

an event by Waste360

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#### **Is your food waste recycling costing too much?** A new solution using waste water treatment capacity



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## Movement toward mandatory food waste recycling









## **Conventional wisdom:** "Food Waste Diversion = Composting"

# Open windrow composting is cheap and capacity does exist BUT...

- Capacity is quickly being filled
- Costs are rising (tipping fees routinely \$75-100/ton)
- New permits for (open windrow) composting difficult/unachievable in many markets
- Blending green waste w/food limits capacity and has significant operational issues







## **Existing options for food waste recycling**

### **Composting via CASP/IVC**

- High cost/ton
- Permitting issues
- Technical issues
- Lower ranking in 'Food Waste

Hierarchy'

Food waste dedicated Anaerobic Digestion (AD)

High investment and operational

costs

- Contamination/de-packaging issues
- Permitting issues







## 1200 WWTPs in US have AD units

- Currently 20% (240) of those plants co-digest food waste (largely FOG fats, oils, greases). Food waste capacity of ±10mm tons
- Other WWTPs with AD have +10mm tons of available capacity (plant capacity built to peak day demand wettest day)







## **Slow progress on co-digestion**

- WWTPs are liquid processing facilities, so don't want "raw" food waste that requires manual handling
- Food waste contamination levels are too high necessitating de-packaging
- WWTPs run to tight tolerances on chemistry & biology (e.g. COD, Sulphur, Salt, Nitrogen, Ph)



#### Need food waste feedstock to resemble FOG

- ✓ liquid
- $\checkmark$  high energy content
- $\checkmark$  low contamination
- ✓ easy to test for chemical/biological fit







## **Overview of Organic Waste Logistics (OWL) solution**



Collect. Recycle. Innovate.

## **BioWhale converts food waste into liquid BioSoup**



Food waste is macerated and partially hydrolized under vacuum, transforming into liquid 'BioSoup'





Tank is monitored online, and when full, quickly emptied via vacuum truck.







## Multiple ways of loading can be accommodated



No liners are needed when manually loading via easy-to-handle caddies.





Large bins/toters can be loaded using a variety of bin lifters

Customized external hopper can move waste from production to BioWhale







## Variety of sizes to suit customer needs

#### Compact



The Compact BioWhale has a small footprint, and can occupy space vacated by bins that are no longer required with the OWL System

#### Standard



Standard BioWhales can hold up to 13 tons and is generally used in hospitality locations

#### Large



The Large BioWhale can hold up to 26 tons and is generally used in food manufacturing locations.







## **Case Study #1 - Recycling at major UK shopping center**

#### **Customer Background:**

- Large number of restaurants (35+) generating in excess of 1.5 tons of unavoidable food waste/day
- Owner is committed to CSR and aiming for zero waste
- Previous experience with food segregation, but still utilising plastic liners
- Installed digesters, but removed in less than one year
- Installed OWL's system in 2017



Standard BioWhale with customized external hopper







## **Case Study #1 - Benefits to the customer**



- Increased food waste segregation, supporting 50% increase in food waste recovery
- General waste reduced significantly, as dry waste recycling increased.
- Food waste recycling costs reduced by one third.
- Overall cost of waste management significantly reduced.
- Food waste truck removals reduced from 300 to 30 /year.
- Improved safety and hygiene due to reduced handling requirements.
- Won highest award, Golden Green Apple (2018) for Environmental Best Practice.







## **Case Study #2 - Recycling to AD at food manufacturer**

#### **Customer Background:**

- Large meat products manufacturing plant in Midlands
- Daily food removals via skips
- Waste bins required refrigeration due to odour
- Under pressure from customers to improve hygiene issues
- Motivated to reduce high waste management costs
- Installed OWL's system in mid-2017







One of the UK's largest food manufacturing facilities



## **Case Study #2 - Benefits to the customer**



- Cost of food waste disposal reduced by over 50%
- Additional savings from elimination of the need to refrigerate food waste
- Further savings from sale of high-energy-yielding waste.
- Eliminated waste spillage and odours, resolving pest and vermin issues.
- Food waste truck removals reduced 365/year to 50/year.
- Customers pleased with response to hygiene issues.







## **Composting versus OWL – system cost comparison**

\$ per ton



\*At \$0/ton tipping fee at the WWTP







## **Co-Digestion Opportunity at WWTPs - California Example**

#### Food waste converted to R-CNG for Transportation:

- 1 ton food waste yields ±3.5 mmBtu biomethane
- 1 mmbtu methane worth ±\$4.00 at wholesale
- Food waste to R-CNG receives 11.2 RINs per mmBtu (EPA RFS2)
- RIN traded values are currently ±0.50 mmBtu
- California LCFS certificate is currently worth in excess of £15 mmBtu









## Conclusions

- Mandatory (commercial) food waste recycling will continue to grow while cheap open-windrow composting is quickly disappearing
- New composting (CASP and IVS) is expensive and difficult to permit
- There is significant co-digestion capacity at WWTPs and the economics of co-digestion are attractive
- Key to co-digestion is high quality feedstock
  - ✓ clean/contaminant free
  - ✓ liquid (send down FOG pipe)
  - ✓ high energy content

OWL system can provide WWTPs high quality food waste feedstock at a total system cost that is well below that of composting and new AD Plants









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