Biomass Upgrading to Biocoal & RNG Using High-Temperature Pyrolysis (HTP)

2024 International Biomass Conference & Expo

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# Thermal Processing Definitions (as we see things)

Attributes	Combustion	Gasification	Standard Slow Pyrolysis	High Temperature Pyrolysis
Temperature Range	300°C - 700°C	700°C – 1,500°C	450°C - 650°C	750°C - 950°C
Amount of Oxygen	Oxygen rich	Oxygen limited	Oxygen free	Oxygen free
Source of Heat	Direct burning	Direct burning of syngas/biomass in reactor	Indirect, pyrolysis gas burned externally, hot exhaust circulated	Indirect, pyrolysis gas cleaned, burned in burners adjacent to heat tube
			Ox Kiln	





## **HTP Benefits**

- High degree of temperature control
  - Different heating zones (important for both biocarbon quality and syngas quality)
  - Can maintain temperature specifications if moisture content of feedstock varies
- Excess of high quality syngas is produced
  - Potential oils/tars crack within reactor, converted to additional gas
  - Used directly for local thermal loads
  - Extract green hydrogen
  - Convert to renewable natural gas
  - Extract maximum value from biomass







## Active Projects (In Construction)

### CHAR Tech Thorold



Input: Clean Woodwaste (Grade A) Outputs:

- 10,000 Tonnes/yr Biocarbon (biocoal)
- 500,000 GJ/yr Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) Initial Operations:

Summer 2024

### Synagro



**Input:** Dried biosolids **Outputs:** 

- PFAS destruction
- Biochar
- Clean syngas for thermal applications
  Initial Operations:
  Summer 2024





# Thorold Location







# Thorold Layout



## Strategic Partnership with ArcelorMittal to Replace Met. Coal



- $\checkmark$  ArcelorMittal is the offtaker of CHAR's Thorold biocoal
- $\checkmark$  CHAR Tech is the only Canadian company selling biocoal to steelmakers regularly



ArcelorMittal Climate Action Report 2 – July 2021





## Biocarbon / Metallurgical Biocoal Considerations

Generally:

- High fixed carbon (> 85%)
- Low ash (< 10%), specific ash components may have very low tolerances
- Low VM (< 10%)
- High energy density (> 29 MJ/kg, > 12,000 BTU/lb)
- Form/granulometry
  - Powder?
  - Pellets? What binders are acceptable?
  - Other density/shape limitations

Specifics for use cases:

- Steelmaking blast furnace (PCI vs Coke/burden)
- Steelmaking EAF
- Metal smelting (copper, nickel, aluminum, etc)







## Syngas Characteristics from HTP





## Methanation Chemistry

### Water Gas Shift

## $CO + H_2O <-> H_2 + CO_2$

Methanation

 $CO_2 + 4H_2 <-> CH_4 + 2H_2O$ 





## RNG Sells at a Large Premium to Natural Gas

- Utilities such as Enbridge and Énergir are signing 20year RNG sales agreements with RNG producers, like CHAR, between \$21-\$45 per gigajoule (GJ)
- CHAR Tech's Thorold facility will produce 500,000 GJ in 2025
- CHAR Tech's pipeline of projects lays out the pathway for over 3M GJ of RNG production

### Net Zero 2050: Path to Success

Energy powers our vehicles, warms our homes and helps produce the goods we use every day. Addressing these three largest sources of emissions through a diversified energy system is the most cost-effective and resilient way to achieve net zero.

#### **Energy sources**

Transition to renewables.

A mix of renewable power, renewable natural gas and hydrogen for clean and reliable energy.

#### Transportation Switch to lower-emission sources.

Electrification of light-duty vehicles. Compressed and renewable natural gas and hydrogen for hard-to-electrify beavy transport

#### **Building heating and cooling**

Adopt high-efficiency technologies.

Energy conservation, heat pumps, hybrid heating, geothermal, district energy and green fuels for clean and reliable heat.

#### Industrial processes

Advance innovative technologies.

Energy conservation, hydrogen and carbon capture for processes that can't easily be electrified.







## **Opportunities for RNG & Biocarbon**







## Non-Dilutive Government Funding for Desrisking



# Canada Ontario 🕅

### **\$14.2M invested in CHAR Tech since 2022** to accelerate growth

 Important for early industrial adoption to see elements of the project/process derisked.







## Scaling Up $\rightarrow$ Modular Growth Approach



Project	RNG (GJ/yr)	Biocoal (tonnes)		
In Development				
Thorold, ON	500,000	10,000		
Kirkland Lake, ON	500,000	10,000		
Lake Nipigon, ON	500,000	10,000		
Saint-Félicien, QC	250,000	5,000		
Feasibility Study Funding Secured				

Terrace, BC	500,000	10,000
Drayton Valley, AB	500,000	10,000
La Sarre, QC	250,000	5,000
Amos, QC	250,000	5,000





## **Biomass Feedstock Grades**

### Can you make biocarbon out of this? Maybe...







# Biomass Grades (Emerging/Proposed)

Wood Waste/Residual Category	Description
Grade A Clean Wood Waste/Residual	Clean wood waste is not treated with chemicals (e.g., for pressure treatment), paint, stained or other coatings and is free of glue. It would include processing residuals such as; tree stumps (whole or chipped), trees, tree limbs (whole or chipped), bark, sawdust, chips, scraps, slabs, hog fuel, millings, shavings and pallets made from clean hard and soft wood.
Grade B Engineered Wood Waste	Engineered (composite) wood refers to manufactured plywood, medium & high density fiberboard, particle board, oriented strand board, veneers, etc. Grade B wood waste is typically contaminated with glues and resins and could include nails and metal plates.
Grade C Painted Wood Waste	Painted wood contains a coating (e.g., paint, varnish, sealer, stain) applied onto or impregnated into clean, engineered or treated wood. It includes trim, doors, cabinets, flooring, some siding, balustrades and baseboards. Some painted wood may contain hazardous or toxic substances and because it may be difficult to test the type of paint, it is usually not possible to divert from landfill.
Grade D Treated Wood Waste	Treated wood refers to wood that is pressure treated or coated with chemical preservatives to protect it against decay, mould and insects. Treated wood includes railway ties, utility poles, fencing and wood for exterior application and products that have been treated with stains and preservatives. These wood wastes which are typically heavily contaminated with chemicals and inorganic materials would be classified as hazardous waste.

## Importance of Grades

- In addition to chemistry, provides guidelines for suppliers as to what is acceptable
  - Fixed carbon, ash, moisture content, volatile matter more difficult to ascertain visually (although important factors in a properly implemented QA/QC program)
  - Depending on product/output specs, various amounts of various Grades could be allowed
- Permitting
  - Permissible contamination (i.e., 1% Grade B allowable?).
- Allows for more proper contracting of supply, important factor in project financibility (covered by others at this conference)







## Thank You!

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