

CASE STUDIES OF SELECTED WASTE-TO-ENERGY FACILITIES

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INTRODUCTION

The following case studies are a series that examine selected communities and waste-to-energy plants in the United States that convert municipal solid waste (MSW)¹ into energy, whether electricity or steam. Conducted by Governmental Advisory Associates, these case studies were sponsored by the American Chemistry Council (ACC) to better understand a community's decision to use or incorporate waste to energy (WTE) as a major waste disposal strategy and to examine both the positive and negative ramifications. The series examines different types of facilities in different parts of the country. The plants also vary by size and by the type of technology that is used from a relatively small, publicly owned and operated facility in the upper Midwest to one of the largest publicly owned and privately operated plants in the South. Table 1 shows the plants to be included as well as some pertinent information about them.

Region	Location	Facility	Pop. Served	Start Up Date	Type of Process	Owner	Operator	Tons Per Day (tpd)
South	Palm Beach County, FL	North County Region Resource Recovery Project	1,400,000	1989	RDF	Solid Waste Authority	Babcock & Wilcox	2000
Midwest	Olmsted County, MN	Olmsted County	143,000	1987	Mass Burn	Olmsted County	Olmsted County	200
West	Marion County, OR	Marion County WTE Plant	314,870	1987	Mass Burn	Covanta Energy	Covanta Energy	550
East	Westchester County, NY	Wheelabrator Westchester	851,000	1984	Mass Burn	Wheelabrator	Wheelabrator	2250

Each case study will examine:

- 1) the background of the community or communities using the waste to energy plant;
- 2) the reasons that WTE selected as a waste disposal option; and
- 3) the impact of WTE on the community.

¹ As defined by the EPA, MSW consists of everyday items such as product packaging, grass clippings, furniture, clothing, bottles, food scraps, newspapers, appliances, and batteries. Not included are materials that also may be disposed in landfills but are not generally considered MSW, such as construction and demolition materials, municipal wastewater treatment sludges, and non-hazardous industrial wastes.