

MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE TO ENERGY

Abstract

Growing India has a voracious appetite for energy. Energy demand and security issues are severed by environmental concerns due increasing carbon emissions led by burning of fossil fuels. Solid waste generation in the country is increasing over the years due to changing lifestyles and increasing consumerism resulting from rapid urbanization and economic growth posing environmental threat, impacting human health as well as the ecosystem. These twin concerns can be addressed simultaneously by exploring the possibility of converting municipal solid waste to energy.

This paper attempts to estimate the potential for electricity generation through Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) in 353 cities in India and also attempts to estimate the potential to avoid the GHG emission through MSW to energy conversion. The analysis emphasizes that waste to energy recovery can in principle be seen as a win-win strategy for addressing environmental as well as energy concerns.