Energy from Waste: Where are We, and Where are We Going?

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Environmental Concerns - Where are We?

• Controlling air pollution, reducing solid waste - reduces pollution, saves money
• Environmental tradeoffs – criteria pollutants, GHG - air quality and solid waste goals
• BUT - no trade-off between protection and economic growth
GDP, Energy, and Carbon “Decoupled”

Source: Energy in Context, 15 March 2015

VELCO Renewables Integration Case Study

Source: Dr. Chandu Visweswariah, IBM Smarter Energy Research Institute, 2017.
Where are We Going?

• Climate, air quality and energy goals
  Electrification – all economic sectors
• Waste to Energy will contribute
• Need a clean electric grid – criteria, toxic pollutants
  – Incinerators, IC engines, anaerobic digestion
Conclusions

• Energy – Environment inextricably linked
• Economic - Environmental Progress are not
• Energy changes Solid waste industry changes
• Environmental trade-offs merit discussion
• Exciting future ahead!
About RAP

The Regulatory Assistance Project (RAP) is a global, non-profit team of experts that focuses on the long-term economic and environmental sustainability of the power sector. RAP has deep expertise in regulatory and market policies that:

- Promote economic efficiency
- Protect the environment
- Ensure system reliability
- Allocate system benefits fairly among all consumers

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Exponentially Changing Technologies

Disruptive energy mega-trends

Renewables accounted for >50% of new WW electricity-generating capacity in 2015

Source: Dr. Chandu Visweswariah, IBM Smarter Energy Research Institute, 2017.