

LA County Net Greenhouse Gas Comparison Study

Can CTs truly make a difference in GHG reduction?

John Trotti • March 9, 2016



Los Angeles County Department of Public Works recently released the report on the findings of a study on the cumulative GHG emissions in two different scenarios. The Baseline Scenario involved the transport and disposal of 1,000 tpd of post recycled residuals from a mixed waste MRF in a landfill, while in the Alternative Scenario these same residuals received additional CT processing, leading to a reduction in materials requiring landfilling.

In the Alternative Scenario, the Integrated MRF with CTs is modeled after a combination of technologies employed elsewhere in the world reflecting actual modern, commercial scale practices and facilities in the European Union and Asia.

The two scenarios evaluated emissions from transportation, operation, and avoided emissions. The most significant difference between the two scenarios is that the avoided emissions are much greater for the Alternative Scenario.

The study found that the Baseline Scenario results in a net increase of approximately 1.64 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MtCO₂e), while the Alternative Scenario results in net avoided GHG emissions of 0.67 million MtCO₂e.

The foregoing overview is overly simplified in the hope that you will want to go through the details of the [study](#) with a fine-tooth comb for yourself. This is particularly important for those involved in regulatory activities in which the value of Integrated MRFs with CTs has not been explored or validated. **MSW**