Accepted Manuscript

Review

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PII: S0960-8524(17)31915-6
DOI: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biortech.2017.10.086
Reference: BITE 19127

To appear in: *Bioresource Technology*

Received Date: 14 July 2017
Revised Date: 17 October 2017
Accepted Date: 24 October 2017

Please cite this article as: Clarke, W.P., The uptake of anaerobic digestion for the organic fraction of municipal solid waste – push versus pull factors, *Bioresource Technology* (2017), doi: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biortech.2017.10.086

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THE UPTAKE OF ANAEROBIC DIGESTION FOR THE ORGANIC FRACTION OF MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE – PUSH VERSUS PULL FACTORS

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ABSTRACT. There are thousands of anaerobic digestion facilities worldwide applied to agricultural waste, energy crops and industrial food processing wastes. Yet, centralised anaerobic digestion for the organic fraction of Municipal Solid Waste (OFMSW) is almost exclusively applied in Europe and California where diversion of organics from landfill is enforced by legislation. Even in the EU however, only 5% of OFMSW is currently digested, with most organic waste incinerated. Municipalities elsewhere are reluctant to switch to biological treatment, even when made financially preferable through mechanisms such as landfill taxes. The uptake of OFMSW anaerobic digestion around the world and the legislative and economic drivers where this has occurred are reviewed. The prime reason for lack of uptake in regions with ample economic drivers is a lack of experience of municipalities and environmental regulators in regulating the facilities and the disposal of treated organic material to land.

Keywords: *anaerobic digestion; OFMSW; economic incentives; landfill taxes*

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