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Flexible Packaging Waste Management Solutions

FPA study and report examine resource recovery technologies for flexible packaging waste

Linthicum, Maryland: October 3, 2011 -- The Flexible Packaging Association's [*Identification and Assessment of Available Technologies for Materials and Energy Recovery from Flexible Packaging Waste Report*](#), examines new and emerging resource recovery technologies, and how the flexible packaging industry can use them to develop more sustainable practices for the management of flexible packaging waste. The [*Report*](#) includes the results of critical analysis conducted by the Columbia University Earth Engineering Center for Sustainable Waste Management (EEC) on behalf of FPA assessing the best end-of-life technologies for difficult-to-recycle flexible packaging waste.

Highlights of the [*Report*](#) note that flexible packaging comprises just over 2 percent, or approximately 6 million tons, of the municipal solid waste (MSW) generated in the United States each year. Of this amount, approximately 10 percent is combusted in the form of MSW in waste-to-energy plants. The remaining 5.4 million tons of flexible packaging waste are disposed of in landfills.

Through this study, viable resource recovery processes for flexible packaging waste were identified, and the economic benefits and costs of those technologies were examined. The [*Report*](#) details tertiary recycling options for flexible packaging waste, including pyrolysis, gasification and engineered solid fuel. Expanded profiles of the processes and the companies that offer them including, Agilyx Corporation, Envion Incorporated, Climax Global Energy Incorporated, and Dongra, are also provided.

From the [*Report*](#), flexible packaging companies can gain greater insight into the variety of solutions that can result in energy recovery from flexible packaging waste and help to divert post-consumer flexible packaging from landfills. Additional topics and issues discussed in the [*Report*](#) include:



- Chemical Characteristics of the Plastic Material Used for Production of Flexible Packaging
- Waste Management Hierarchy
- Flexible Packaging Waste Management Options
- Detail Profiles of the Companies Interested in Testing Flexible Packaging Waste (FPW) as Feedstock

The [Identification and Assessment of Available Technologies for Materials and Energy Recovery from Flexible Packaging Waste Report](#) is a benefit of FPA membership and is available in the Members Only section of the FPA Web site (www.flexpack.org). PDF copies of the [Report](#) are also available to FPA non-members for \$3,500. For more information, contact the association at (410) 694-0800 or fpa@flexpack.org.

About the Earth Engineering Center

The mission of EEC is to identify and help develop the most suitable means for managing various solid wastes research, and disseminate this information by means of publications, the web, and technical meetings. The guiding principle is that responsible management of wastes must be based on science and best available technology and not on ideology and economics that exclude environmental costs. For more information, visit www.columbia.edu/cu/earth.

About the Flexible Packaging Association

The Flexible Packaging Association is the National association of manufacturers of flexible packaging sold to end- users or distributors for packaging purposes; and material or equipment suppliers to the flexible packaging industry. Flexible packaging is produced from paper, plastic, film, aluminum foil, or any combination of those materials, and includes bags, pouches, labels, liners, wraps, rollstock, and other flexible products. FPA has served as the voice of the flexible packaging industry in the United States since 1950. For more information, visit www.flexpack.org.

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