CONVERTING NON-RECYCLED WASTE TO ENERGY AND FUELS

Chemistry is creating energy solutions for a strong, secure and sustainable future.

Chemistry is transforming waste into a valuable energy resource through advanced energy recovery technologies. Recovering this abundant energy complements recycling and reduces waste that would otherwise be sent to landfills.

Although traditional recycling rates in the U.S. are growing and must continue to do so, tons of high energy-content products, like non-recycled plastics and other materials, are buried in landfills every day – wasting a valuable energy source. Modern energy recovery facilities can process waste with fewer emissions than conventional fuels processed in most power plants, while innovative plastics-to-fuel technologies convert plastics into alternative fuels.

Chemistry is unlocking the energy in discarded materials:

Recycling
The USA recycles 88 million tons of municipal solid waste each year

Energy Recovery

Converting non-recycled plastics to fuel could provide enough fuel to power 8.9 million cars each year

Energy recovery of non-recycled municipal solid waste could provide enough fuel to power 14 million homes each year

POLICY PRIORITIES

✓ Our nation’s energy policy must harness all domestic energy sources, including recovering energy from waste

✓ Definitions of renewable energy should be broadened to include non-recycled and other recurring wastes

✓ Regulations and permitting processes should not discourage the establishment of new energy recovery capacity

ENERGY RECOVERY IS GOOD FOR COMMUNITIES

- Energy recovery can reduce landfilled waste by 90%
- Communities with energy recovery typically deliver higher recycling rates than those without
- Energy recovery prevents 40 million metric tons of greenhouse gasses in the form of carbon dioxide equivalents to be released in the environment

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