

# Teru Talk

on matters of waste conversion for resource recovery

## AB 341

**Waste Diversion and Mandatory  
Commercial Recycling in California:**

**Lessons Learned**

**( so far )**

# ***Mandate versus Policy***

*Required by Law - On or after July 1, 2012:*

**All Commercial Waste Generators MUST  
implement a Recycling Program**

**versus**

*Legislative Directive - Policy Goal by 2020:*

**Reduce, Recycle or Compost not less than  
75% of the Solid Waste Generated**

**LESSONS:**

**NO CHANGE to 50% Diversion Mandate**

\*

**Starts ON OR AFTER July 1, 2012**

# *Why “Mandatory Commercial Recycling” Now?*

**AB 32 - Global Warming Solutions Act (2006)**

**Mandate: “Implement greenhouse gas reduction”**



**Scoping Plan Calls for Mandatory Commercial  
Recycling (2008 / 2011)**

**As Waste Management’s Way to Best Reduce GHGs**



**AB 341 Solid Waste: Diversion (2011)**

**Policy Goal  $\geq$  75% Reduced, Recycled or Composted by 2014**

**Waste Diversion by Reduce,  
Recycle, Compost Cuts GHGs**

**LESSONS**

# *What is “Recycling”?*

According to California Law:

**R E C Y C L I N G**

is

**Collect > Sort > Clean > Treat > Reconstitute**

into

**R A W M A T E R I A L S**

**LESSONS:**

## RECYCLING

- **IS Cessation of Waste**
- **Turns Waste into Raw Materials**
- **is NOT Waste Brokering**

# ***Recycling Defined***

**From CalRecycle's Own Glossary:**

"Recycling: Per Public Resources Code section 40180, the process of collecting, sorting, cleansing, treating, and reconstituting materials that would otherwise become solid waste, and returning them to the economic mainstream in the form of raw material for new, reused, or reconstituted products that meet the quality standards necessary to be used in the marketplace."

**LESSONS:**

**Recycling Requires  
Reconstituting for Completion**

# Counting GHG Reduction



You can't Manage what You Don't Count:  
We Need to Know AQ Impacts  
Along the Entire Recycling Value Chain:

**Collect > Sort > Clean > Treat > Reconstitute**



RAW  
MATERIALS

LESSONS:

**REDUCE GHGs BY:**

- Localize Short-Haul Recycling
- Waste to Raw Materials Near Source
- Monitor GHGs at Each Step

# ***Reconstitute = Reprocess***

- Section 2(a)(1): "Solid waste diversion and disposal reduction require the availability of adequate solid waste processing and composting capacity."
- 2(a)(3)(b): "...it is the intent of the Legislature to encourage the development of the additional solid waste processing and composting capacity that is needed to meet state objectives for decreasing solid waste disposal."

**LESSONS:**

- **Reprocessing  
Completes Recycling**
- **Need to Build More  
Processing Infrastructure**

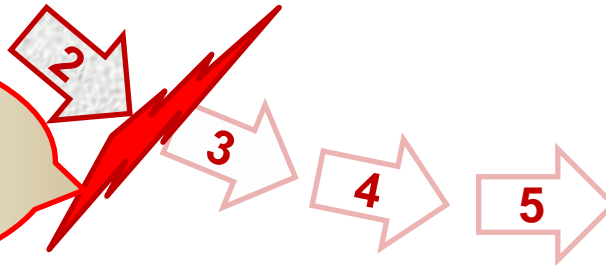
# “Recycling” Today



**NO Legal Requirement for Recyclate Brokers to ID Reprocessing Destination = NO IDEA of total value chain GHGs**

**Collect > Sort > Clean > Treat > Reconstitute ?**

- State Pays Broker \$\$
- Break in Chain of Custody



**Unknown Reprocessing Destination:  
Out of State?  
Out of Country?**

**LESSONS:**

- Distant Reprocessing is the Rule
- No Chain of Custody for Recyclates
- Export Jobs and Resources



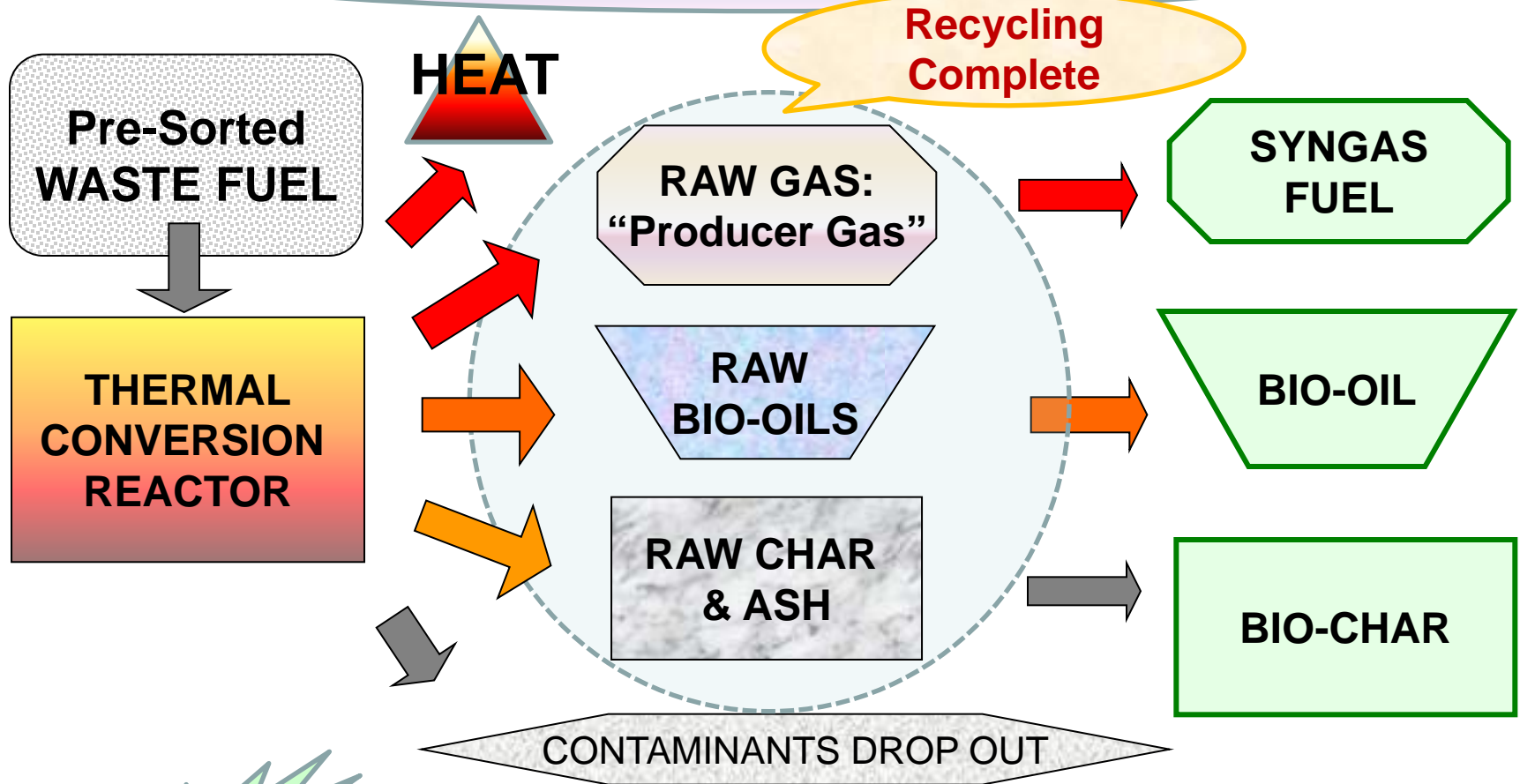
# Reprocessing Wet Waste



## LESSONS:

- Food Waste Contains Contaminants
- Depackaging = Reprocessing
- AD Produces Bio-Gas

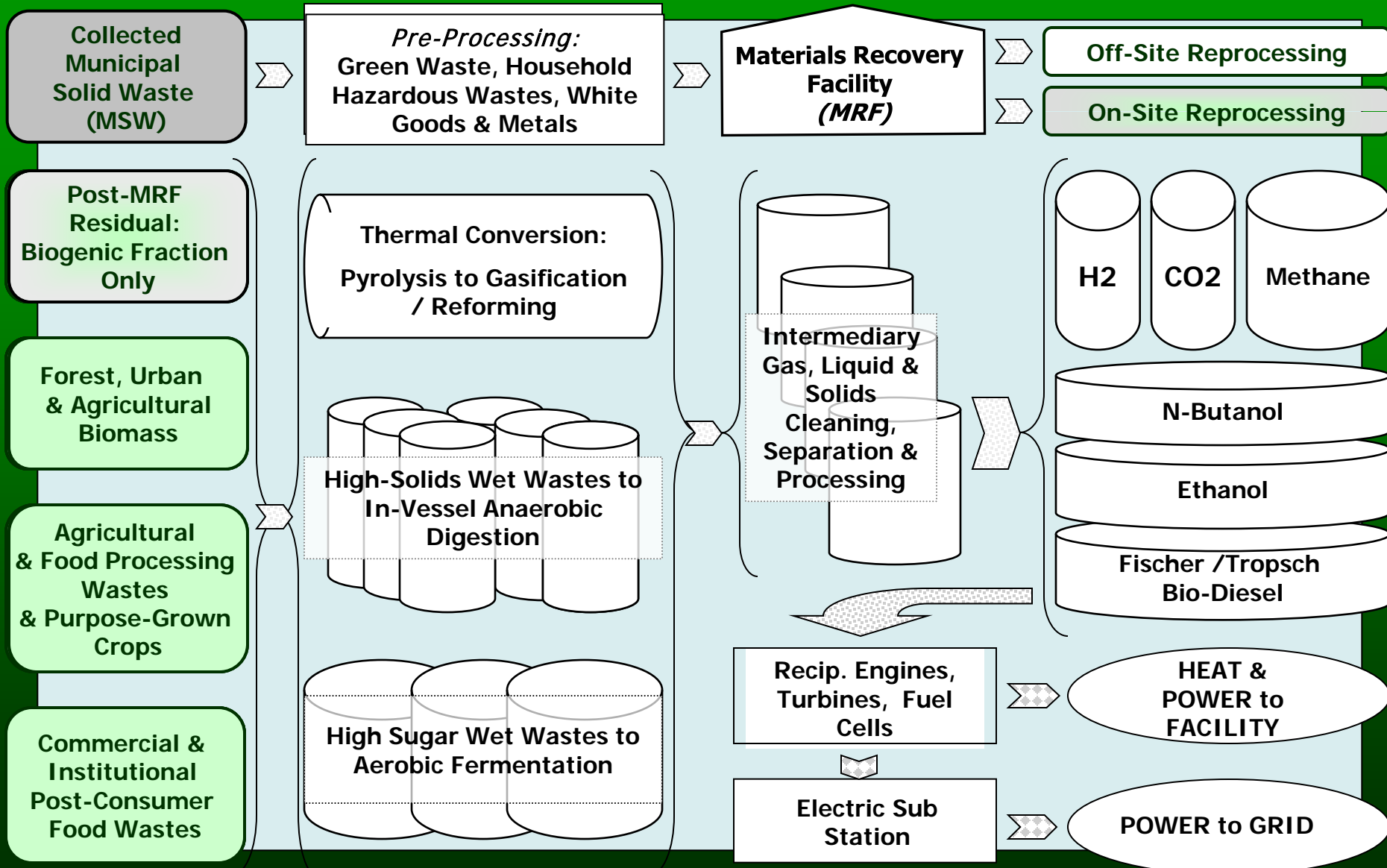
# Reprocessing Dry Waste



**LESSONS**

- Sorted Waste Goes In
- Raw Intermediary Materials Produced
- New Products Come Out

# 100% Recycling Is Possible



## ***What We Know***

**Waste Costs Money**

**Energy & Goods Cost Money**

**Recycling Makes Raw Materials for Energy & Goods**

**True Recycling Makes Money**

## ***What We Don't Know***

**Recyclate Destinations**

**Actual Total Emissions of Transport**

**Actual Total Lost Jobs & Raw Materials**

**Actual Amount "Recycled"**



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# Teru Talk

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**"CALIFORNIA AB 341 LEGISLATIVE ANALYSIS"**

<http://www.terutalk.com/California-AB-341-Legislative-Analysis.html>

**"AB 341 and the Problem with Words"**

<http://www.terutalk.com/AB-341-and-the-Problem-with-Words.html>