

Usage of Landfill Biogas

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Options for Using LFG

- Electricity production
 - reciprocating engines
 - combustion turbines
 - external combustion engine (future)
- Direct use as a boiler, furnace, or kiln fuel
- Upgrade to pipeline quality gas
- Microturbines and fuel cells
- Niche alternatives

Technology Trends

Electricity Generation

- Currently 2/3 of US operational projects generate electricity
- These projects represent over 1,000 MW of capacity
- 80+ electricity projects in construction or planning

• Direct Use

- Trend toward more direct-use projects
- 21 operational in 1990
- 106 operational in 2001
- Expect dramatic increase in future

Direct Gas Utilization



- Use of LFG as fuel in brick/cement kilns and furnaces
- Gas conveyed to nearby customer for use in boiler
- Space heating (limited)
- Over 75 projects
- Pipelines 1 to 15 miles

LFG Direct Use

Advantages

- Simplest technology
- Generally, minimal processing requirements
- Able to use gas as it becomes available
- Most cost effective
- Two party agreement
- Higher priced commodity

- Requires locating an end user
- Could require utility status classification
- Easements may need to run through urban areas



Electricity Generation



- Most prevalent application
- Electricity sold to utility or nearby customer (rare)
- Size: 500 kW to 50 MW
- Caterpillar, Jenbacher, Deutz, Waukesha
- Requires min. gas cleaning



Electricity Generation

Advantages

- No local end user needed
- Power could be used on-site
- Allows waste heat recovery



- Higher capital and costs
- Utilities can be difficult to deal with
- Long term agreement necessary
- Some markets not competitive enough

Pipeline Quality Gas Upgrade

Advantages

- Cost effective only for landfills with high gas volumes
- Beneficial in areas where natural gas prices are high
- Potential to produce
 "Dry Ice" (Liquid CO₂)
 for sale
- High maintenance requirements

- High capital costs due to substantial processing requirements
- Extensive treatment (remove nitrogen, CO₂, and other constituents)
- Conform to strict quality specifications
- Economics only work for large landfills



Pipeline Quality Gas Upgrade

Technology Advances

- New, lower cost technologies entering the market
- Physical and/or chemical removal of impurities



Pipeline Quality Gas Upgrade



Ukrainian technology installed in Alabama (US)









Simplified Biogaz System



Micro

Microturbine Overview

- A high speed turbo-charged generator that produces stationary power
- Proven within aviation industry
- Available in sizes ranging between 25 kW to 75 kW



Microturbines

Advantages

- Low emissions
- Multiple fuel capacity
- Light weight/small size
- Requires a lower degree of pretreatment than high BTU or fuel cell systems
- Lower maintenance costs
- Modules can be linked to increase in gas flow

- Low efficiencies
- Has been tested mostly for natural gas applications
- Limited track record of performance
- Requires gas cleaning



Fuel Cells



- Chemically convert gas to electricity
- Extensively used in NASA space applications
- Demonstration phase for LFG
- May be possible to extract hydrogen



Fuel Cells

Advantages

- High efficiency
- Minimal emissions
- Modular
- Mature technology when used with natural gas

- Limited track record of performance on LFG
- Extensive pretreatment required for LFG
- High Cost



Niche Alternatives

- Greenhouses
 - use of CO₂
- Vehicle Fuel
 - CNG
 - LNG
- Leachate Evaporation
- Pottery and glass blowing





Summary of Technology Trends

- Growth in direct use projects
- Greater diversity in project types
- Many proven/cost effective ways to use LFG
- Selection of technology is site specific
- Technologies exist for low and high volumes of gas
- Alternatives are emerging