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**
  - Illinois recycles approximately 1,000,877 tons of municipal solid waste each year.

- **Energy Recovery**
  - Energy recovery of non-recycled municipal solid waste in Illinois could provide enough fuel to power 680,000 homes each year.
  - Converting non-recycled plastics to fuel in Illinois could provide enough fuel to power 440,000 cars each year.

**UPDATE ILLINOIS STATE ENERGY POLICIES TO:**

- Update the regulatory framework to not improperly classify plastics-to-fuel facilities as “Pollution Control Facilities” in order to support the growth of energy recovery and create jobs.
- Create a Commission for Resource Recovery and Disposal to maximize the productive use of discarded materials in Illinois by driving recycling, energy recovery and increased diversion from landfill.
- Update the state waste management hierarchy to add pyrolysis and gasification to the other non-combustion means of energy recovery to diversify the energy base for Illinois.

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