



Life-Cycle Assessment of Lachenaie Landfill Gas to Delivered CNG for San Diego Metro in California

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Table of Contents

General Information	3
Process Description	4
Data Collection and Process Results	5
LFG Production Plant	5
Transportation to California by Pipeline.....	8
Compression	9
CEF Fuel Pathway Results	10
Appendix A: Summary of CA-GREET Inputs	11
Appendix B: List of Supporting Annexes.....	12

General Information

Complexe Enviro Progressive ltee (CEF) operates a landfill gas treatment facility to recover methane from the Lachenaie Landfill site that serves the Montreal Urban Community (MUC) in Quebec, Canada.

The anaerobic decomposition of organic wastes in landfills results in the generation of a biogas commonly referred to as landfill gas (LFG). [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The CEF Landfill is comprised of four main exploitation zones (“fields”) among which three (fields #1, #2 and #3) are no longer used for landfill operation while the 4th zone (field #4) is used and expanded for current and future receipts of residual waste. All four fields are equipped with an underground interconnecting vacuum network to capture LFG. [REDACTED]

A landfill Gas Collection and Control System (GCCS) consisting of extraction wells within the refuse and a series of high density polyethylene pipes routes raw LFG to the treatment facility located on the landfill site. The CEF LFG cleanup technology is a waterwash based scrubbing process provided by Greenlane Biogas North America. The design nominal raw gas processing capability is [REDACTED]

The CEF treatment facility purifies raw LFG via a series of seven modular pressure water scrubbing units and three Pressure Swing Absorbers (PSA). Each individual unit is comprised of gas compression, gas upgrading and gas polishing operations. CEF purchases electricity from Hydro Quebec to meet the facility’s energy demand. Most of the tail gas from the CO₂ scrubbing units is combusted in a thermal oxidizer (TOX), an enclosed flare that is partially fueled by imported propane. The tail gas stream that is generated by the N₂ PSA units is a higher-BTU stream that is combusted in a dedicated Nitrogen Removal Unit (NRU) flare.

[REDACTED]

The maximum production capacity, calculated using the facility’s equipment processing capacity, is estimated to be [REDACTED]. This estimate is based on the annual US EPA Actual Peak Capacity calculation using the lower heating value of methane.

Pipeline grade LFG is transported via pipeline from Quebec to California for compression and sale. The following pathway was produced using the two and half months (Sept 14th – Nov 30th 2014) of

¹ CEF Pathways Annex 3 - Engineering Review Report FINAL PE Sealed, pg. 33

² The power generation contract will be terminated by 2021, inclusively. Thus this supplemental amount of biogas will be rendered available to generate biomethane as of 2022.

³ Calculation of sales gas methane content and HHV are shown in Annex 2 - Facility Energy Data Analysis, Gas Sales tab, rows 13-14

landfill gas production data since facility start-up on September 14th and two (2) years (July 2011 – June 2013) of CNG compression data.⁴

Process Description

(THIS SECTION CONTAINS CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS INFORMATION)

[REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

⁴ Please see Annex 2 for CEF Facility Energy Data Analysis, Annex 7 for gas sales receipts, and Annex 4 for CNG Station Electrical Efficiency Data
⁵ Information is sourced from Annex 3 CEF Engineering Review Report, pg. 43-47



Data Collection and Process Results

To estimate GHG emissions, the energy and materials necessary for the following processes needs to be determined: LFG Production Plant, Transport of Gas to California (Pipeline), and Compression.

LFG Production Plant

(THIS SECTION CONTAINS CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS INFORMATION)



The CEF facility imports electricity and propane to purify the landfill gas and uses an onsite thermal oxidizer and open flares to combust off-gases generated during the purification steps and when the plant is not operating.

Table 1 below shows the available data provided by CEF for input biogas, product biogas, biogas consumed on-site, imported electricity and imported propane from September 14th to November 30th 2014. The balance of the biogas consumed in the thermal oxidizer and flare is calculated based on modeling data provided in the CEF Engineering Report. The table also shows the provided data converted to GREET model inputs. The CEF pathway utilizes the CA-GREET default values for LFG recovery.

The value of  in Table 1 below is the average amount of product pipeline quality biogas produced. To determine combustion emissions from the consumed natural gas and landfill gas at the landfill gas plant, the GREET default values for natural gas combustion process for natural gas liquefaction (100% natural gas turbine) were chosen since they represent the processes more closely than natural gas compression (100% natural gas engine).

⁶ Annex 2, Summary tab, cell K25. 94% is the sales gas (166.15 mmbtu/hour) divided by the landfill gas (176.37 mmbtu/hour)

⁷ Please see Annex 2, Summary tab, cell E22 for the calculation of this figure

⁸ Please see Annex 2, Summary tab, cell E25 for the calculation of this figure

⁹ Please see Annex 2, Summary tab, cell F25 for the calculation of this figure

TABLE 1. CEF LFG PLANT OPERATING ENERGY AND FLARE CREDIT¹⁰

(THIS TABLE CONTAINS CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS INFORMATION)

	Btu/MMBtu of Product Gas	Input Value	Btu/MMBtu of Product Gas	Changed Cells – NG Tab
Product Biogas	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]		
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Calculated w/in GREET ¹⁴	

Below is a simplified process diagram of the facility that includes the estimated energy flow associated with each step of the LFG recovery process.

¹⁰ Please see Annex 2, Summary tab for the calculations of the figures presented in this table

¹¹ Please see Annex 7 for PDFs of gas sales invoices

¹² Please see Annex 5 for PDFs of facility electricity bills

¹³ Please see Annex 6 for PDFs of facility propane bills

¹⁴ Please see Annex 1 for the Modified GREET model referred to in this report

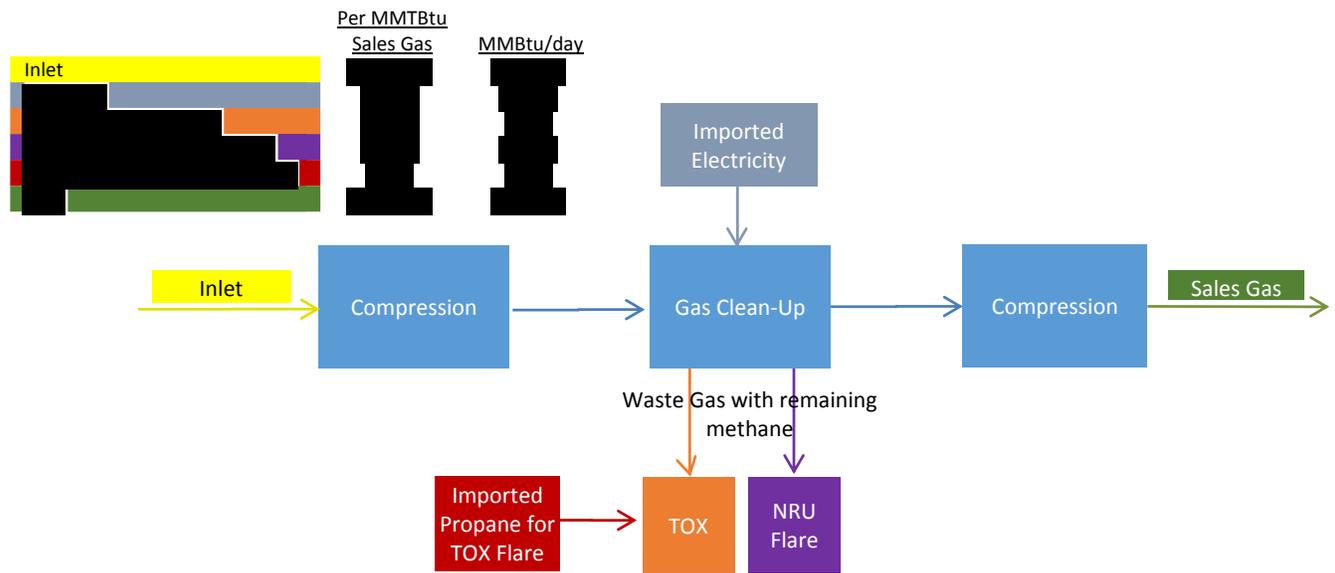


Figure 1. CEF Process per MMTBtu and MMBtu/day Energy Flows

The GREET model LFG pathway was then modified to adjust efficiency gas and process energy shares as listed in TABLE 2. The Southeast Asia region on the Regional LT tab was changed to reflect the average electricity grid mix of Hydro-Quebec, the utility that provides electricity the CEF facility. The ARB methodology of converting the average grid electricity mix to marginal mix was not employed because Hydro-Quebec exports 12-15% of their electricity production.¹⁵ TABLE 2 presents the average Hydro-Quebec electricity grid mix for 2012, as published by the Canada National Energy Board in the Energy Future 2013 Market Assessment Report.¹⁶ The allocation of Canadian energy categories to those used in GREET is also shown. To be conservative, the combined biomass, solar and geothermal category in the Quebec grid mix was allocated in total to the biomass category in the GREET model. The remaining values from the Southeast Asia Region were changed to match the US Average grid mix for the electricity consumed during the transport and distribution phase of the CEF LFG pathway.

TABLE 2. HYDRO-QUEBEC ELECTRICITY GRID MIX

Quebec CY 2012 Grid Mix		Allocation to GREET Electricity Categories	CA-GREET Cell Regional LT Tab
Hydro / Wave / Tidal	96.67%	Other (renewables)	J88
Wind	0.75%	Other (renewables)	J88
Biomass / Solar / Geothermal	0.42%	Biomass	J87
Uranium	1.98%	Nuclear	J86
Coal & Coke	0.00%	Coal	J85
Natural Gas	0.07%	Natural Gas	J84
Oil	0.10%	Residual Oil	J83

¹⁵ Hydro-Quebec 2013 Annual Report, pg. 2 (1990-2013 data). Retrieved from http://www.hydroquebec.com/publications/en/annual_report/pdf/annual-report-2013.pdf

¹⁶ National Energy Board. Canada's Energy Future 2013: Energy Supply and Demand Projections to 2035, An Energy Market Assessment. Annex Table A5.1 Reference Case Generation by Primary Fuel Type. Retrieved from <https://www.neb-one.gc.ca/nrg/ntgrtd/ft/2013/ppndcs/pxlctrctgrtn-eng.html>

TABLE 4. CEF LFG TRANSPORT GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS
 (THIS TABLE CONTAINS CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS INFORMATION)

Transport Emissions	CEF LFG Transport
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Compression

(THIS SECTION CONTAINS CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS INFORMATION)

Based on the submitted Confidential Business Information from San Diego Metro, San Diego Metro will be submitting for one pathway for their CNG Stations based on two (2) years of data (July 2011 – June 2013). [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

TABLE 5. CNG STATION PLANT OPERATING EFFICIENCY
 (THIS TABLE CONTAINS CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS INFORMATION)

All Units in Btus per GGE	Compression	Input Value	Changed Cells – NG Tab
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]		
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

TABLE 6. CNG COMPRESSION GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS
 (THIS TABLE CONTAINS CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS INFORMATION)

Recovery and Processing Emissions	Compression
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

¹⁹ Please see Annex 4 for the CNG station Electrical Efficiency Data
²⁰ 109,772 Btu/GGE default CA-GREET value

CEF Fuel Pathway Results

When the CA-GREET model is run completely with the modifications listed above, the table below shows the complete pathway results. The WTT pathway gCO₂e/MJ results were taken from cell H158 which is the sum of cells E158 – G185 on the “NG” tab for CNG. The TTW gCO₂e/MJ was taken from the Detailed California-Modified GREET Pathway for Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) from Landfill Gas²¹.

TABLE 7. CEF PATHWAY RESULTS

GHG Emissions (gCO ₂ e/MJ)	CEF LFG Plant to CNG
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
gCO₂e/MJ WTW	7.04

²¹ http://www.arb.ca.gov/fuels/lcfs/022709lcfs_lfg.pdf

Appendix B: List of Supporting Annexes

CEF SD Metro Pathways Annex 1 - Modified GREET model_LFG to CNG_02-26-15

CEF Pathways Annex 2 - Facility Energy Data & Analysis

CEF Pathways Annex 3 - Engineering Review Report FINAL PE Sealed

CEF SD Metro Pathways Annex 4 - SD Metro Full Invoice Data - CNG Stations

CEF SD Metro Pathways Annex 4a – SD Metro Invoices

CEF Pathways Annex 5 - Electricity Invoices Hydro-Quebec - Sept 2014 to Nov 2014

CEF Pathways Annex 6 - Propane Invoices - Sept 2014 to Nov 2014

CEF Pathways Annex 7 - Gas Sales - Sept 2014 to Nov 2014