

Status of State Legislation on Conversion Technologies for Municipal Solid Waste

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Conversion Technologies

- CIWMB investigating CTs since 2000
- Conducted forums and workshops
- Funded research and lifecycle analyses
- Participating on interagency groups

Conversion Technology Legislation

- AB 2770 – Statutes of 2002
 - Allocated \$1.5 million for technical review and lifecycle analyses
 - Prepare and submit report to Legislature
 - Report to Legislature finalized and submitted to Cal/EPA

Conversion Technology Legislation

AB 1090

- Introduced in early 2005
- Revise waste management hierarchy to include “recovery through recycling, ... conversion technology, or other beneficial use technologies”
- Defined conversion technology
 - Noncombustion thermal, chemical, or biological process of solid waste
 - Would not include anaerobic digestion or incineration
- Repeal gasification definition
- Would have allowed diversion credit

AB 1090

- Stalled for most of 2005
- Assembly Natural Resources Committee hearing held November 16, 2005
- Bill amended drastically

AB 1090 - Revised

- No diversion credit
- Repeal gasification definition
- Define conversion technology
- Define conversion technology as solid waste facility
- Amend compost definition to include anaerobic digestion
- Amend transformation definition to mean incineration of solid waste

AB 1090 - Revised

- Assembly Natural Resources Committee meeting – January 9, 2006
- Bill pulled by author
- New bill will be introduced within next few weeks
- Deadline for new bills: February 23rd
- Outstanding Issue to be resolved: Siting

STAY TUNED

Observations

- Technological advances outpacing policy changes
- One agency's goal may be hampered by another agency's policy
- Governor's Initiatives may be hampered by agency policies
- Bioenergy Interagency Working Group is vital

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