

## Will Australia put a value on garbage?

In Australia, unfortunately our 'waste to energy' (bioenergy) converts to just 0.9% of Australia's total power yield, just a fraction of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development standard baseline of 2.4% (CSIROscope). But why?

It's most certainly not through lack of know how. The May 2018 Munich IFAT conference attracted over 141,000 expert visitors from more than 160 countries including Australia. This proves environmental technologies are in demand and booming. Between now and the end of 2018, yet another 15 major biofuel and alternative energy major conferences will be held in the UK and Europe. Literally hundreds and thousands of experts, the best minds, the best research and the best lessons collaborated, shared and networked insatiably for the common good of future generations.

If we're doing one thing well in bioenergy, better than in any other resource sector, it's practicing self-sacrifice and discipline in our commitment to 'saving the world' with efficient fuel alternatives. Unlike carbon and fossil fuel commerce, oligopolies indulge competitor advantage technology and patents; the value of cutting edge intellectual property is priceless and guarded, while bioenergy knowledge and resourcefulness are "open source" and networked globally in real time.

As an Australian fortunate enough to travel to European countries regularly for work, I've been overwhelmed at how entrenched bioenergy and recycling practices are, from big cities down to the smallest towns and provinces. Equally, it's disturbing how far Australia is behind in this practice.



### Why is Australia unable to keep up? Is the solution 'mind over biomass'?

The natural asset and beauty of our wide brown land is both a feature and an impediment. We (Australia) are more unique than we think. We waste more and recycle less.

This is not because we don't care, but because we are faced with so many variables. Each case, whilst possessing similarities, is different. Each application will have different levels of priority and focus influenced by variables such as;

- Lack of political coordination
- Inconsistent levies
- Landfill Mindset
- Weak legislative policies
- Established cultural norms
- Low business/commercial incentives
- Unreliable waste streams
- Contaminated waste streams



Working through these in a precise way allows us to locate the key drivers for each customer and use this knowledge combined with international referencing to create the most appropriate strategy underpinned by the most suitable componentry.

The above however, is only representational of some of the obstacles and hurdles that are being faced by municipalities, commercial facilities and consumers alike.

#### **Consider also the diversity represented by key stakeholders in this conversation**

- Political (Federal, State, and Local)
- Consumers
- Manufacturers
- Waste material suppliers
- Facility managers

Essentially, none of the above are going to disappear overnight and some of the more entrenched issues and paradigms will take a significant portion of time to adjust/correct.

It appears to me to be both socially and demographically irresponsible to either accept these pivotal issues as entrenched and simply abandon all attempts at reform or press on blindly in a commercially unsound manner. Robust conversations are required but these need one more element that Beasley's and Putzmeister Solids Pumps provides.

#### **Conclusion**

**These conversations, which at first appear to be challenging, complicated and convoluted, can be dramatically simplified when a "precise" approach to discussions with key stakeholders is employed.**

A precise approach can only be driven by a VISION. A vision bigger and more profound than the obstacles we place in front of ourselves.

The conversations that need to occur are vital with the quality of outcomes pre-determined by the standard of questions presented. A precise and accurate approach with mindfulness toward that vision is the only one that guarantees that the data is both useful and applicable to a proposal that works for Australia. The data - freely available, right now, must be applied precisely and relentlessly to our own distinctive national geographic and sociographic hurdles - in reality, rescued from the too-hard basket and re-examined as an opportunity for social cohesion and problem solving.

Each case is different as each waste to energy facility and application have different levels of priority and focus influenced by all the variables as mentioned above.

***This is enhanced by "tapping" into the global resources and vision of Putzmeister with one of the longest histories of precise pumping solutions for biomass material, and an accumulated knowledge base of international experts in every country on the globe.***

Furthermore, the evidence of what can be achieved through collaboration and working to a common goal in bioenergy, unique to our country, is simply astonishing. Cities, towns and regions, countries and nations – are openly sharing cutting edge technology and policy. This is vindication of shared vision and our ability to eliminate borders, obstacles, and hurdles by recognising each town has a unique challenge and the answer to that challenge is a precise solution to meet each stumbling block with co-operative vigour.

The emerging market sector of “waste to energy” and the gathering momentum occurring reflects the strength and integrity of the values that exist at the core of the movement. The road has not been (and continuing forward does not appear to be) an easy one. Bringing projects to a successful commercial realisation and encapsulating all the benefits for all stakeholders is becoming an increasingly complex issue.

Precision in science and engineering is one thing. Precision with a collective vision applied to knowledge of how to put a value on waste in a country as vast and diverse as Australia is another issue completely. Ultimately, an issue that needs to be resolved by us for the safety of future generations!



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