

Hybridized Domestic Electricity from Waste

K. Sai Kumar¹, G. Sai Sushrutha²

¹Department of Mechanical Engineering Vidya Jyothi Institute of Technology, Hyderabad

²Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering, Vidya Jyothi Institute of Technology, Hyderabad

Abstract: As the population in the world is increasing day by day, the use of commodities is increasing and a massive amount of waste is being generated. Dumping of this garbage has become a major problem not only in developing countries, but also in developed countries. Just burning the garbage will be a mere waste, when this garbage can also be used productively. Burning the waste in open lands leads to the amplification of global warming ultimately and doesn't do any good for the earth. On the other side, there is a huge consumption of electricity all across the world and the basic conventional commodities for the generation of electricity are being scarce due to their extensive usage. This paper gives an idea about how the daily waste can be converted into the highly needed electricity.

Keywords: Solid Waste, Pyrolysis, Compression, Electricity generation

1. Introduction

In developing countries like India, the practice of open burning of the garbage is still prevailed, which leads to emission of harmful gases and further leads to severe diseases. In a study, the average solid waste generated per year in India is about 62 million tonnes. It is also surveyed that only about a 20% of the waste is being treated and the rest of it is either dumped in landfills or being burnt openly. The burning of such huge amount of matter is a serious issue that has to be taken care of. The following table is a survey about the significant wastes generated in India per annum.

Table 1

Type of waste	Amount in tonnes
Biomedical	0.17 million
Plastic	5.6 million
Hazardous	7.9 million
e-waste	1.5 million

The rest of the types of wastes form the remaining amounts of the wastes.



Figure 1

In the wastes that are being obtained, some of it are recyclable and reusable, and the rest of it is non-biodegradable. So, why can't this unusable stuff turned into something that is highly needed in the present day?

The idea of generating electricity from the waste has emerged from this idea. There are some places where this practice is already in application, but this has to be made more available, easy and efficient.

2. Main Discussion

The process of converting the garbage into waste has to be done systematically. Let that be broadly classified into 3 stages.

- Separation and storage of wastes
- Generation of highly energetic gases
- Conversion into electricity



Figure 2

The above figure shows how the waste generated daily can be reused effectively with minimal effect on the environment.

The wastes collected from different places have to be sorted and separated first. All the recyclable waste and bio-compost have to be removed and proceeded with their own purposes. The non-degradable and unusable part of the garbage is mixed in the feedstock bin.

This garbage is then undergone with pyrolysis, to extract a high energy gas, which will be used to generate electricity eventually.

The matter in the feedstock bin is sent into a combustion chamber, where the particles are heated to temperatures ranging from 1000° F to 1200° F. The chamber has to be free from oxygen gas, as the presence of O₂ can cause burning of the materials in the whole system, which should be avoided. The matter should rather produce the essential gases for the process like methane, butane or propane in order to generate electricity. The combustion chamber is supplied with low NO_x gases for higher efficiency. This super low NO_x burner is provided with propane or butane gas initially in small amounts to accelerate the heating process and once the required temperature is reached the supply of the propane or butane gas is closed. The low NO_x burner is designed such that it controls the fuel and gas mixing in order to create branched flames.

When the garbage is heated to such high temperatures, highly energetic and reactive gases are produced. The gases can be methane or propane which are usually poisonous in nature. The non-volatile ash is removed from the chamber after the completion of pyrolysis. This will be either powdered charcoal or carbon black.

The following is a picture of a low NO_x burner.



Figure 3

Properties of NO_x gas:

The oxides of nitrogen are generally considered as NO_x gases. They are also highly reactive. In the above pyrolysis process, it is used as an oxidiser for the combustion to occur. It also has a vast range of application in rockets and in the manufacture of explosives. But, when they are exposed to the atmosphere, they cause severe air pollution.

Storage and conversion of gas into electricity:

The highly reactive gases released from the combustion chamber are sent to a compressor where more heat is applied to the gases.

A compressor is a mechanical device in which the pressure on the gas is increased by reducing the volume occupied by the gas. This high pressure applied on the gases make them highly energetic. Now, these gases are stored in a pressurized storage.

This is further sent to turbines rotating with a high speed, where mechanical energy is produced due to these gases and this mechanical energy is converted into electrical energy

through electric generators. The figure 3 shows the schematic block diagram of the conversion of waste into electricity.

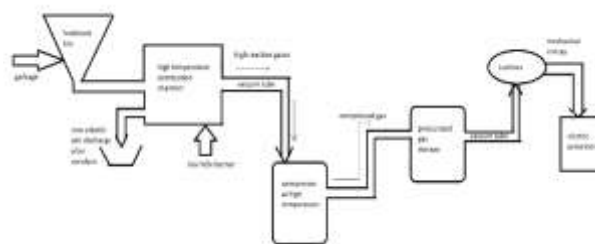


Figure 4

The electricity thus generated from the electric generator is sent to sub stations and distributed to industrial or commercial purposes.

3. Applications

This above process of generation of electricity can be applied privately also. As we are familiar with the rain harvesting pits built separately for huge buildings, this process can also be applied independently by industries or huge residential or commercial areas, where the garbage can be collected in smarter ways using internet of things. Thus, reducing the use of conventional sources of energy for the generation of electricity in a large scale is achieved.

4. Conclusion

Since there is a huge consumption of electricity in the present day and the need for it is increasing exponentially, there is need to create new sources of producing it and getting the best out of the waste plays a very prominent role in turning out the unwanted things to very useful one. This would surely reduce air pollution to some extent and fulfils the daily need as well.

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