

Landfill Gas Upgrade Technologies – Transportation Applications

Tara Ramani, Texas Transportation Institute Roundtable Session on Gas End-Use Technologies Methane to Markets Partnership Expo March 5, 2010



- o Contains methane (CH₄); also a major component of natural gas
- o CH₄ is a greenhouse gas (GHG) with a high global warming potential
- Beneficial to capture and use LFG for landfill gas to energy (LFGTE) projects
- LFGTE examples electricity, piped natural gas, transportation fuel, etc.



Need to Upgrade LFG

o Typical LFG composition

- 50-55% Methane
- 40-45% CO₂
- Remaining H₂S, organic compounds, nitrogen, oxygen,etc.

 Need to upgrade LFG (remove impurities, improve energy density) for energy applications; particularly important for transportation fuel.



Upgrade Processes

o Upgrading/purifying LFG can be done by

- Adsorption methods
- Absorption methods
- Chilling processes
- Catalytic Processes



Conversion of LFG to Transportation Fuel

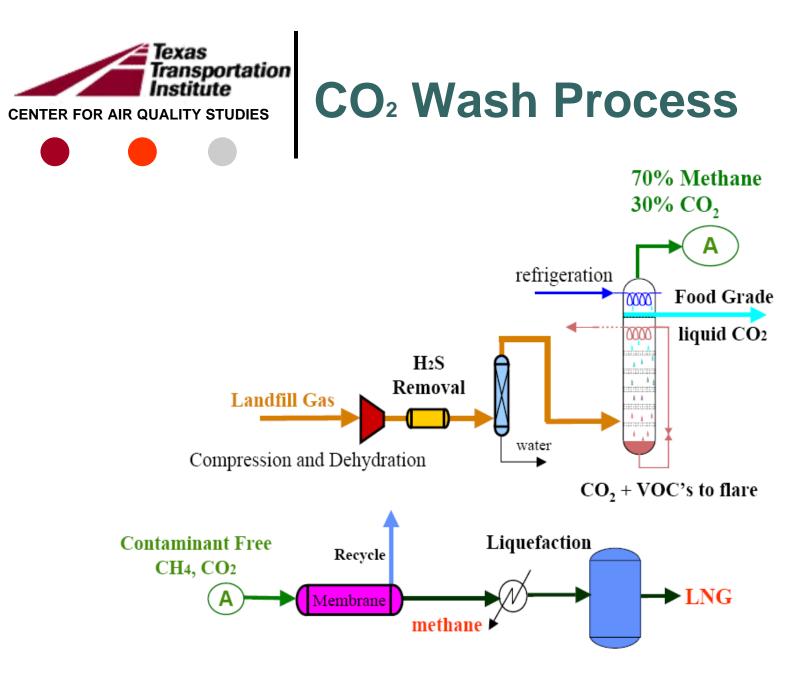
- o CO₂ Wash Process developed by Acrion Technologies
- Technique that converts LFG to highquality compressed natural gas (CNG) or liquefied natural gas (LNG) and food grade CO₂



CO₂ Wash Process

LFG is dried and compressed before entering vessel

Liquid CO₂ washes down contaminants, incinerated with landfill flare





CO₂ Wash Process

o Clean liquid CO₂ obtained

OCH₄, CO₂ mixture – purified to 99%
CH₄ through membrane separation

o Compressed and converted to either LNG or CNG



Texas Transportation Institute VALITY STUDIES CO2 Wash Processor at EcoComplex





LNG Fueling Station





o Burlington County Landfill (NJ)

 2004-2005 – fueled 2 dedicated natural gas refuse trucks in service

• Franklin County Landfill (OH)

- currently fuels smaller trucks
- plan to expand plant for pipeline gas
- Other applications Similar application in Orange County, CA



Pre-Feasibility Studies

o Clint Landfill, El Paso, TX

 Showed good return on investment for both LNG and CNG conversions

o Mumbai Landfills – EPA M2M Project

 Showed promising results for CNG conversion at 3 Mumbai Landfills