

WHAT ARE PLASTICS-TO-FUEL TECHNOLOGIES AND HOW SHOULD THEY BE REGULATED?

Innovative manufacturers are converting non-recycled plastics into valuable fuels, petroleum products and chemical feedstocks.

Companies are transforming used, non-recycled plastics into fuels and other petroleum based products. These technologies complement ongoing recycling efforts and are being embraced as a solution for recovering clean energy from post-use plastics that cannot be economically recycled. Increased use of these technologies can reduce the amount of waste sent to landfills and can generate fuels and other useful petroleum products that help power local economies.

STEP 1:

Plastics that can't be economically recycled are delivered for processing



STEP 2:

Contaminants like metal and glass are removed from the plastic stream



STEP 3:

Plastics are heated without oxygen (pyrolysis)

STEP 4:

Gas is cooled and condensed into oil, fuels, and petroleum products



Fuels can power cars, buses, ships and planes



Petroleum products can then be used by manufacturers and industrial users



STATE AND LOCAL REGULATIONS SHOULD NOT BE A BARRIER AND SHOULD SUPPORT THE DEPLOYMENT OF PLASTICS-TO-FUEL TECHNOLOGIES



Plastics-to-fuel facilities should be regulated like other manufacturing facilities. These facilities receive plastic feedstock that is converted to valuable fuels and petroleum products.



Laws and regulations should identify companies that manufacture fuels and petroleum products from non-recycled plastics feedstock as producers of alternative energy, not as waste disposal companies.



Making fuels and petroleum products from non-recycled plastic feedstocks complements recycling and other integrated solid waste management programs.

REGULATING PLASTICS-TO-FUEL FACILITIES



Plastics-to-Fuel & Petrochemistry Alliance

Standalone plastics-to-fuel facilities should be regulated just like any manufacturer that receives a feedstock and produces a product. In many jurisdictions this will require updates to existing laws and regulations. Below are some guidelines for how new plastics-to-fuel facilities should be regulated.



Zone standalone plastics-to-fuel facilities as light industrial.



Ensure plastics-to-fuel feedstock is not classified as “solid waste.”

Definitions should allow non-recycled plastics to be classified as feedstocks or materials. Solid waste should only describe those materials that cannot be sorted and upgraded for re-use.



Don't regulate plastics-to-fuel facilities as “landfills” or “waste-to-energy” facilities. Charging a “tip fee” does not change the nature of the plastics-to-fuel facility.

A plastics-to-fuel facility will only take very controlled materials and will not receive mixed materials beyond plastics. The acceptance of a fee does not make the feedstock a waste.



Let recyclers determine whether there is a viable market for their plastics.

Banning materials from use in plastics-to-fuel given the technical possibility of being recycled may result in large volumes of material being wasted to disposal during periods when there are no end recycling markets for that material.



Allow storage of plastics onsite.

Typically a plastics-to-fuel facility shouldn't need more than approximately one to three weeks of supply onsite.



Allow for disposal of off-spec feedstocks and by-products.

Inevitably, there will be some materials, such as metals, wood, and fiber, delivered to a plastics-to-fuel facility that cannot be used.



Do not require unnecessary financial guarantees that discourage investment.

Materials that cannot be converted to fuels or petroleum products and other process wastes will be disposed offsite at regulated disposal facilities.

THE AMERICAN CHEMISTRY COUNCIL'S PLASTICS-TO-OIL TECHNOLOGIES ALLIANCE

has developed detailed guidelines to encourage innovation, consistent with the regulatory requirements for Air, Process Water and Stormwater, and management of Products and Co-Products.

TO LEARN MORE PLEASE SEE

Regulating Plastics-to-Fuel Facilities and FAQ

<http://plastics.americanchemistry.com/RegulatingPlastics-to-Fuel>