

## Methane Emissions

Landfills & Sustainable Aviation Fuels

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CH<sub>4</sub> CONNECTIONS | October 2023

# Municipal Solid Waste Landfills



# Third largest source of anthropogenic methane in the U.S.<sup>1</sup>

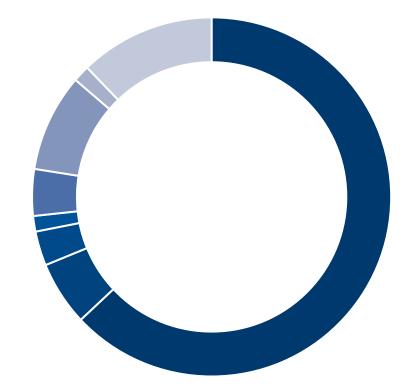
Typically, one million tons of landfill waste emit approximately 432,000 cubic feet of landfill gas per day

• Landfill gas is a combination of mostly methane, carbon dioxide, nitrogen, and hydrogen sulfide

Organic material is the feedstock for methane generation

- Over 60% of MSW landfills are organic material<sup>2</sup>
- Organic Waste:
  - Food Waste
  - Paper and Paperboard
  - Yard Trimmings
  - Woody materials





- Organic Waste
- Rubber and Leather
- Glass
- Other

- Textiles
- Misc. Inorganic Wastes
- Metals
- Plastics

# Regulatory Aspects of Landfill Methane Emissions



## **Growing Guidance**

August 2023 - U.S. EPA's Memorandum on Mitigating Climate Change Initiative, National Enforcement and Compliance Initiatives

 Addresses the climate impacts of methane from landfills and states the need for increased compliance requirements in the future

Regulations	EPA Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program	Compliance with RCRA Subtitle D
Applicability	if annual methane generation is ≥ 25,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO2e) GHGRP Subpart HH	Requirement that measured methane content near onsite structures < 25% of the lower explosive limit (LEL)
Required Actions	These emissions are quantified in a predefined function of the collected waste - Mass Balance Calculations - Emission Inventories annually reported to EPA	Must establish a program to periodically check for methane emissions and prevent off-site migration.  -Must collect and control landfill gas emissions -Purposing LFG for renewable fuel generation





- Emissions quantification at landfills is still a developing field given the high topographic variability common with landfills
- Recent research suggests that methane emissions from landfills are inaccurately reported<sup>4</sup>

### U.S. EPA 2024 Project, Understanding and Control of MSW Landfill Air Emissions

UC Berkely with GTI Energy

How can cost effective stationary, mobile, aerial, and remote sensing technologies be combined to:

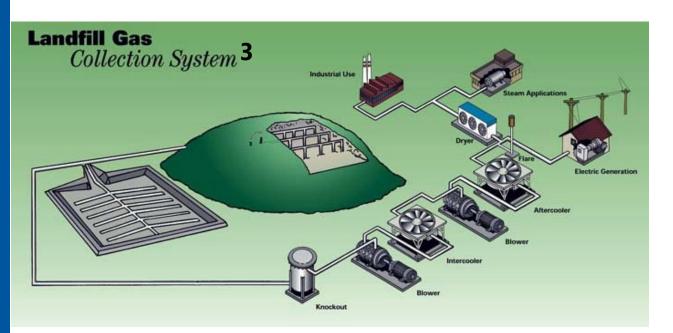
- more easily and accurately quantify landfill methane emissions
- increase ease of use and evaluate mitigation strategies and technologies to identify best landfill management practices
- GTI Energy will support this project by developing protocols for landfill methane measurement and quantification

# Emissions Control with Landfill Methane Recovery

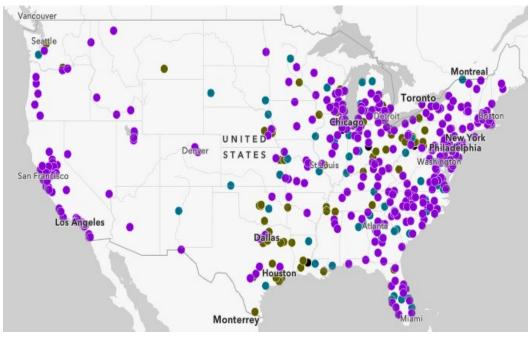


## July 2023

- 532 landfill gas collection projects in the U.S.
  - 310 Biogas to Electricity Projects
  - 73 Direct Use Projects (Thermal purposes)
  - 66 RNG LFG Projects
  - 103 Planned/ Under Construction



#### U.S. Landfill gas projects (EPA LMOP, 2023)



Electricity Direct Use RNG - pipeline injection RNG - local use

<sup>3</sup>Energy Engineering Journal 5 (2003)

## Landfill gas to Sustainable Aviation Fuels from MSW



While RNG from landfill gas is a developed market, emerging federal credits and industry interest to decarbonize have made SAF an end fuel of interest.

Sustainable aviation fuels: aviation fuels produced from renewable sources

SAFs can be produced from several types of waste

GTI Energy's Air Quality of Sustainable Aviation Fuels project (LCRI, 2023)

SAFs can improve air quality and reduce lifecycle GHG emissions

2021- United Airlines commitment to purchasing 1.5 billion gallons of SAF from Alder Fuels<sup>6</sup>

### SkyNRG- Landfill Off-gas To Ultra-low carbon intensity SAF<sup>7</sup>

Novel process to utilize landfill gas as a feedstock for SAF production

Methane emissions are being presently addressed with improvements to quantification and reduced with renewable fuels.

# GTI ENERGY

## Thanks!

#### Sources:

1 EPA, 2023. Basic Information on Landfills. Basic Information about Landfill Gas | US EPA

2 EPA, 2023. National Overview: Facts and Figures on Materials, Wastes and Recycling. National Overview: Facts and Figures on Materials, Wastes and Recycling | US EPA

3 NY State. Important Things to Know About Landfill Gas, 2023. Important Things to Know About Landfill Gas (ny.gov)

4 National Academies of Sciences, 2018. <u>Improving Characterization of Anthropogenic Methane Emissions in the United States | The</u> **National Academies Press** 

5 Fact Sheet | Landfill Methane | White Papers | EESI

6 United, 2021. United to Become First in Aviation History to Fly Aircraft Full of Passengers Using 100% Sustainable Fuel - Dec 1, 2021. (mediaroom.com)

7 SKYNRG, 2021. Landfill Off-gas To Ultra-low carbon intensity SAF, 2396-1570 SkyNRG Americas Inc Summary.pdf (energy.gov)