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# How to Make Biomass-to-Energy Work in Rural Alaska

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[www.tetrattech.com](http://www.tetrattech.com)



# Tetra Tech Alaskan Project Experience



3 Office Locations – Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau  
HelioTech JV – Alaska Native Corporation 8(a)

# Tetra Tech Works With Tribal Groups

Cherokee Nation	Northern Arapaho
Cheyenne River Sioux	Northern Cheyenne Tribe
Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma	Oglala Sioux Tribe
Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boys Reservation	Omaha Tribe of Nebraska
Crow Creek Sioux Tribal Council	Osage Nation
Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe	Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma
Fort Peck Tribes	Ponca Tribe of Nebraska
Ho-Chunk Nation	Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation
Iowa Tribe of Kansas & Nebraska	Prairie Island Indian Community
Keweenaw Bay Indian Community	Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin
Kickapoo Tribe of Kansas	Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians of Minnesota
Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma	Sac & Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa
Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians	Santee Sioux Nation
Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians	Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community of Minnesota
Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior and Chippewa Indians	Shawnee Tribe
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	Spirit Lake Nation
Lower Brule Sioux Tribe	Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Council
Lower Sioux Indian Community of Minnesota	Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa
Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin	Three Affiliated Tribes
Miami Tribe of Oklahoma	Upper Sioux Community of Minnesota
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians	White Earth Tribal Council
	Ysleta del Sur Pueblo

# Selecting the Correct Boiler

## Project Pillar

**Feedstock  
Supply**



**Optimal Plant  
Sizing**



## Key Project Attribute

- Source and Impacts
  - BTU content vs moisture content
  - Consistency vs. variety of materials
  - Toxics / carcinogens
- 
- Energy Off Takes
  - Electrical Loading
  - Thermal Loading
  - Mass & Energy Balance
  - Site and Project Footprint

# Feedstock - Categories

- Waste Biomass

- Municipal Solid Waste (MSW)
- Organics – Food waste
- Fiber – Paper, Cardboard, Wood (RDF)
- Construction & Demolition (C&D)

- Woody Biomass

- Chip wood (pulp-and-paper industry standard chip spec)
- Stewardship & stand thinning
- Logging slash
- Mill residues (sawdust & other waste)
- Fuel wood



# Feedstock – MSW

- Unsorted MSW
  - Widely available
  - Difficult to handle / process
- Separation Steps Needed !
  - Higher quality of Feedstock - consistent, homogenous
  - Difficult to implement / reduced capture volume
- Construction & Demolition Waste and Urban Wood
  - Wood, paper, cardboard focus
  - Potential for EPA 'Biomass' Designation



# Material Recovery Facility (MRF)

- MSW MRF
  - 20,000 tons/yr min throughput
  - Metals recycling primary



- C&D MRF
  - Aggregate recycling
  - Shingles to hot mix



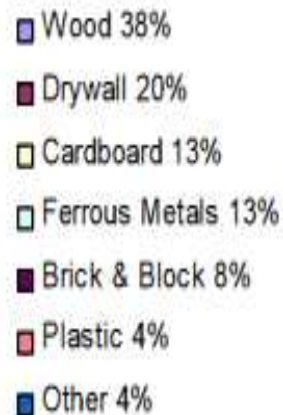
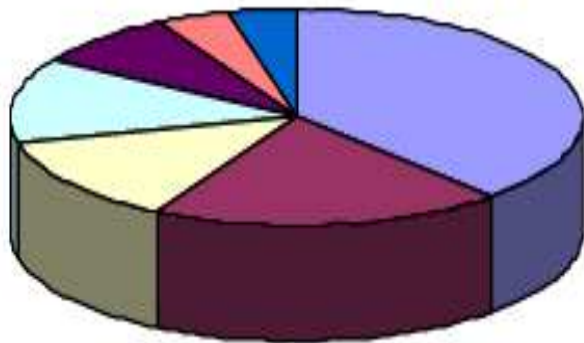
= Value-added  
Recycling



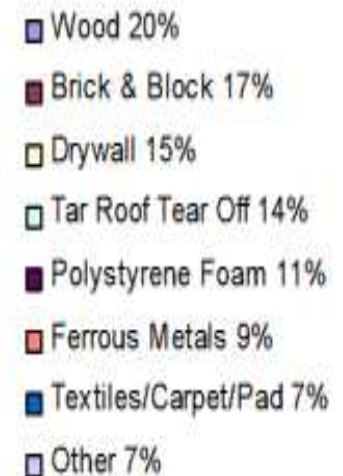
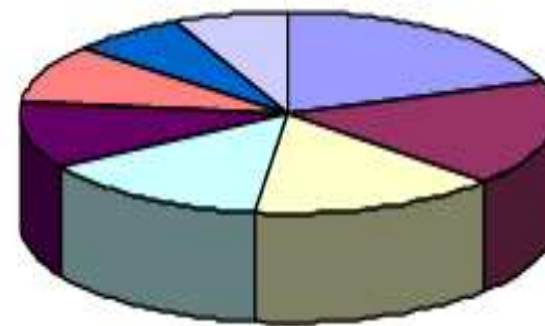
# Feedstock - Construction & Demolition

- 30-50% woody material
- Negative-cost feedstock
- Value-added byproducts
  - Metals, aggregate, shingles

**Commercial Construction Waste**



**Commercial Demolition Waste**





# Feedstock – Woody Biomass

Product
Logging Residue
Mill Residue
Thinning / Stewardship
Chip wood



- Logging Residues - Slash Mitigation
- Forest Hazard Mitigation
- Secondary Growth Market
- Beetle Kill

# Biomass to Energy Technology

- Technology spectrum

Basic Combustion  
(Simple)

Hybrid Gasification

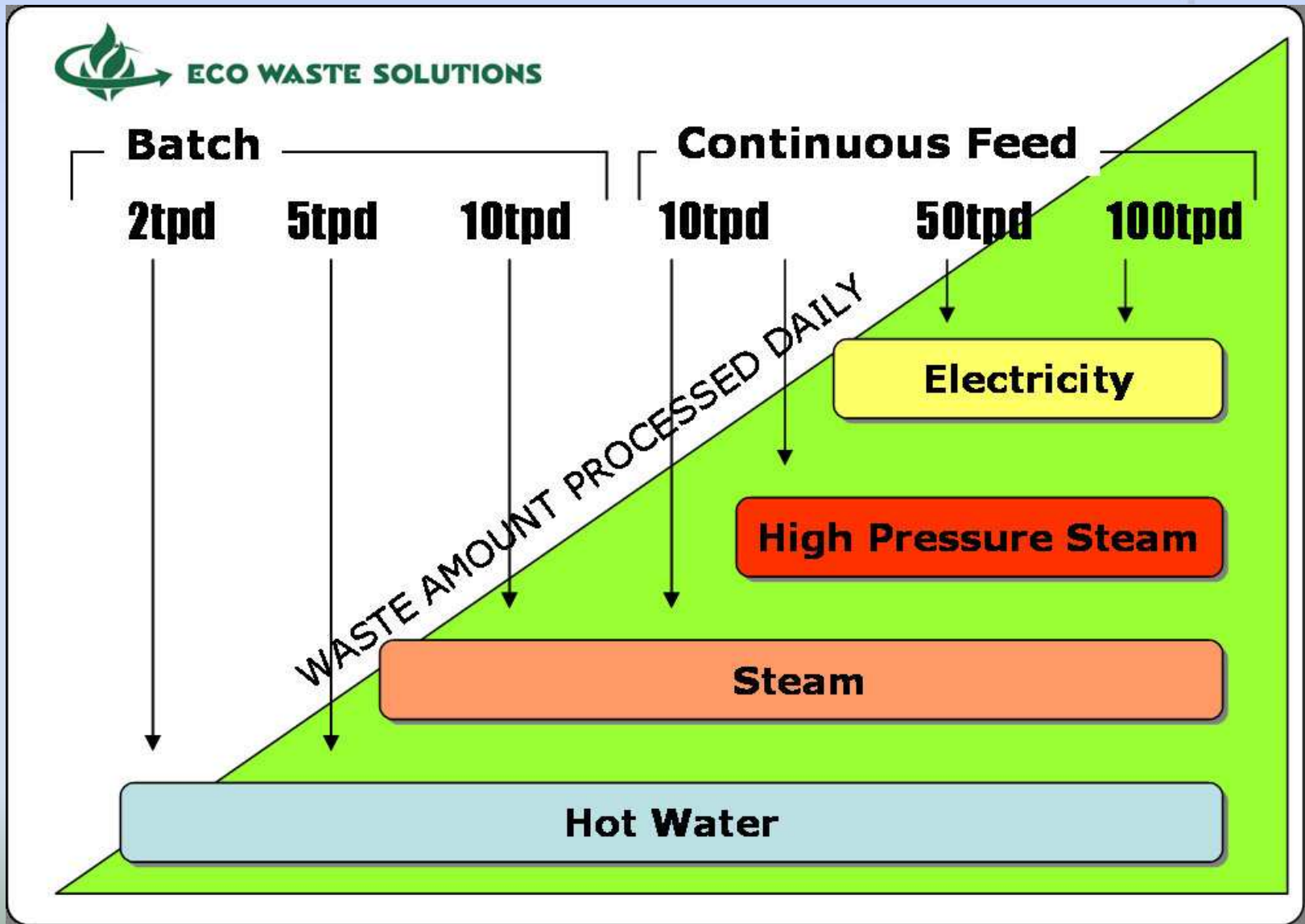
Gasification  
(Complex)

- Products Produced

- Thermal Heat
- Combined Heat and Power (CHP)
  - Electricity for Operations (<1 to 10+ MW)
  - Heating / Hot Water / Cooling
- Syngas / Pyrolysis Oils / Liquid Fuels



# Thermal or Electrical Energy



# Residential Wood Gasification Boilers



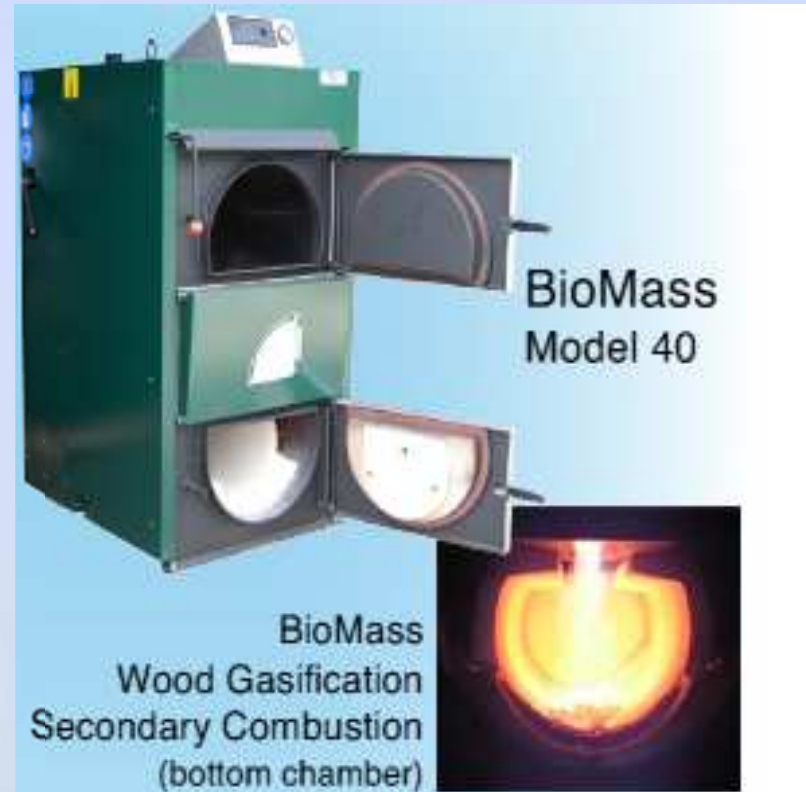
# Multi-Fuel Boilers (Wood / Oil / Coal)



Courtesy: Alternate Heating  
(E100 WoodGun)



Courtesy: ATMOS (DC 18 SPL,  
DC 25 SPL, DC 32 SPL)



Courtesy: Biomass NExtGen

# Community-Scale Gasifiers



## GARN WHS-1000 • PERFORMANCE and SPECIFICATIONS

Maximum Heat Output (with 20% MC Oak).....	180,000 (BTU/H)
Tested Efficiency (LHV) (using 20% MC Oak).....	80.0%
Gallons of Storage.....	980 Gallons
BTUs Stored (based on 65° F temperature rise).....	540,000 BTUs
Weight [Empty] • [Full] .....	2,200 lbs • 8,150 lbs
Recommended Wood Dimensions.....	16" - 20" long • 3"-10" diameter
Combustion Chamber Dimensions.....	36" long • 24" diameter
Pipe Connections.....	1.5" NPT Supply • 1" NPT Return
Induced Draft Fan.....	1/2 Horsepower (115vac, 15amp)
Flue.....	6" Duratech Class A
Off-peak Electric Backup (Optional).....	Up to 33kw [5.5KW elements]
Solar Storage Connections.....	Optional



# Hybrid Gasification



# Hybrid Gasification

## Pro's

- Accepts plastic and contaminants
- Higher efficiency over combustion

## Con's

- Higher CapEx \$10MM +
- Minimum size ~ 2MW CHP
- More complex





The photos below depict 4,000 lbs of unsorted MSW before and after processing:



Courtesy: Eco Waste Solutions

# Drivers for Bioenergy & Waste to Energy

## Energy, Savings & Jobs

- Electricity in remote locations >> \$\$\$ (Kotzebue – 42 ¢ / kWh)
- Diesel Prices - \$6 to \$10 / gallon
- Landfills >> High operation costs & tipping fees
- SE AK – secondary growth markets

## Secure Power and Landfill/Waste Diversion

- Local, Base load Power
- Recycling, Landfill diversion, value-added byproducts
- Job Creation & “Economic Clusters”
- Funding Sources Available

## Take Home Message!

- Bioenergy / WtE are proven technologies
- Bioenergy / WtE uses **local** waste **resources**
- Systematic Evaluation process is required  
One size does not fit all...

Bioenergy / WtE can work in many rural towns ! !

Thank you!



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