill Life Extended











#### **Example Facility – Option #2, Waste Replaced**



#### Effects of Organics Reduction on LFG Production – Optimize Waste Acceptance





#### Effects of Organics Reduction on LFG Production – Optimize Waste Acceptance





#### What are our Goals?



- Immediate Profits from LFGTE
- Long-term Profits from LFGTE utilizing less equipment
- Decrease Costs Related to Landfill Operations
- Increase Landfill Life
- Regulatory Compliance

#### For Sites with Landfill Gas to Energy

- Lower Revenue from LFGTE
- May Not Be Able to Meet Contract Requirements
- Unable to Operate Existing Equipment
- LFGTE Facility may Increase Vacuum if LFG Flow Decreases (Potential to Negatively Affect the GCCS)

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#### **Potential Benefits**

- Lower GHG Emissions
- Potential Savings from Smaller GCCS and Flare
- Potentially Lower Operating and Maintenance Costs
- May be able to Extend the LFG flow

## **Considerations for an Existing LFGTE Facility**

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- Revise LandGEM Model if Decreased Organics are Anticipated
- Be Aware of Contract Obligations
- Confirm Minimum Requirements to Run Engines / Beneficial Use Equipment
- Communicate with LFGTE Operator

#### **Considerations for New Facility**



- Don't Over-Estimate LFG Modeling
- May Want to Decrease the Size of Piping System, However Don't Under-Size Your GCCS
- Don't Get Into a Contract That Can't Be Met



- Planning is Crucial for Project Success. Plan in Advance
- Be Realistic with Gas Modeling
- Turn Lemons into Lemonade; Find Ways to Save and Profit
- Consider Alternatives (Leachate Evaporation, BioCNG, etc.)



# A Decrease in Organics will Decrease LFG Flow

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Thank you!

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