

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

CalRecycle Regulation Update: Anaerobic Digestion

California Bioresources Alliance Symposium
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CalEPA Building, Sacramento

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Anaerobic Digestion (AD)

AD is a promising technology for managing organic material.

California's New Goal: 75% Recycling (AB 341)

AD featured in recommended focus areas:

Increasing the recycling infrastructure

Targeting organic materials

CalRecycle AD Initiative

Encourage the development of AD facilities as an alternative to the landfill disposal of organic solid waste

Assist in meeting CalRecycle Strategic Directive 6.1: -
Reduce the amount of organics in the waste stream by 50% by 2020

Identify activities to be carried out by CalRecycle that support the development of AD in California

Anaerobic Digestion

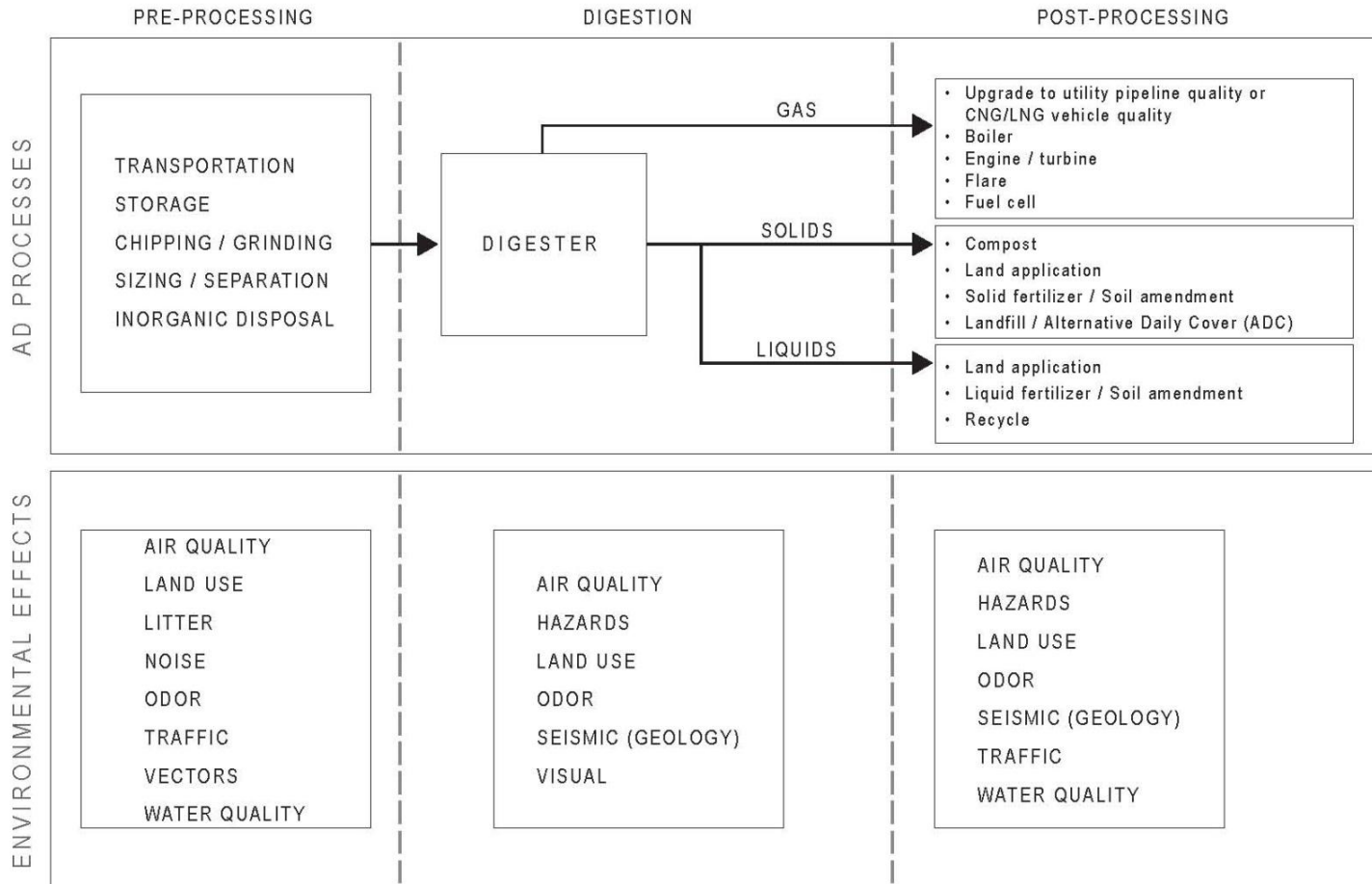
What are the environmental impacts?

AD Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR)

Provide program level impact analysis of AD facilities as a starting point for local jurisdictions in preparing CEQA compliance

Analyze potential environmental impacts, mitigation measures, and CEQA project alternatives

AD Program EIR



AD Program EIR - Summary

All potential environmental impacts at a program level could be mitigated to a less-than-significant level with implementation of mitigation measures.

How Does Anaerobic Digestion Fit into Statutes and the CalRecycle Regulatory Structure?



Statutes

AD Is Regulated Like Composting

PRC 40116. “Compost” means the product resulting from the controlled biological decomposition of organic wastes that are source separated from the municipal solid waste stream, or which are separated at a centralized facility.

How Conversion Technologies Fit Current Board Regulatory Structure

www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Publications

CalRecycle Regulations (Title 14, CCR)

If feedstock is compostable material, the facility is regulated as a compostable material handling facility.

If feedstock is not compostable material, the activity is regulated as a transfer and processing facility.

***How Anaerobic Digestion Fits Current Board
Regulatory Structure***

www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Publications

Revising Compostable Material Handling Regulations - Where AD Fits

CalRecycle staff:

Views AD as a process in between Transfer/Processing and
Compostable Materials Handling

Intended to develop initial draft regulatory text for AD

Became aware of several in-vessel digestion technologies that do not
utilize AD

Proposes to broaden the scope of regulations to cover other types of
“in-vessel” digestion activities, including AD

In-Vessel Digestion Informal Rulemaking Options

Option 1: A stand-alone, fully-contained set of regulations containing imported transfer/processing and compostable materials handling standards applicable to in-vessel digestion.

Option 2: A stand-alone set of regulations containing cross-references to transfer/processing and compostable materials handling standards applicable to in-vessel digestion.

Option 3: Option 2 plus provide, upon completion of the rulemaking, a fully-contained, non-regulatory guidance document that includes the full text of any cross-referenced standard.

Upcoming Informal Rulemaking Workshops

September 25, 2012 - Sacramento

October 3 2012 - Baldwin Park

Information on Informal Rulemaking Process

Compostable Materials, Transfer/Processing Rulemaking

<http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Laws/Rulemaking/Compost/default.htm>

CalRecycle: Compostable Materials, Transfer/Processing Rulemaking Listserv

<http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Listservs/>

Send Written Comments to: compost.transfer.regs@calrecycle.ca.gov.

Questions?

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