

# Imagining the Next 50 Years...

Proven and Emerging Waste Conversion Technologies for Management of Municipal Solid Waste (aka Municipal Resources)

USF Stavros Center

February 18, 2020



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# Presentation Outline

- Introduction to Municipal Solid Waste (MSW)
- Proven Waste Conversion Processes
- Emerging Waste Conversion Processes
- Examples of WTE in Florida, U.S. and the World
- Suggestions for Teachers of Future Innovators

# Let's Talk Trash!

## Average American Municipal Solid Waste Data

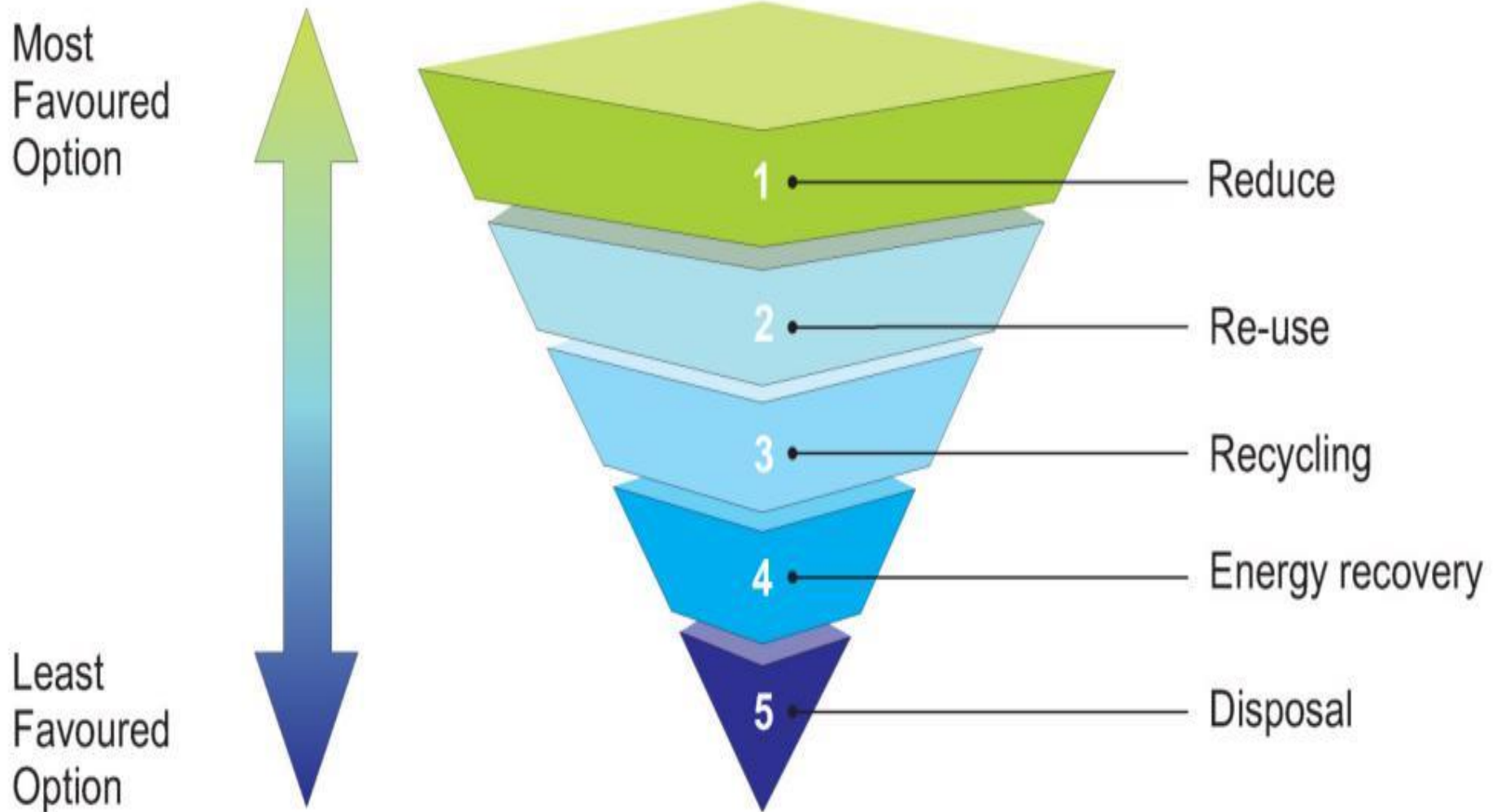
- Average Generation 4.48 pounds / person / day (0.82 tons per year)
  - Responsible for 36,000 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per year, or ~2,830,000 pounds over a lifetime of 78.6 years
    - Equivalent to burning 1,418,000 pounds (709 tons) of coal
    - Equivalent to driving 3,171,000 miles in a passenger vehicle
- 35% current national recycling rate (~40% in Florida, 2018 data)
- 52% of municipal solid waste (MSW) is disposed of in landfills
  - >3,000 active landfills
- ~ 70 active Waste-to-Energy facilities processing ~8% of MSW

# Intended Consequences of the Integrated Solid Waste Management Hierarchy





# Solid Waste Management Hierarchy

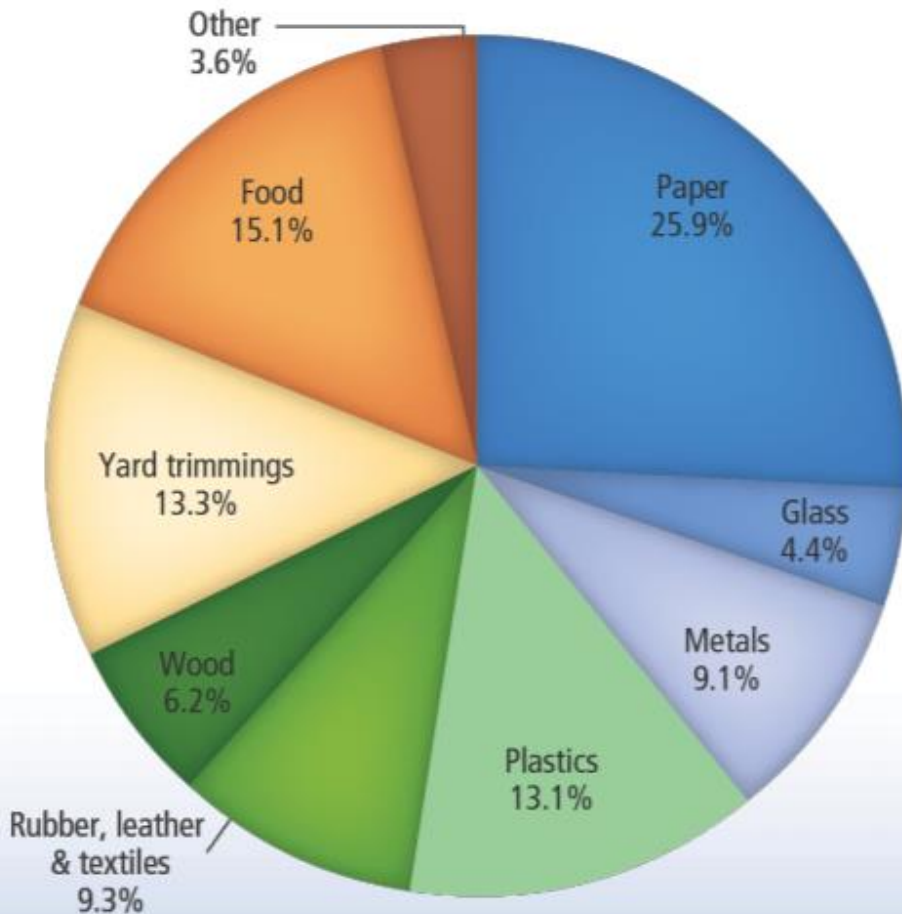


# The Three Rs of Recycling...Plus Two More



# What's In Our Municipal Solid Waste?

Figure 4. Total MSW Generation (by material), 2015  
262 Million Tons



Most materials can be recycled somewhere, in some way, but **NOT** always in your curbside cart

## Future Trends:

- Reduction in Old Newsprint (ONP) and glass
- Growth in plastics and corrugated fibers
- Growth in composite materials for packaging and products
- Reduction in single use plastics?

# Key Impacts of Waste Management Options

- Cost
- Pollutants (NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>x</sub>, VOCs, PM<sub>10</sub>, CO, HCl, Hg, Pb, Cd)
  - Collection
  - Processing
  - Disposal
- Greenhouse gases (CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O)
- Socio-demographics
  - Jobs, tax base, environmental justice
- Energy consumption and/or savings
- Traffic, vehicle collisions, and wear and tear on roadways



# Benefits of Recycling

- Reduces waste sent to landfills and uncontrolled emissions
- Conserves natural resources
- Prevents pollution by reducing the need to mine new raw materials
- Saves energy which reduces greenhouse gas emissions (CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O)
- Increases economic security
  - High quality jobs and careers in U.S. recycling and manufacturing industries
  - 10 times more jobs in recycling than disposal

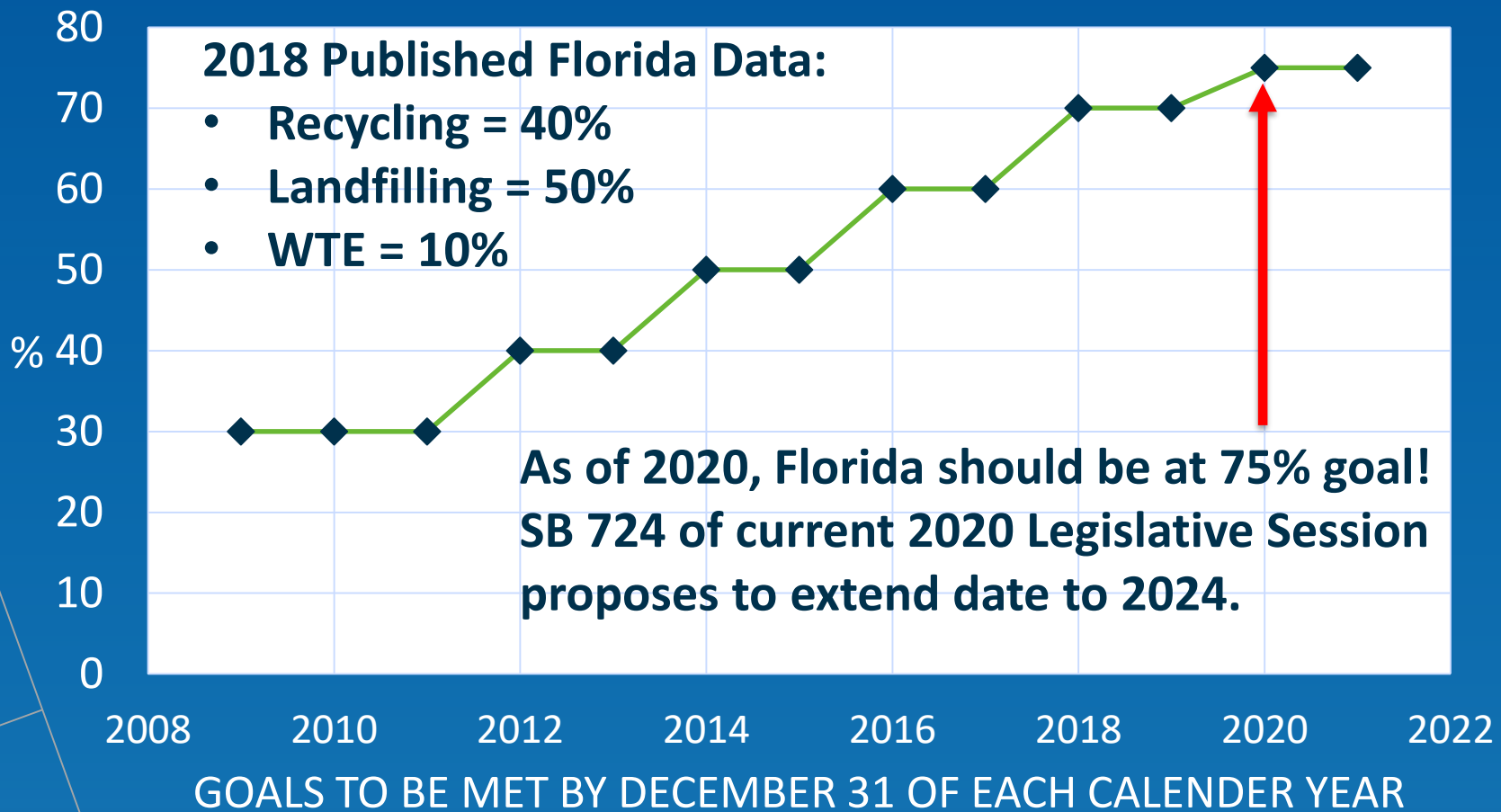
## Energy Savings Due to Recycling

- Aluminum – 94%
- Plastic – 90%
- Steel – 75%
- Lead – 75%
- Paper – 40%
- Glass – 25%

# Fun Facts – Annual Waste Collection

- Hillsborough County (includes City of Tampa)
  - Collects ~ 3.3 mtpy
  - WTE processes ~ 920,000 tpy (~28%)
- Pasco County
  - Collects ~ 1.2 mtpy
  - WTE processes ~ 350,000 tpy (~30%)
- Pinellas County
  - Collects ~ 2.3mtpy
  - WTE processes ~1,000,000 tpy (~43%)
- NYC generates ~ 33 mtpy of MSW with only 700,000 tpy of recyclables and no WTE facilities

# Schedule to Meet Florida's 75% Recycling Goal (based upon 2010 H. B. 7243)



# Recycling Technology Trends

- New Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) will be more mechanized
- Robotics and Artificial Intelligence (AI)
  - Robotic sorting machines are learning to identify different types of materials, remove them from conveyor belts of mixed materials at rapid speed and deposit them into appropriate categories for further sorting
- U.S. needs to develop home-grown recycling infrastructure
  - Mixed papers and No. 3-7 plastics
  - Food waste



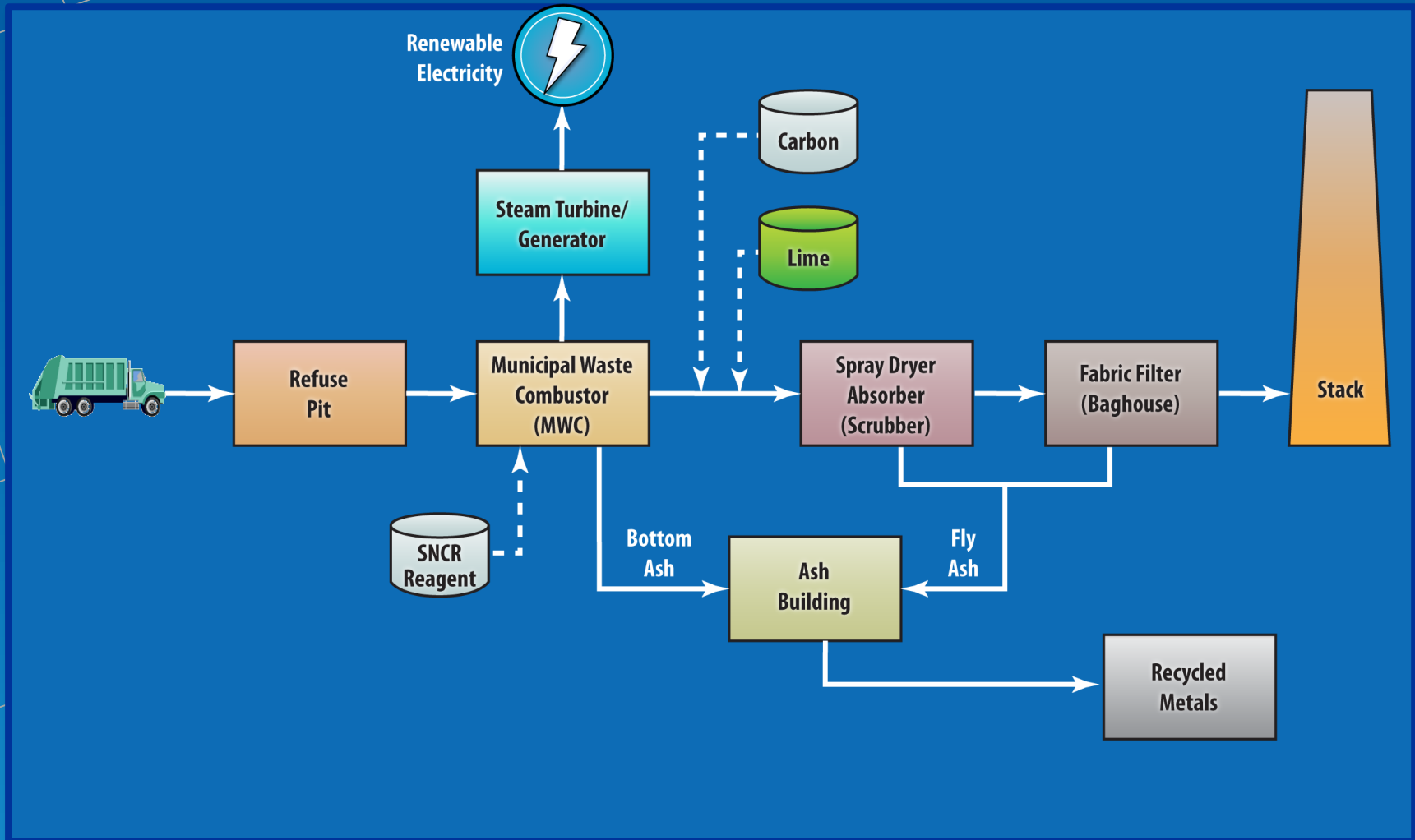


# Key Advantages of Modern Waste-to-Energy (WTE) Technology

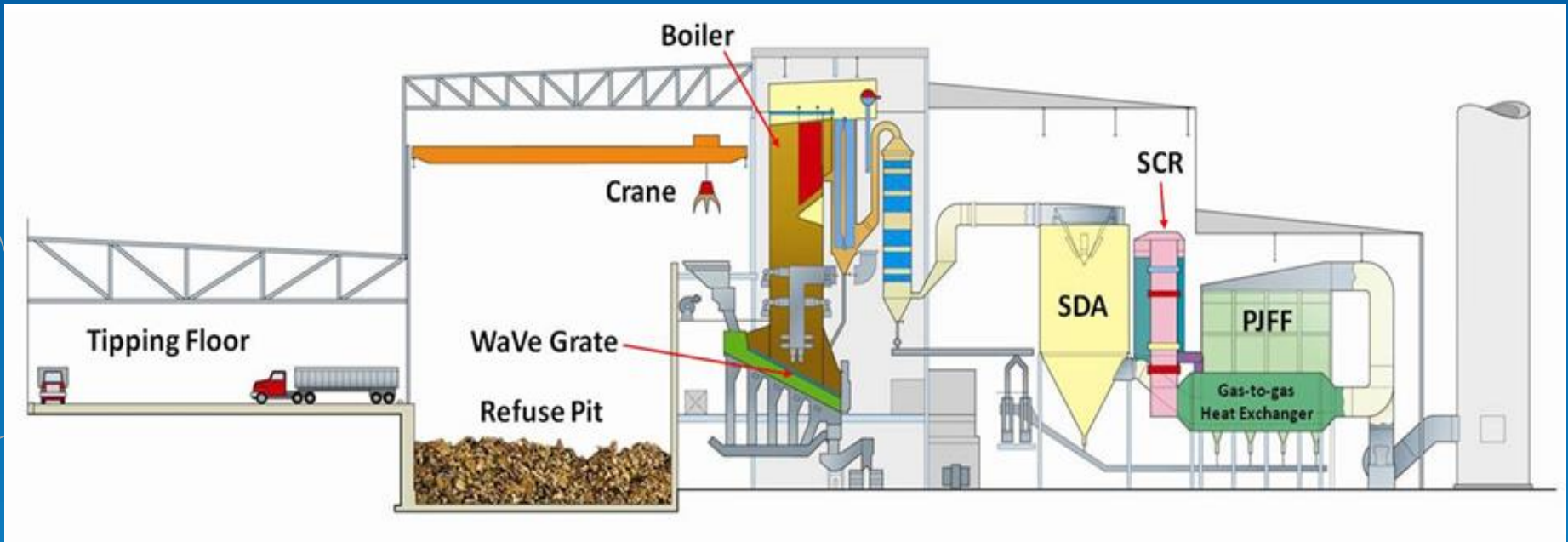
- Aesthetically pleasing
- 90% volume reduction
- Stabilized ash residue
- Recovery of energy
- Recovery of metals
- Waste treatment reduces or eliminates future landfill liabilities (note that U.S. does not require waste to be stabilized prior to disposal as in Europe)
- Control over future disposal capacity and pricing



# Typical Mass Burn WTE Flow Diagram



# Typical Massburn WTE Facility Cross-Section



Based upon Volund technology employed at the newest WTE facility in the U.S. (Palm Beach County, Florida)

# Modern WTE Trends...

## Advancing Efficiency, Aesthetics, and Sustainability!



**Increasing**

- Many successful operations for 20-25 years
- WTE facility expansions and new construction
- Attention to aesthetics/LEED®/innovation
- More stringent emission limits and GHG reporting
- MSW Higher Heating Value (HHV)
- Boiler/T-G availability
- Use of reclaimed water for cooling
- Gross/net electric generation
- Non-ferrous metal recovery



**Decreasing**

- Resistance to WTE in established communities
- Air emissions
- Reagent consumption
- Water consumption
- **Payments for environmental attributes of renewable electricity**



# Historical Emission Trends Since 2000 CAAA from Large and Small Municipal Waste Combustors

Pollutant	1990 Emissions (TPY)	2005 Emissions (TPY)	Percent Reduction
CDD/CDF TEQ Basis *	44	15	99+%
Mercury	57	2.3	96%
Cadmium	9.6	0.4	96%
Lead	170	5.5	97%
Particulate Matter	18,600	780	96%
HCL	57,400	3,200	94%
SO <sub>2</sub>	38,300	4,600	88%
<b>NOx</b>	<b>64,900</b>	<b>49,500</b>	<b>24%</b>

Source: EPA, August 2007

\* Dioxin/furan emissions are in units of grams per year toxic equivalent quantity (TEQ), using 1989 NATO toxicity factors; all other pollutant emissions are in units of tons per year

# WTE Capacity Factor is Among Highest Renewable / Fossil Energy Options (24/7/365)

• Hydroelectric	10-99%
• <b>Waste-to-Energy (WTE)</b>	<b>85-95%</b>
• Baseload Coal	80-90%
• Landfill Gas	80-95%
• Biomass	60-85%
• Natural Gas Combined Cycle	60-80%
• Thermal solar (parabolic trough)	40%
• Wind	20-40%
• Photovoltaic solar (southern latitudes)	18-20%
• Photovoltaic solar (northern latitudes)	12-15%

**WTE can help provide fuel diversity for base load power production to local grid!**

Capacity Factor = actual kWhrs produced divided by kWhrs that would have been produced if operated at design capacity

# Modern Waste-to-Energy Reduces Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions

- 1 Ton MSW Combusted Avoids 1 Ton of CO<sub>2e</sub> Emissions

= Carbon Dioxide emissions from fossil portion of MSW

- Avoided Landfill Methane Emissions



- Avoided CO<sub>2</sub> from Displaced Fossil Fuel Electricity



- Avoided CO<sub>2</sub> from Metals Production using Recovered Ferrous and Non-ferrous Metals





# Dominant WTE Technology in U.S. is Massburn Combustion (aka Advanced Thermal Recycling)

**Massburn does not require pre-processing**





# Modern WTE Facility Operators Focus on Good Housekeeping!





# WTE Minimizes Waste Disposed in Landfills



**~ 90% volume and 75% weight reduction  
plus 2.8 % metal recovery**



# First WTE Metal Recovery Operation

## Ferrous Metals > 6-inch Size





# Second WTE Metal Recovery

## Liberated Ferrous and Non-ferrous Metals

Ferrous metals <6" in size  
(everything...including the  
kitchen sink)



Non-ferrous metals (+3/8 -2")  
(aluminum, brass, bronze,  
copper, gold, silver, stainless)





# Sample of Non-ferrous Metals Liberated and Recovered After Combustion

Aluminum, brass, bronze, copper, and stainless



Most of these items are NOT  
ACCEPTED in curbside programs

Dense  
aluminum  
nuggets



# Coins Separated from Non-ferrous Metals

## Palm Beach County, Florida



# Recovered Recyclable Products from WTE Bottom Ash (European Experience)



**Fine minerals**  
( < 0.07 inch )



**Mineral aggregates**  
( > 0.07 inch )



**Non-ferrous concentrate**



**Ferrous concentrate**



# Recovered Aluminum Products

## Light Non-ferrous Metals from WTE Bottom Ash



### Aluminium scrap product (fine)

- 0.04 – 0.14 inch
- 70 - 75% pure metal scrap



### Aluminium scrap product (middle)

- 0.14 – 0.4 inch
- 75 - 80 % pure metal scrap



### Aluminium scrap product (coarse)

- 0.4 – 0.75 inch
- 85 - 90 % pure metal scrap

# Heavy Non-ferrous Metals from WTE Bottom Ash

primarily brass  
and copper



## Heavy non ferrous scrap

- 0.04 – 0.75 inch
- 95-99 % pure metal scrap



# WTE Bottom Ash Recycling

## Raw Material for Production of Portland Cement

Component	Portland Cement	Clinker	Typical WTE Ash
Silica ( $\text{SiO}_2$ )	18-24	22-24	24
Alumina ( $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ )	4-8	5	6
Ferric Oxide ( $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ )	2-5	0-3	3
Lime ( $\text{CaO}$ )	62-67	68-71	37

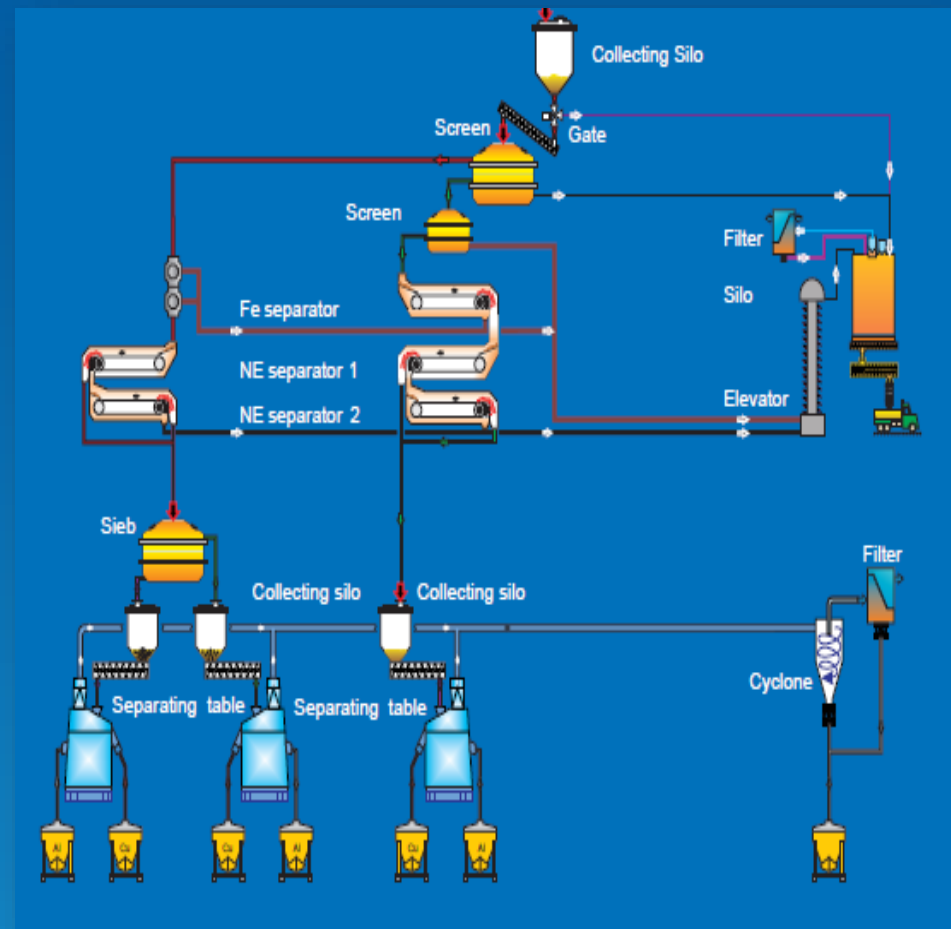


Source: Defending the Character of Ash, Richard W. Goodwin, 1992



# Future Recovery of Rare-Earth Metals from WTE Ash Residue

- Driven by China's control over rare earth metals supply
- European innovations in WTE ash management
  - Advanced metal recovery technology optimizes recovery of ferrous, non-ferrous and precious metals
  - Rare Earth Metal recovery under development



# WTE Can Help Communities Meet Future Goals for “Zero Waste” to Landfill!



MSW to Landfill



WTE without  
Metal Recovery



WTE with  
Metal Recovery



WTE with Metal  
Recovery and  
Bottom Ash  
Recycling

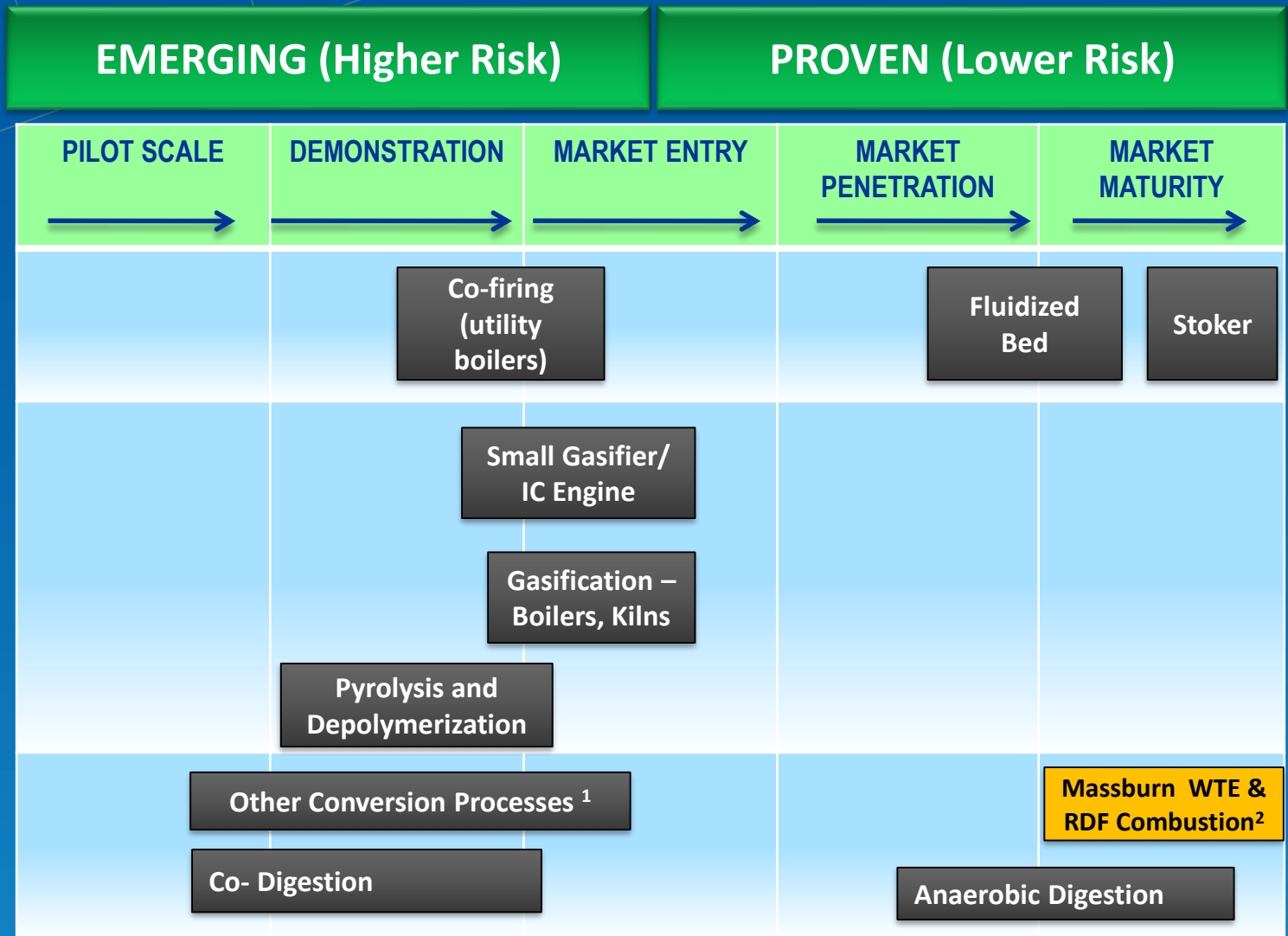
# Ultimate Waste Conversion Technology Wishful Thinking – But It's Not That Easy!



## **The Ultimate Waste Conversion Black Box**

- **Low Capital Cost**
- **Low Annual Maintenance Cost**
- **Easily Operated**
- **Over 90% Reduction Efficiency**
- **Leftover Material – Used in Your Garden!!**

**STATE  
of  
TECHNOLOGY**



- 1. Includes RDF gasification, plasma gasification, and pyrolysis
- 2. RDF = Refuse-derived fuel



# Range of Revenues from Conversion of MSW

Product	Yield from 1 ton MSW	Value of Product	Revenue per Processed Ton
Electricity	500-650 kWh	\$0.05 / kWh	\$25-\$33 + RECs
Synthetic Crude	1 barrel	\$40 / barrel	\$40
Bio-Diesel	35 gallons	\$2.00 / gallon	\$70 + RINs
Recyclables	0.8 – 1.0 ton	\$75 - \$150 / ton	\$60 - \$150
Ethanol	50 – 100 gallons	\$2.00 / gallon	\$100 – \$200 + RINs

# Future Chemical Recycling

## By-products...It's Not Just About Ethanol!

- Butanol
- Ethanol
- Heating Fuel
- Higher Alcohols
- Aviation and Jet Fuel
- Low Sulfur Diesel
- Methanol DME
- Synthetic Gasoline
- Synthetic Natural Gas (CNG / LNG)

# Options for Organic Waste

- Current practice:
  - Most landfilled (21,000,000 tons per year)
  - Some composted
  - Very little digested
- 2,000 Anaerobic Digesters in U.S.
  - Most located on farms (animal waste)
  - A few standalone digesters for food waste
  - Two primary by-products
    - Biogas for energy (pipeline gas, electricity/heat for on farm application)
    - Soil amendment of residuals
- Co-Digestion is being developed in several U.S. Cities
  - NYC, LA, SF, SLC, Philadelphia

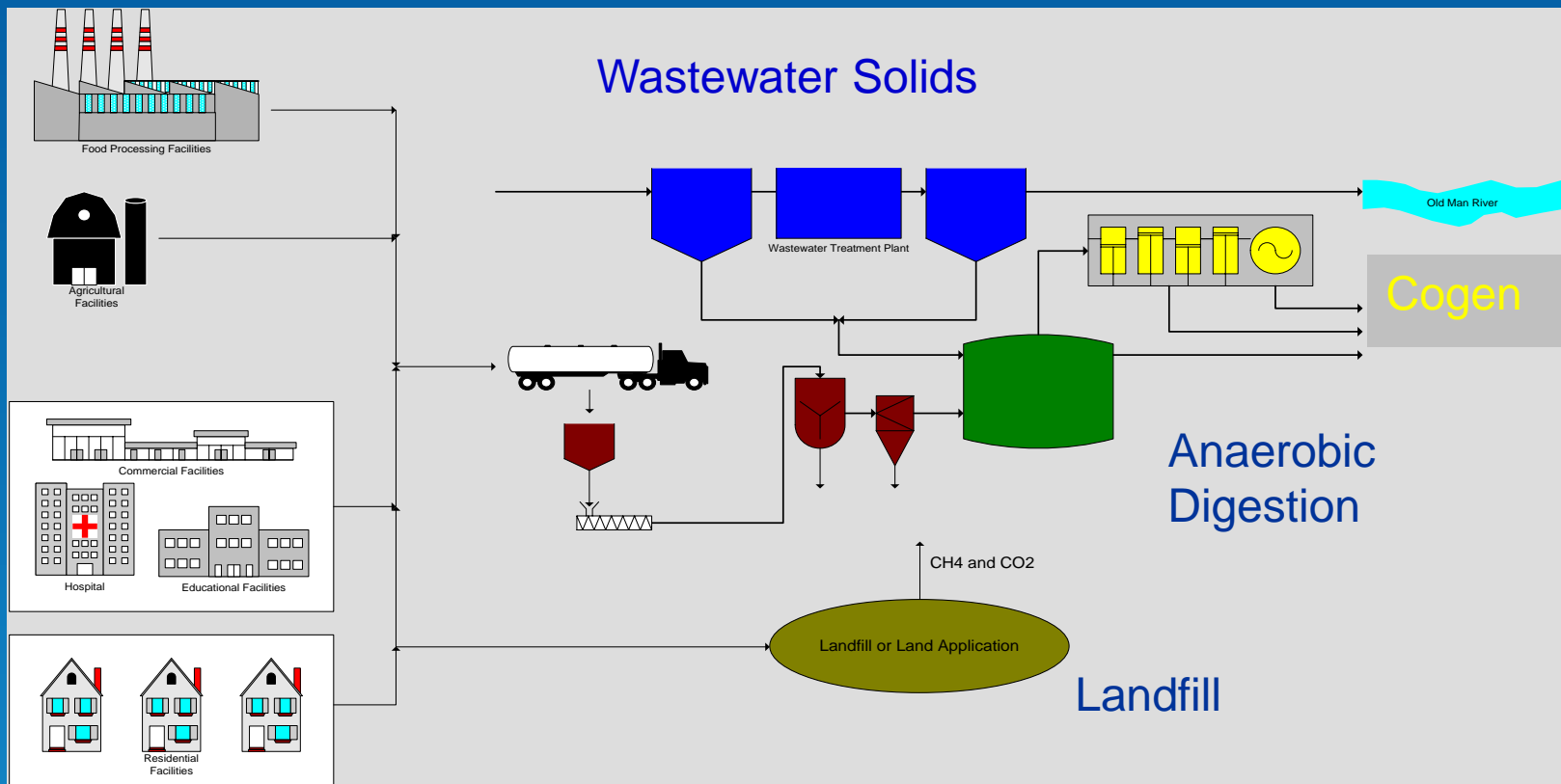
# Co-digestion of Organic Waste with Wastewater Biosolids

Food Industry Waste

Animal Manure and Crop Wastes

Institutional Organic Waste

Residential Organic Waste





# What does a Co-Digestion Facility Look Like?

Courtesy of Harvest Power Orlando

- 120,000 tpy capacity processing food waste and WWTP biosolids into biomethane
- 3.2 MWe plus heat for drying granular biosolids product (5,000 mt/year)
- Facility commissioned in December 2013



# Co-Digestion 101...It's Not Rocket Science, but Requires Knowledge of Biology and Chemistry

- Organic Compounds
  - Digestion is a biological process that uses organic compounds as an energy source. Inorganics are not readily metabolized.
- Carbon : Nitrogen Ratio
  - Ideal C:N ratio between 20 and 30 for stable digestion
  - Higher nitrogen concentrations can cause ammonia toxicity
- Trace Nutrients
  - Micronutrients are essential (phosphorus, magnesium, iron, molybdenum, nickel, and cobalt )
- Absence of Inhibitory Compounds
  - Disinfectants, antibiotics, and heavy metals can negatively influence digester populations



# Des Moines Iowa Co-Digestion Project...40% of Feedstock from Region for Additional Revenue





# Ineos Bio-Energy Center (2012)

## Indian River County Florida

Phase 1 - 8 mmgpy from vegetative waste  
Phase 2 – 50 mmgpy from RDF

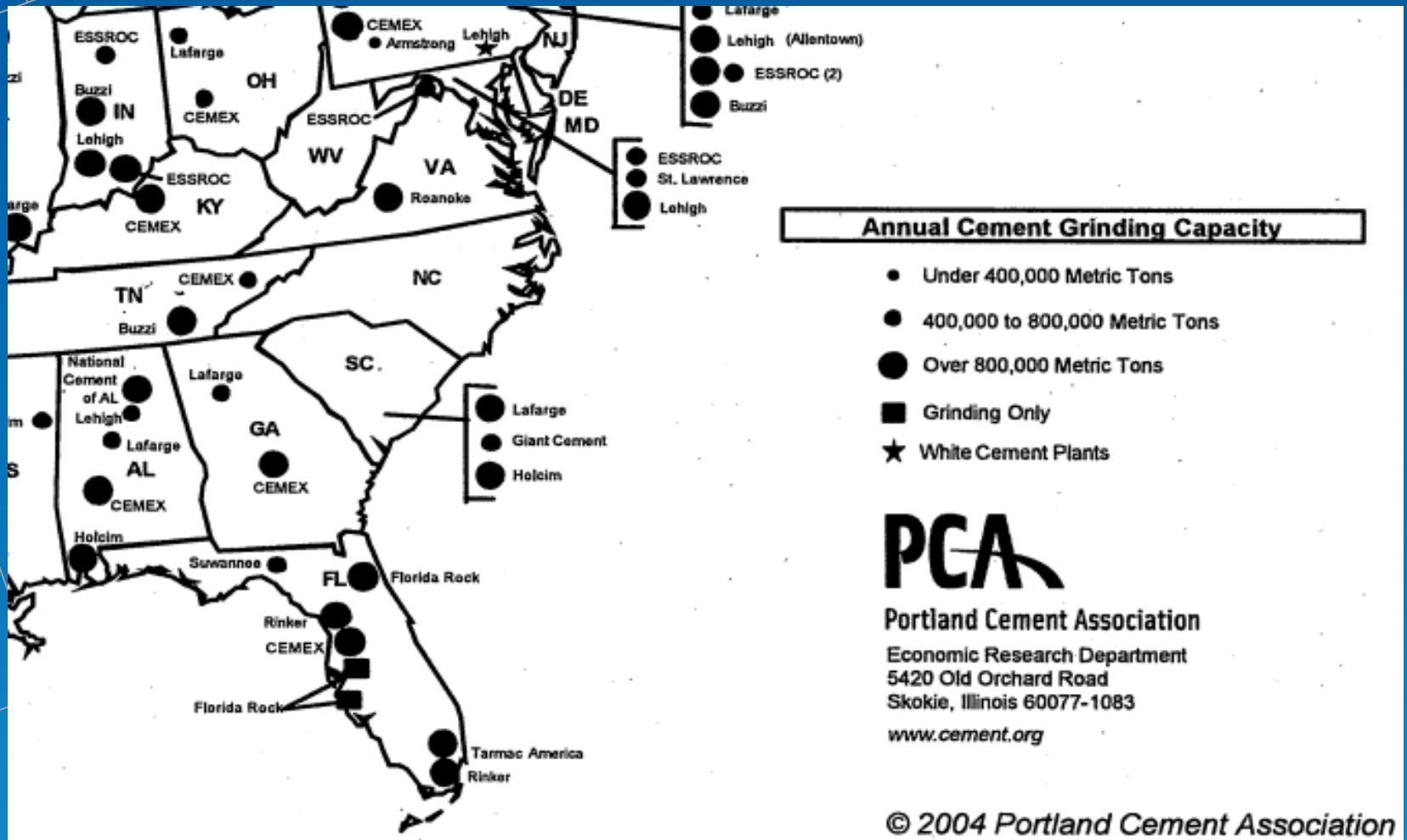
400 direct jobs in construction, engineering and manufacturing

Injected more than \$25 million dollars directly into the Florida economy

60 full-time employees

\$4 million annually in payroll to the local community

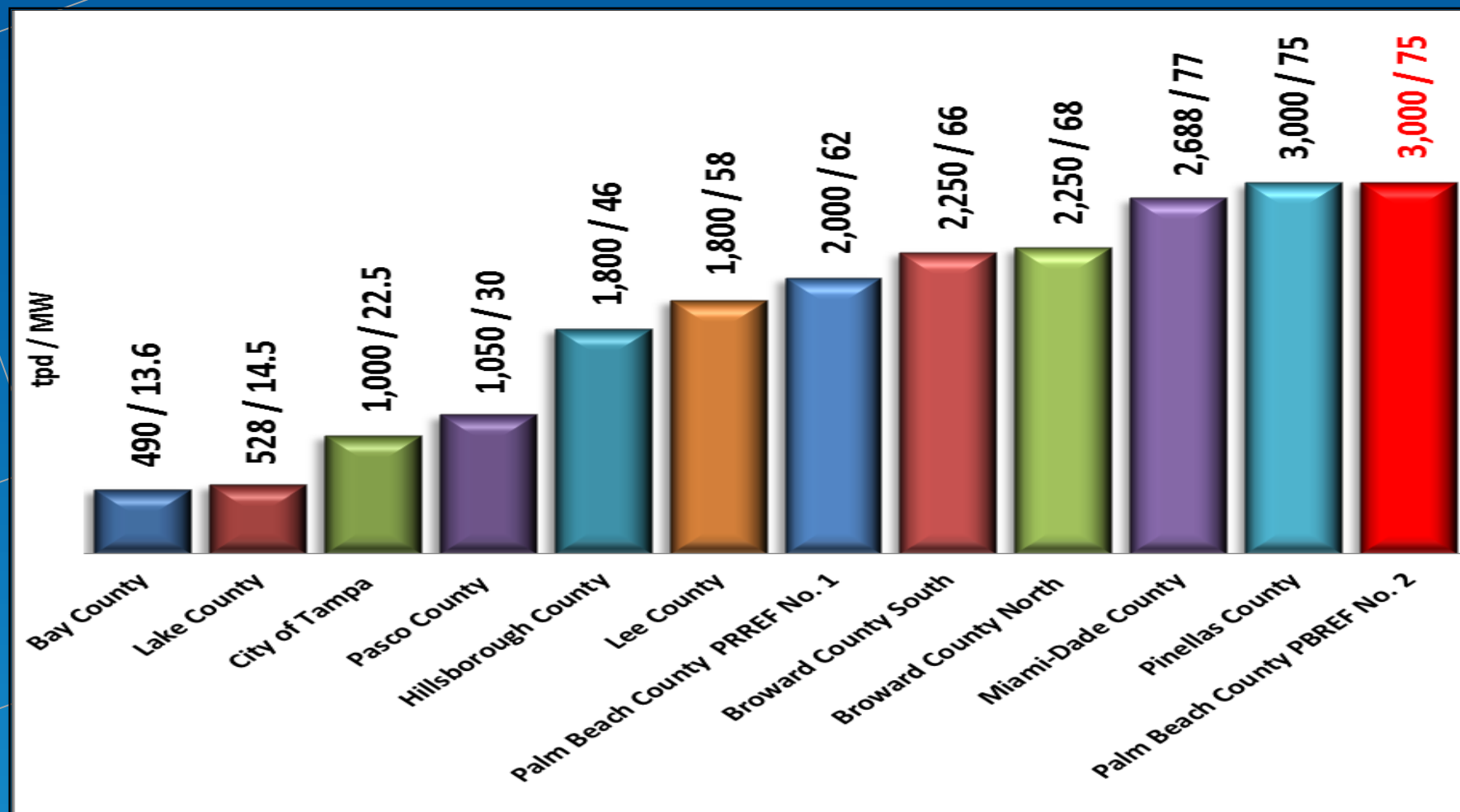
# Potential Sites for Co-firing of Engineered Fuel at Cement Kilns





# Florida Waste-to-Energy Facilities

## 12 Facilities with 607 MW of Renewable Electricity



# City of Tampa WTE Facility Located on Public Works Campus





# City of Tampa WTE Facility

## 1,000 TPD Massburn – 22.5 MW

- Original construction: 1975
- Rebuilt as WTE: 1985
- Retrofit for CAAA: 1998-2001



**Portions of this facility are 40+ years old and on their third life!**



# City of Tampa - Public Works Recycled Asphalt Pavement



Recycled Asphalt Pavement (RAP) millings (<1/2 inch) stockpiled for future Public Works projects



# City of Tampa Public Works Recycling Used Ceramics



**Toilet bowls and household ceramics stockpiled at City of Tampa Public Works yard for later crushing and sizing to <math><1/2</math> inch**



# Pinellas County WTE Facility Located on Integrated Solid Waste Management Campus

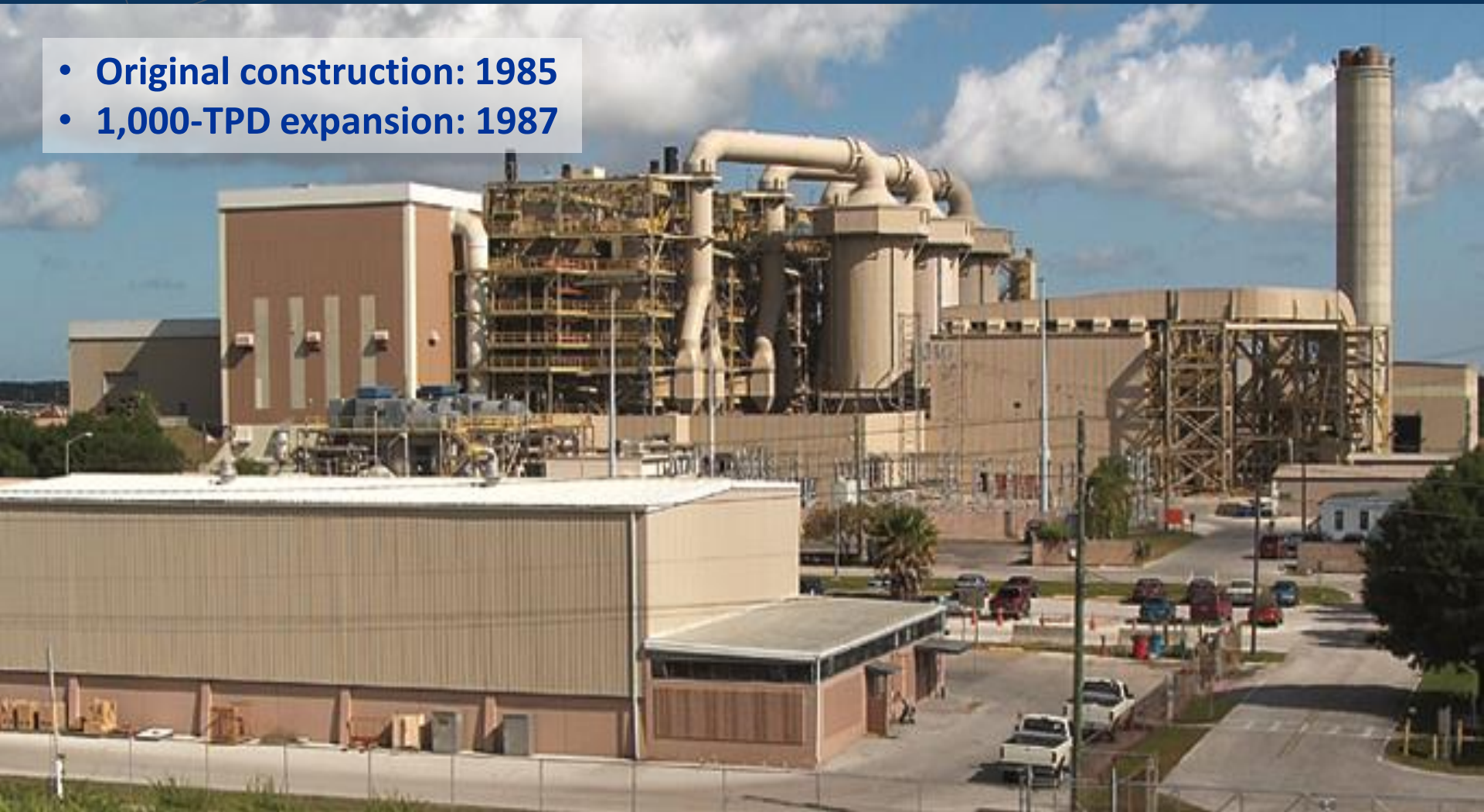




# Pinellas County WTE Facility

3,000 TPD Massburn – 75 MW Net Electrical Output

- **Original construction: 1985**
- **1,000-TPD expansion: 1987**





# Hillsborough County WTE Facility Located on Public Works Campus





# Hillsborough County WTE Facility

1,800 TPD Massburn – 46 MW Net Electrical Output

**Original 1,200-TPD construction: 1987**  
**600-TPD expansion completed: 2009**



Compatible with the urban landscape

Commercial/industrial development has occurred around facility over the past 27 years!



# Hillsborough County Florida WTE and WWTP Synergy



12 MGD AWTP Facility

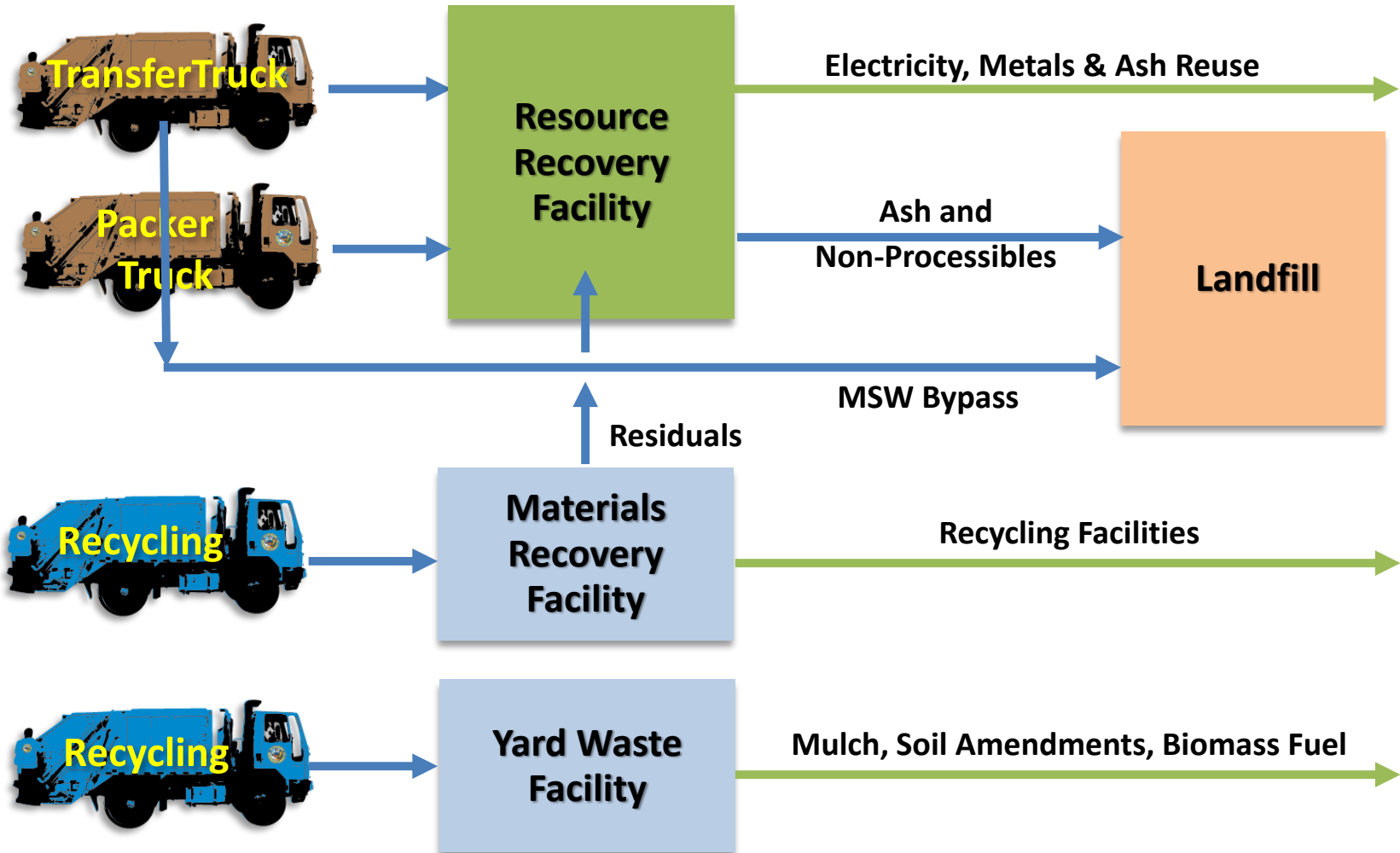
2 MW

1,800 TPD WTE Facility

~ 5 MW  
in  
Future to  
Public  
Works  
Campus

37 MW  
Currently  
Sold to  
Grid

# Hillsborough County Integrated Solid Waste Management System





# Hillsborough County ISWM Taking Advantage of Former Landfill Sites



Vegetative and Wood Waste Processing

Citizen Drop-off  
Center

Transfer Station



# Hillsborough County ISWM

## Waste Tire Collection and Processing Center



Used Tires  
Stockpiled and  
Chipped on an  
Active Landfill Site



# Pasco County WTE Facility Located on Integrated Utility Campus

- Raw Waste Landfill
- C&D Landfill
- Ash Monofill
- 1,050 TPD WTE Facility
- Citizen Drop-off Facility
  - Recyclables
  - Yard waste and tires
  - Household Hazardous Waste
- Adjacent WWTP (8-mgd)





# Pasco County Integrated Solid Waste Management and Utility Campus



## Pasco County - Solid Waste Campus





# Pasco County Florida WTE

1,050 TPD Massburn – 30 MW Net Electrical Output

- Construction: 1989-1991
- \$90M capital cost





# Machine for “Halving” Tires on Rims Supplemental Fuel for Pasco County WTE





# Chipped Tires

## Supplemental Fuel for Pasco County WTE Facility





# Lee County WTE Facility Located on Integrated Solid Waste Campus





# Lee County WTE Facility

## 1,800 TPD – 58-MW Electrical



- **Original construction: 1994**
- **636-TPD expansion completed: 2006**

# Palm Beach County WTE Facilities (2) Located on Integrated Solid Waste Management Campus

- Raw waste and ash landfill
- Construction and demolition debris landfill
- 2,000 tpd RDF WTE facility
- 3,000 tpd Massburn WTE facility (2015)
- Recycling facilities
- Household hazardous waste drop-off facility
- Compost facility
- Biosolids drying / pelletizing facility





# Palm Beach County

## Rendering of New 3,000 TPD Massburn WTE



**Sustainability and enhanced aesthetics have been integrated into the design of this facility, the first new WTE facility in the US since 1996**



# Palm Beach County

## Incorporating Rainwater Harvest (First 2" of Rain)





# Palm Beach County

## Visitors Center with Elevated Tour Walkway



Tours conducted for elementary, middle and high school students



# Palm Beach County

## Regional Biosolids Processing Facility on ISWM Campus



Landfill gas used for drying of WWTP biosolids



# Supplemental Waste Program Lancaster County Pennsylvania



Addition to  
Tipping Building  
for Supplemental  
Waste Program

# Opportunities to Generate Revenues at Modern WTE via Special Waste Program

- Co-combustion of Special Wastes:
  - WWTP biosolids
  - Used tires
  - Carpet
  - Construction and Demolition (C&D) combustibles
  - Bulky waste
  - Off-spec / out of date / confidential materials (assured destruction)
  - USDA regulated garbage (international waste)
  - Auto shredder residue
  - Expired pharmaceuticals
  - Special industrial waste
  - Marine and fishing waste
  - Liquid waste



# Windmills on Landfill

## Lancaster County Pennsylvania

Additional Revenue to the Solid Waste System  
via Sale of Renewable Electricity





# Lancaster County Pennsylvania Public Outreach and Education is a Full-time Job





# Hennepin County Minnesota WTE

## WTE is Compatible with Urban Development!



HERC WTE Facility  
(1987)

Target Field (2010)

Low pressure steam is used for heating of grassed areas for early greening in spring, along with space heating and hot water needs of ballpark



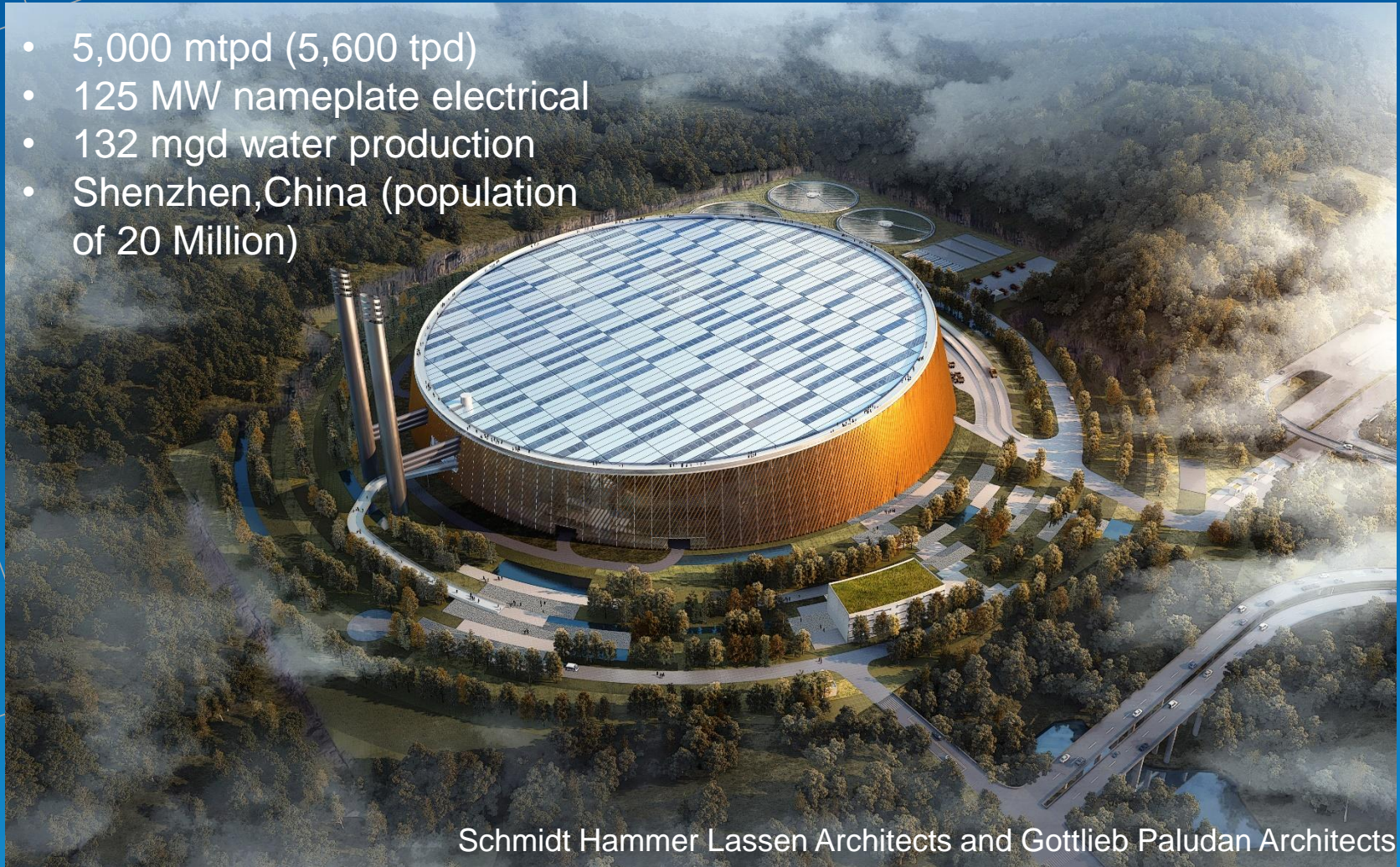
# Isséane Waste to Energy Facility in Paris France (partially underground to blend in with local development)





# World's Largest EfW Facility (2020) in China to include Desalination Water Plant and Solar PV

- 5,000 mtpd (5,600 tpd)
- 125 MW nameplate electrical
- 132 mgd water production
- Shenzhen, China (population of 20 Million)

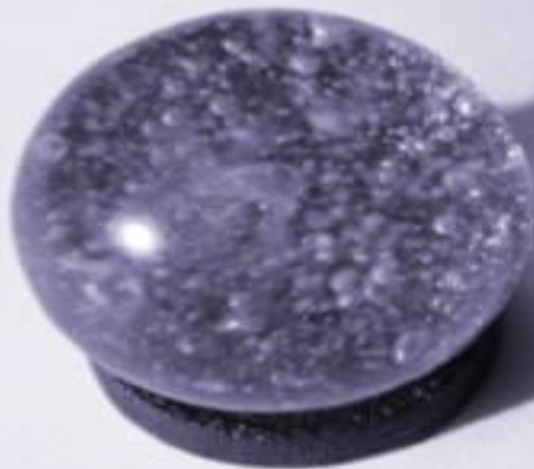


Schmidt Hammer Lassen Architects and Gottlieb Paludan Architects



# The Future for Integrated Sustainable Waste Management

We'll see it...  
when we believe it!

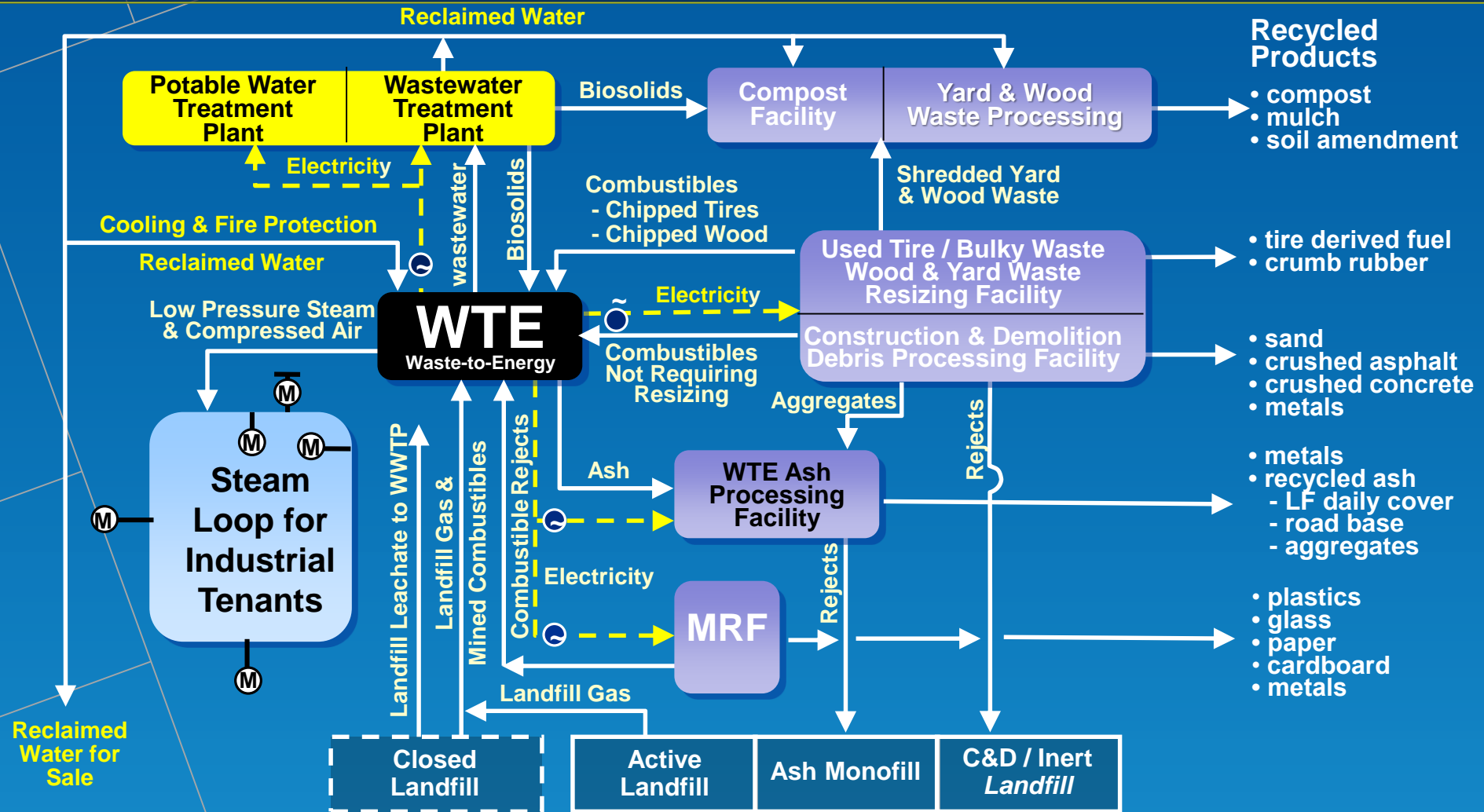


Teaching future generations to make  
Transition from Waste Management to  
“Resource Management”



# Campus for Management of Municipal Resources...

## Solid Waste, Recycling, and Water Resources



# Teaching the Next Generation...We are all Waste Generators and it's only Waste...if we Waste it.!

- Waste Management must morph into Resource Management
- Reduce use of fossil fuels (coal, oil, natural gas) by accounting for all environmental costs and replace with clean energy (solar, wind, bioenergy, and biochemicals)
- Cheap and plentiful fossil fuels are essential for our current way of life, rapid changes could have negative consequences. Need to develop equitable way to alleviate pain of higher cost of energy!
- Circular economy must replace outdated linear economy model of “take, make, waste”. A circular economy is one that is restorative by design, and which aims to keep products, components and materials at their highest utility and value at all times, distinguishing between technical and biological cycles. – Ellen MacArthur Foundation



# Replace Apathy with Action

- NIMBY...Not in My Back Yard
- NIMEY...Not in My Election Year
- BANANA...Build Absolutely Nothing Anywhere Near Anyone
- NUMBEE...Not Using My Bucks Ever, Either
- NIMBI...Now I Must Become Involved!
- **NYMBI...Now You Must Become Involved!**



# Thank You for the Opportunity to Share ...and Imagineer!

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