

ENERGY FROM WASTE SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT

NOTES FROM THE DUBBO STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP

Held: Tuesday 24 September 2002

Time: 9.00 am until 12.00 pm

Venue: : Oxley Room, Dubbo Civic Centre
Darling Street, Dubbo

For more information on the Energy from Waste Sustainability Project please visit the project website:

www.wmaa.asn.au/efw/home.html

Or contact the Project Manager,
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This project is an initiative of the:

***Energy from Waste Division of the
WASTE MANAGEMENT
ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA***

*Commonwealth Government funding through the
Australian Greenhouse Office supports this project.*



Introduction

There are a number of issues and concerns associated with energy from waste projects. On the positive side, recovering energy from waste can generate renewable electricity, reduce the amount of waste disposed of to landfill and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. However, there are also potential negative environmental and human health effects associated with energy from waste projects.

The Energy from Waste Division of the Waste Management Association of Australia, with assistance from Commonwealth funding through the Australian Greenhouse Office, initiated the process of developing a Sustainability Guide to resolve these issues. Part of this process was a national series of eleven stakeholder workshops.

The purpose of the stakeholder workshops was to ensure that all of the positive and negative factors associated with Energy from Waste (EfW) projects were identified and then incorporated and resolved within a Sustainability Guide for EfW. It is intended that the Guide will be used to ensure that Energy from Waste projects maximise benefits and minimise negative impacts in a way that supports the sustainable development of Australian society.

Below are the issues that were identified at the Dubbo Stakeholder Workshop. These issues will be integrated into a final report, representing all of the issues raised by workshop participants at this and the other ten national workshops.

The issues identified at the workshop will be used as a “yardstick” against which the Sustainability Guide will be measured, both to ensure that all issues have been addressed in the Guide, and to ensure that the philosophical basis of the Guide is correct.

Round Table Discussion

There were 9 participants at the Dubbo Stakeholder Workshop. (A participant list is included as Appendix 1). Participants were seated around one table to discuss issues related to Energy from Waste. The summary of the discussion was recorded onto over-head transparencies and is presented below exactly as scribed.

A catalogue of issues recorded by participants onto flash-cards is included as Appendix 2. These issues are also presented exactly as scribed. The colour of the flash-cards was used to differentiate between tables at different workshop locations.

Blue Table

MARKETABILITY/COMMUNITY PERCEPTION

- Public consultation re site
- Inform community to enable decision making process
- Educate waste generators

LOCAL GOVT. WASTE STRATEGIES

- Consistent/co-operative approach
- Must be commercially viable

INFRASTRUCTURE

- Transport/collection
- Siting of processing plant.

GOVERNMENT POLICY DIRECTION

- Need for consistency
- Uniformity
- Regulatory framework
- Time and cost of development application process

SUITING PROCESS TO APPLICATION

- triple bottom line
- no 'waste' to deal with appropriate local solutions.

COMMERCIAL VIABILITY

- high capital cost
- low landfill cost
- need for tax incentives
- need for markets

HAZARDS

- atmospheric emissions
- Contaminated feed.

WASTE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

- Integrate waste/resource handling
- Mentality change (away from waste disposal)
- \$\$ value determination – drivers?
- Best use of waste – determinants?
- What are project drivers.
- Product stewardship by industry.

CO-GENERATION OPPORTUNITIES

- Heat extraction

WASTE AVOIDANCE (electricity)

- Embedded generation

SECURITY OF FEEDSTOCK

- Long term contracts (locks up resources)
- May still innovation OP's.

ALTERNATIVE USES OF ORGANICS

- Soil amendment

Results of Citizen’s Jury

Table	Strongly No EfW has no role to play in any form	Contingent EfW has a role to play but that role is determined on case by case issues	Strongly Yes EfW always has a role to play in any form
Blue	0	2	4
Totals	0	2	4

General comments from the tables regarding energy from wasteBlue Table

- Issue of timing and cheap cost of energy in Australia.(also Australia supporting reliance on coal from global perspective through exports)
- Emissions from uncontrolled and controlled bush fires.
- Need whole of govt. leadership

Appendix 1 – Dubbo Workshop Participants

<i>Name</i>	<i>Organisation</i>
Richard Beach	NSW Dept State and Regional Development
Andrew Brownlow	Terra Consulting
Steve Clayton	Dubbo City Council
John Davis	Live Earth Resource Management
Peter English	ODEC
Mark Glover	Renewed Fuels P/L & Chairman of the Energy from Waste Division
Allan Pilcher	Country Energy
Kevin Sweeney	Country Energy
Matthew Warnken	Warnken I.S.E. P/L - Project Manager and Workshop Facilitator

Appendix 2 – Catalogue of Issues Identified at the Dubbo Workshop

Note: 'xxx' implies that it was not possible to read a word/words on a submitted card, the superscript is for archival reasons to assist the workshop organisers

Blue Table

- Linkage to govt. policy on energy procurement. – contestable market drivers.
- Approvals process – cost and time process
- Capability of Consent Authority
- RE Industry in its infancy, approach is clumsy, lack of developer experience causes EIS/Approvals process.
- Front end process – educate public and consent authorities.
- Ill informed agencies and xxx⁵ plus wandering agencies
- General lack of knowledge/confidence by consent authorities.
- Government Agency Positions
- Need legislative documentation to MAKE alternate fuel the same as green power type requirements.
- The large mainstream providers (eg. Fuel companies) do not want these type of projects to proceed. They have the money and the political connections to often impede any developments of this type.
- Suiting Process to Application
- One size/type of plants takes all waste with calorific value. No residual 'calorific' waste to deal with.
- Best – Triple Bottom Line Process to each dev. application.
- Combustion vs. Anaerobic Digestion
- Site Selection
- EfW Project must have local/regional relevance/benefit.
 - (Regional areas aversion to supporting subsidising projects aimed at dealing with ESD issues created by highly populated areas)

- Commercial Viability
 - Capital Cost high
 - Low landfill costs
 - Tax Incentives
 - Green Markets (MRET)
- Approvals
- Green Market (MRET,NGAC)
- Capital cost / IRR. < NPV – too risk averse
- Most of these projects are very capital hungry, this level of venture capital with an often low margin or ROI and an associated or perceived high level of risk makes it extremely hard to secure the finance for the project.
- No cost incentive to avoid landfilling in regional areas.
- Ongoing comprehensive tax concessions/incentives need to be introduced for business/organisations who supply/process waste in the EfW cycle.
- Marketability/Community Perception
- Lack of consumer knowledge/education can cause development application problems.
- Be honest – don't hide any negative aspects, they need to be addressed, be open and honest.
- Lousy consultation of community stakeholder level.
- Community Education
 - The need to inform and educate those that generate waste, about which 'waste' types have highest energy value
 - what energy suppliers support that derive energy from waste.
- Marketing/Saleability is paramount for establishing a site in a community.
 - In addition the "green" debate of using forestry waste. Lobbyists have to come on side with this project.
- Community Participations – Individual Applications
- Not In My Back Yard
 - Perception/Reality
- Change peoples and Councils' attitude to recycle. In Denmark, wind generators are a way of life for residents.

- Local Govt. waste strategies
 - Consistent co-operative approach across regions
 - Must be commercially viable.
- Cost Savings to Councils
- Regional Networks – collaboration opportunity
- Council MSW collection systems must be more viable. ie: the costs of segregated waste collection systems and transport must be less than the current collection/transport/disposal systems.
- Infrastructure
- Transport of waste inputs. Obviously siting plant close to waste sources.
- Big plant/ little plant approach to overcome transport issues in Regional Aust.
 - What about transportable plant?
- Collection/Transport of “resource”
- Cost of transport in getting raw waste to the Facility. Must be centrally located to minimise GHG’s.
- Transport – impact on local infrastructure
- Hazards
 - Atmospheric emission
 - Contamination
- Atmospheric emissions (NO₂)
- Contamination
 - Hazardous (cotton trash)
 - Treated timbers
- Waste Resource Mgmt
 - Integration of waste resources and handling
 - need to change mentality of waste disposal to landfill
 - how is dollar value determined. What are the drivers.
 - Best waste use-determined by technology or by best use of waste
 - Who/what are the proj drivers

- How can you focus on the best use for the waste stream when the driver for the project is more often the technology or process owner?
 - Who should be the drivers of the project?
- Who determines highest value. Is this dollar driven.
- Managing waste stream production/mentality.
- Past waste hierarchy had avoidance at top (to landfill)
- Future is integration of materials resources/handling.
- Product stewardship, industry to help close the loop in reprocessing of
- Co-generation Opportunities
- Need to examine co-generation opportunities. Heat is usually considered waste and not utilised.
- Harnessing the cogeneration opportunities for extraction of heat from processes.
- Waste Avoidance (electricity)
- Network connection embedded gen. benefits esp. substation building may not see the proj. go ahead.
- Embedded generation.
 - Waste Avoidance in lost energy on long transmission lines.
- Security of Feedstock
 - Long term contracts
 - Locks up Resources
 - May stifle opportunities for innovations.
- Collaborative Business networks for the better good – ownership & trust
- What to do with wastes after energy production.
- By product from EfW process could have value to agriculture (soil conditioner)
- Security of feedstock
- Long-term contracts – locks up resources
- Alternative uses of organics
- Alternative uses for organics – soil ameliorant
- Government policy direction / Politics