Demonstrating the Potential for On-Site Electricity Generation From Food Waste Using Containerized Anaerobic Digestion Units

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BACKGROUND

Forty percent of food is lost or wasted across the food system life cycle and most goes to the landfill (Gunders, 2012).

- Landfills release methane gas, a potent greenhouse gas (GHG), into the atmosphere as food waste degrades
- Anaerobic digestion (AD) is an alternative to landfill disposal—it can treat food waste and produce electricity, heat, and fertilizer
- Hauling food waste to centralized landfills and centralized AD systems generates GHGs from the transportation
- Decentralized AD systems may reduce environmental and economic impact compared to conventional AD systems



Figure 1. System and scale of proposed AD technology relative to large-scale, centralized AD

GOALS

Increase the deployment of cost-effective, smallscale AD systems to reduce environmental impact.

Objectives:

- Install and operate innovative, AD solution to process food waste
- Monitor and enhance pilot AD system performance
- Evaluate technology benefits
- Outreach and knowledge transfer

RESULTS



Figure 2a. Small-scale containerized AD unit. This image shows 5 digesters, 1 gasholder, a mouth unit, command unit, and a CHP unit.



Figure 2b. CHP Unit

Containerized AD units installed at cold storage facility owned by Lineage Logistics in Oxnard, CA.

System capability:

- Treat up to 6,700 lbs/day (min. 70% food waste)
- 64 kW combined heat and power (CHP) system generates
- 479.5 MWh/year electricity
- 27,740 therms of heat energy

PROJECT BENEFITS

Deployment Scenarios	Electricity Savings (MWh/year)	Cost Savings (\$/year)	Demand Reduction (MW)	GHG Emissions Reduction - CO ₂ e (M metric tons/year)
1% Market Penetration	35,370	\$5.38M	450	9,967
50% Market Penetration	1,768,500	\$269M	22,500	498,365
100% Market Penetration	3,537,000	\$538M	45,000	996,730

Table 1. Estimated cost and emissions benefits to ratepayer from electricity savings achieved by small-scale AD systems (SCE, 2013). 1% market share represents 5400 homes in California.



Figure 3. Food waste collected from local enterprises, including grocery stores, restaurants, and cafeterias. Food waste collected is considered non-recoverable for human consumption. Proposed project area of less than 7 mile radius includes severely disadvantaged communities.

Levelized Cost of Energy (LCOE)

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Figure 4. Levelized cost of energy scenarios for small-scale AD-CHP systems for food waste. Baseline represents current food waste-based systems, Pilot represents current small-scale AD-CHP technology, COMM includes commercialization efficiencies from scaling technology production, ITC represents the Federal Investment Tax Credit, and SGIP represents California's Self Generation Incentive Program.



DISCUSSION

The current LCOE for the small-scale AD system is \$471/MWH. After increased commercialization efficiency and financial incentives, the LCOE becomes competitive at \$180/MWH. Additionally, based on electricity savings alone, this system can generate up to \$538M cost savings and 996,730 M metric tons CO₂e GHG emission savings each year.

CONCLUSIONS

Decentralized, small-scale AD systems have the potential to produce positive local benefits from the "low-value" food waste stream. These systems can jointly optimize waste management and renewable electricity, heat, and fertilizer production for local California communities and additionally lead to cost savings for ratepayers.

As this system becomes more widely adopted, the levelized cost of energy will become economically competitive with existing technology in the market with some investment in scaling the production and installation. This technology may also provide additional environmental benefits, including reduced GHG emissions.

REFERENCES

SPONSORS

California Energy Commission

In collaboration with **Biodico Sustainable Biorefineries**

- SEaB Energy



Gunders, D. (2012). Wasted: How America Is Losing Up to 40 Percent of Its Food from Farm to Fork to Landfill. Washington, DC. SCE electricity pricing forecast, 2017 commercial estimate: http://www. energyca.gov/2013_energypolicy/documents/demand-forecast/mid_case/

• U.S. Naval Base Ventura County.

Estimating Groundwater Extraction with Electricity Data

OBJECTIVES

This study tests the feasibility of using the Efficiency Lift Method (ELM) to estimate groundwater extractions to estimate groundwater withdrawals from both individual wells and from collections of wells over a large spatial area, and identifies the best data sources available to perform this estimate.

BACKGROUND

Agricultural water use is believed to be the leading cause of groundwater overdraft in California, but regulators are currently unable to estimate groundwater extraction and develop water budgets due to lack of installed flow meters. Previous studies have identified a relationship between pump energy consumption and groundwater extraction, and have shown that the ELM can produce reliable estimates of groundwater extraction when given reliable data. The ELM (see *Figure 1*) estimates water volume extractions based on the relationship between pump energy consumption, overall pump efficiency, and the total dynamic head (TDH) of the pump system (see Figure 2). Recent advancements in the availability of data required by this method have made the ELM a viable approach to large-scale extraction estimation.



Figure 1. The Efficiency Lift Method (ELM) and their data sources



Figure 2. Components of Total Dynamic Head (TDH), represented by a cross-section of an agricultural well

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MATCHING DATA NEEDS TO SOURCES

Energy data available from energy utilities



California Energy Data Request Program (EDRP) Established by 2014 CPUC Decision

Pump efficiency and TDH have many sources



Pump Test Reports Results of one-time tests include pump efficiency

and TDH



CASGEM Well Monitoring Data

Spatial dataset of test wells allows us to estimate depth to groundwater at any location and any point in time



Drawdown can be estimated based on pumping

The Theis Equation

operations and aquifer characteristics



Regional Averages

Regional averages developed from farmer surveys provide rough estimates of pump efficiency and TDH



Figure 3. Five Data Scenarios created using the pump efficiency and TDH data sources



ELM ACCURACY v. DATA SCENARIOS

Specific datasets provide best accuracy for individual wells The individual pump test scenario produced the lowest error, 13.5% on average, when estimating individual well groundwater extraction for each month (see Figure 5)

Aggregating annual estimates significantly improves accuracy Annual estimates are more accurate than monthly estimates for all Data Scenarios, and reduce the error to 5% on average for the Individual Tests scenario (see Figures 4 and 5).



Figure 4. Estimated versus measured water use per well per month (left) compared to per well per year (right) for the Individual Tests approach.

Individual pump tests are not needed when estimating extractions from a collection of wells

The "Averaged Tests" scenario produced the lowest error for a collection of wells at 3.3%, compared to a 5.5% error for the "Individual Tests" scenario.



Figure 5. Average error rates on three scales for each Data Scenario. The *lowest error rate for each scale is highlighted.*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Center for Water-Energy Efficiency

Investigating the Spatial Distribution of Food Waste in Los Angeles County: A Critical Cartographic Approach

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OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this study is to develop a methodology to spatially refine 2014 California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) waste characterization data and update it to 2017

BACKGROUND

This research is part of a larger study that aims to develop a strategy for efficient deployment of anaerobic digester (AD) facilities at various scales using the spatial distribution of food waste (FW) generated in California.

- California Senate Bill (SB) 1383 calls for diverting 75% of organic waste from landfills by 2030 as part of a larger mandate to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions
- Anaerobic digesters are used throughout California to convert FW into biogas, substantially reducing GHG emissions however, more will be needed to handle the increased FW diversions due to SB 1383.
- Small-scale, containerized digesters are an option to treat FW from localized sources, reducing GHG emissions associated with FW transport to regional treatment facilities.
- Utilizing waste production data from the 2014 CalRecycle Statewide Waste Characterization Study, spatial variation in FW generation can be estimated to determine optimal anaerobic digestor locations.

CalRecycle data uses employee counts from incorporated Cities to estimate FW data, aggregating all unincorporated areas. By using employee counts from Cities and Census Designated Places (CDPs), the spatial distribution of FW production can be more accurately modeled.





Figure 2. Incorporated Cities with Census Designated Places (CDPs)

Figure 1. CalRecycle incorporated Cities with aggregated unincorporated areas

METHODS

The methods used in this study are adapted from the 2014 CalRecycle Generator Based Waste Characterization Study (WCS).

• The WCS calculated Tons Per Employee Per Year (**TPEPY**) value for FW generation

Two datasets from California Employment Development Department (CalEDD), along with CalRecycle TPEPY values, are used to estimate FW generation in CDPs within Los Angeles County unincorporated areas.

Using the following equation, food waste for each industry group in each CDP can be calculated

Employment Inds. Group_x * Employment CDP_y * TPEPY Total LA Co Employment







Figure 3. Restaurant FW generation using CalRecycle data

For confidentiality, CalRecycle suppresses some data, therefore some jurisdictions have 0 FW generated, using CalEDD data fills those gaps.

CalRecycle aggregates unincorporated areas in its data, overrepresenting FW generation in natural resource and other less inhabited areas



CalRecycle is a valuable resource for waste management data however, more spatially refined data is needed.

Using CalEDD data and CalRecycle methodology, more spatially refined data can be generated.

Spatially fine FW data is needed to determine optimal locations and appropriate scale for AD facilities throughout California.

MOVING FORWARD

The next step is to determine locations for AD systems based on FW generation.

By utilizing actual FW generation rates, AD capacity, and transportation routes, an AD strategy can be developed that maximizes coverage and minimizes AD deployment

Figure 4. Restaurant FW generation using CalEDD data

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- California Employment Development Department, Labor Cities and Census Designated Places (CDP) . 2015.
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

California Energy Commission





potential AD system locations

2014 Generator-Based Characterization of Commercial Sector

Market Information Division. Monthly Labor Force Data for

Market Information Division. Los Angeles Long Beach Glendale

Reducing Electricity Grid Imbalances through Energy Demand Management of Water Delivery Infrastructure

ABSTRACT

The feasibility of a water supply utility to perform energy load shifting into periods of energy imbalance on California's statewide energy grid was investigated for the reclaimed water distribution system operated by the Moulton Niguel Water District (MNWD) using an offline hydraulic model. The energy generation, curtailment, and greenhouse gas (GHG) emission trends of California's statewide energy grid operated by the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) were investigated to determine the key time periods to target with energy load shifting. The offline simulation demonstrated that it is possible for water delivery utilities to shift energy loads to address statewide energy imbalances.

INTRODUCTION

As energy sources in California have shifted towards solar and wind power, short-term intermittent changes to energy production are leading to an imbalance between energy supply and demand. Energy imbalance is currently managed with the practice of *curtailment*, where the CAISO sells excess electricity at modified production costs (Figure 1). Overgeneration, which occurs when excess electricity is not completely consumed or curtailed, has the undesirable potential to reduce the reliability of electricity supply. One way to reduce the impact of overgeneration is to shift energy consumption to eliminate energy imbalance (Jan Paul Action, 1983).

This "load shifting" approach, referred to in the energy sector as Demand Management, presents a unique challenge in the case of California's energyintensive water system which accounts for nearly 20% of the state's electricity use, with pumping for water distribution, supply, and conveyance alone representing nearly 5%. If water utilities had the tools and knowledge to shift energy consumption into periods of renewable energy generation, they might be able to reduce their GHG emission and simultaneously reduce the energy imbalance in the statewide energy grid.

SPONSORS

California Energy Commission Moulton Niguel Water District

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METHODS



by CAISO from Janunary 2015 to September 2017 at all participating generating units. Data Source: California Independent System Operator (Price, 2017)

Offline Energy Load Shifting. Leveraging a hydraulic water distribution model developed to accurately simulate the reclaimed water system operated by the MNWD, potential control and operating schemes of system elements, including pumps and valves, were simulated. By utilizing optimization procedures within the hydraulic modeling software, energy load shifting was simulated by replacing the existing cost of purchasing electricity at MNWD with similar-cost energy rates which promoted energy consumption at new time periods. These optimizations were repeated under new water customer demand profiles (Shifted Demands) to simulate the impact of water demand shifting on the success of energy load shifting.



shifting.



Energy load shifting for water delivery infrastructure is plausible and can produce short payback periods which reduce operating costs for a water utility. However, significant concerns relating to the repeatability and complexity of optimized operating schemes indicate the need for future research into both the technology and methodology. The results of this study suggest that rulesbased operating configurations developed from groups of optimized operating schema may be a fruitful direction of research to achieve this multi-objective challenge.

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Water Energy Nexus in Informal Water Systems

Transportation

CASE STUDY: INFORMAL WATER SYSTEMS IN LEBANON

Alternative water sources:

The Lebanese water system: between formal and informal

CONCLUSION

Informality is everywhere! Daily power outages -> private generator that provides electricity to households.

Further Research

Beirut, the capital, suffers from 3 hours of power outages per day -> Households' water activities use approximately 12.5% of electricity from private generators

Water Trucks

Wells

Bottled Water

INFORMAL WATER-ENERGY NEXUS IMPACTS

Energy from Trucks and on-site Pumps

Diesel Oil consumption and CO₂ Emissions

What about the correlation between informal energy systems and water use?

California's urban water conservation mandate delivers bonus energy and greenhouse gas savings

STUDY OVERVIEW

In April 2015, the Governor of California mandated a 25 percent statewide reduction in water consumption (relative to 2013 levels) by the more than 400 urban water utilities in California. The UC Davis Center for Water-Energy Efficiency analyzed the water use data reported by the utilities to the State Water Resources Control Board during the 12-month mandate and assessed the resulting electricity and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions associated with reduced urban water infrastructure operations.

The results show that the State succeeded in reducing water use by a total of 24.5% relative to the 2013 baseline. The total electricity savings linked to water conservation are approximately 11% greater than the savings achieved by the investor-owned electricity utilities' (IOU) efficiency programs for roughly the same time period, and the GHG savings represent the equivalent of taking ~111,000 cars off the road for a year.

ENERGY SAVINGS FROM WATER CONSERVATION

Energy savings from reduced water use was estimated utilizing two different energy intensity metrics (the energy required to deliver a unit of water to the end-user) for the water supply portfolios associated with the ten hydrologic regions of California, "Total" and "IOU" (Figure 1, (b) and (c)). Total energy intensity refers to the total electricity consumption utilized for water sourcing and delivery, regardless of the electricity generating institution. **IOU energy intensity** refers only to the electricity consumed by the water infrastructure that was generated by an investor-owned utility. This is a critical distinction because of the over \$1 billion available annually for IOU allocated energy efficiency programs (per California Public Utility Commission policy) which is a potential funding source of water-energy conservation programs.

TAKE AWAY

The cost of achieving integrated water-energy-GHG savings through water conservation are shown to be cost competitive to existing programs that specifically target electricity or GHG reductions. These results support including direct water conservation in the portfolio of program and technology options for IOU energy efficiency programs and the GHG Revolving Fund. Furthermore, the results reveal a strong incentive for water and energy utilities to partner on opportunities for combined resource savings at a shared cost; and, for the associated regulatory agencies to support these partnerships through aligned policy measures and targeted funding initiatives.

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Figure 2. Reported monthly water deliveries (June 2015 -May 2016) relative to 2013 baseline values

Figure 3. Observed water savings - 24.5% reduction from the baseline (a), estimated IOU electricity savings (b), and estimated total electricity savings (c) achieved over the duration of California's urban water conservation mandate

Figure 4. Electricity savings from IOU EE programs (July 2015 – June 2016) by end-use category vs. estimated electricity savings (IOU and total) from statewide water conservation (June 2015 – May 2016)

Res: Whole Home Retr CI: MUSH & G Res: Behavior Feedback (HERs). Water Conservation: Res: New Constru Water Conservation: 3.9–v Nater Conservation: 3.9–vea

Table 1. Total GHG Emissions Savings by Hydrologic Region.

Hydrologic Region	MT CO ₂ e Saved		
Central Coast	10,210		
Colorado River	4,870		
North Coast	1,310		
North Lahontan	380		
Sacramento River	15,510		
San Francisco Bay	50,400		
San Joaquin	9,160		
South Coast	401,790		
South Lahontan	12,430		
Tulare Lake	15,810		

Water-Energy Grant Prog Water Conservatio Clean Vehicle Re State Water Efficiency and Enhancement F

Frank Loge, Principal Investigator • Erin Musabandesu and Gregory Miller, Graduate Student Researchers

Project Purpose

To enable energy demand response in the water sector through technological advancement.

Why the Water Sector?

- Water infrastructure accounts for 7% of energy use in California. In 2017, it was estimated that water distribution systems used roughly 1,150 GWh of energy.
- Water systems typically operate with coinciding water and energy demands. However, water systems have potential for energy demand flexibility.

Breakdown of statewide electricity use in California.

Innovative Solution

This project will:

- Develop an Energy Demand Management System (EDMS) that enables water utilities to participate in energy load shifting to respond to various energy rate programs
- Pilot the EDMS to optimize energy while continuing to meet customer demands for the Moulton Niguel Water District (MNWD) drinking and recycled water systems which serves over 170,000 customers in Southern California

Water system energy loads can be shifted with modified water storage and pumping operations.

Advancing Demand Response in the Water Sector

Energy Demand Management System

The proposed EDMS provides forecasted operating

recommendations based on a selected energy rate programs by utilizing: real time and historical water system operation data, a hydraulic simulation model, optimization algorithms, operation analytics, and energy rate program data. The EDMS will be produced as an open source software and released to the public with widespread outreach activities.

EDMS Software Architecture Overview

An EDMS user interface will allow water utilities to visualize how forecasted operations compare to real operations – with recommended adjustments to optimize energy demand and costs.

Example prototype of the EDMS graphical user interface.

Preliminary Results

A preliminary analysis of the MNWD water systems' energy demand flexibility was conducted by optimizing operations to the average hourly 2017 California Independent System Operator wholesale electric pricing.

Energy-Cost Optimization Simulations for the Drinking Water and Recycled Water Systems produced reductions to peak energy demand and total energy usage. The Drinking Water System shifted the majority of energy usage to periods of reduced greenhouse gas emission factors.

The drinking water system shows greater energy load shifting flexibility and energy efficiency potential, but is much less energy intensive than the recycled water system.

Optimized Scenario	Drinking	Recycled
Energy reduction	39%	34%
Emissions reduction	42 %	36%
Emissions reduction from efficiency	92%	96%
Emissions reduction from load shifting	8%	4%

Energy-Cost Optimizations Results Summary

Statewide Impacts/Path Forward

Analysis will identify grid benefits that would be realized if the EDMS is scaled statewide. It has the potential to:

- **Balance** current **oversupply** of renewable energy
- Reduce statewide electricity use over 400 GWh/yr
- Help integrate new electric vehicle charging loads without adding distribution capacity

UC Davis will partner with a water trade organization who will help develop and support an EDMS Water Utility user group to encourage statewide adoption.

Project Objective

Quantify the potential water and energy savings by utilizing an onsite reverse osmosis (RO) treatment system to recycle and reuse water at Jackson Family Wines (JFW).

Technology Demonstration

The Vibratory Shear Enhanced Process (VSEP) technology will be used to treat barrel wash wastewater for onsite reuse. This project is unique in the following ways:

- **VSEP treats its own reject stream**, resulting in higher water recoveries (up to 90%) than conventional systems
- This will be the first application of a vibratory RO membrane and the first demonstrated reuse of nonpotable water for indoor processing at a winery

VSEP water recycling technology demonstration at the winery

Barrel washing line at the winery

Why a Winery?

- California is a global leader in wine production
- The JFW facility in Sonoma County accounts for 2% of the wine production in California

Energy and Water Savings from Onsite Water Reuse in the Wine Industry

Frank Loge, Principal Investigator • Amanda Rupiper, Graduate Student Researcher

Winery Water-Energy Life Cycle

Every step of the water life cycle at the winery consumes energy. When water is reused, many of the associated energy requirements are in turn eliminated.

Existing Life Cycle:

Energy is consumed through every step of the existing water and wastewater systems.

Proposed Reuse Life Cycle: Recycling and reuse eliminates the energy requirements of the existing water and

wastewater systems.

Energy Intensity

Energy Intensity (EI) is the energy required to deliver and treat a unit of water onsite.

Energy intensity of the individual water and wastewater systems at the winery

The wastewater system has a high EI. The recycled water configuration can treat up to 90% of the wastewater and only utilizes 25% of the energy needed for the wastewater system.

	Existing Conditions	Post Water Recycling	% Difference
Freshwater Use (GPY)	1.6M	160K	90%
Energy Use (kWh/y)	67K	25K	63%

Water and energy reductions as a result of onsite water recycling

Recycle & Reuse System Distribution VSEP Treatment

Existing Water Life Cycle

End Use Treatment Conveyance Irrigation

Onsite We

290 000

Extraction

6

Treatment

Projected Resource Savings

1.5MG of water per year are utilized for barrel washing alone. Using VSEP to recycle 90% of that water would result in a facility-wide reduction of potable water demands by 6.6%.

Facility-wide projected savings

The Path Forward for California

The success of this project will **open a path** to onsite reuse for other progressive industries by demonstrating the potential benefits and safety

of these systems to regulators, businesses, and consumers. Water intensive industries in California can reduce **fresh water** consumption while also reducing energy use and in turn, reducing GHG generation. For

the wine industry alone,

Resource consumption of the California wine industry

uptake of onsite technologies could result in annual water savings of up to **3.6 billion gallons**.