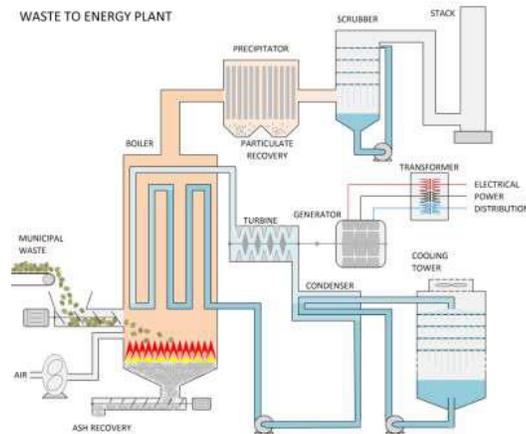


Environmental Benefit of Waste to Energy Technology



Waste-to-energy technology has been developed in Canada and proven in power plants built in other countries over the last 20 years. These waste-to-energy plants reduce the use of landfills. Organic waste buried in a landfill is degraded anaerobically producing methane, which is 25 times worse than carbon dioxide as a greenhouse gas. Regulations on waste management should be revised to enable building of waste-to-energy plants in Canada.

The management of waste is done by private industries with regulation by municipal and provincial governments. Reduction in the use of landfill has been undertaken by the use of recycling and composting. However, the largest portion of waste still goes to landfill; so, there is a need for further processing of municipal waste.

The use of waste-to-energy and waste-to-fuel technologies significantly reduces pollution of soil and water as well as lowering greenhouse gas levels.

Waste-to-fuel technology has been developed in Canada. Enerkem Alberta Biofuels commercial bio-refinery uses municipal solid waste to produce methanol and ethanol. Ethanol can replace gasoline in internal combustion engines designed for alcohol use; and, it is an effective "octane booster" when mixed with gasoline in blends of 10 to 30 percent which are suitable for use in standard gasoline combustion engines.

The use of biofuels instead of fossil fuels helps lower greenhouse gas levels. Biofuels are a renewable resource; whereas, fossil fuels are not. Most provinces have mandated the use of biofuels in gasoline and diesel fuel. Rather than mandating the use of biofuels, it would be better to provide a cost incentive for using biofuels. This could be done by eliminating the excise tax for the bio-derived portions of gasoline and diesel fuel.

Since successful mitigation of environmental problems has been done by private industries with regulation by municipal and provincial governments. The federal government should not interfere; but, be supportive of these successful municipal and provincial environmental protection programs. <