

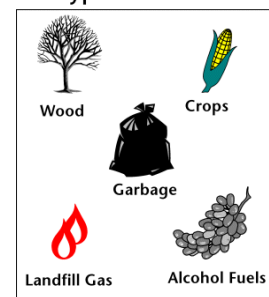


Campaign for Alternative Energy Benefits

In my opinion, the campaign to get tires to be classified as a source of renewable energy may be misdirected, although due to the best of intentions. The concept is that having tires considered to be renewable sources of energy would allow for the owner/operators of facilities that convert tires to energy, to receive the valued benefits that come with this status. However, groups that support wind and solar energy programs are fighting this tooth and nail. Tire derived fuel (TDF) is a process that has been used for decades, and unless the particular producer severely violates EPA air and water quality standards, it is a cleaner, lower cost, and more efficient method of producing energy than many of the current systems in place.

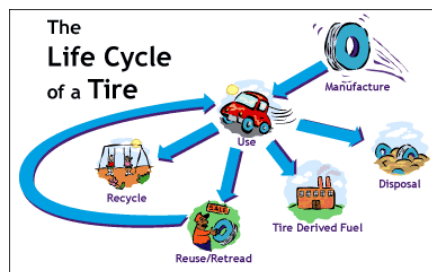
One of the “arguments” that I have encountered is that they don’t want nasty burning tires to be considered in the same category as clean wind or solar technologies. I can understand that, but it also raises the question of how do we actually define renewable for this issue. Although every state has their own definition, the US EPA and the Dept. of Energy sometimes include municipal solid waste when they discuss renewable energy. In some cases, MSW is considered to be part of the definition of biomass, since garbage is made up of biodegradable materials and other items.

Types of Biomass



This is where the fine line comes into play. For some, there is no way that trash would ever be considered renewable, so therefore should not technically be included. Others feel that various definitions, as well as the composition of typical MSW should allow it to be classified in this manner. Again, the real reason is that the tax credits and energy certificates that come with the classification of renewable are critical to the success of many of the programs using these alternative sources of fuel for energy recovery.

So, I believe the solution could be very simple. Instead of working so hard to become a member of their club, why not start our own? We could ensure that this new measure will not in any way impact those renewable programs already in existence for wind and solar, and therefore not a threat to them in any way. If done properly, this campaign to allow alternative energy forms to receive important financial benefits could virtually catch those previously opposed off guard. I am not naïve enough to think that it will be actually simple, but if we have the right backers, then getting this proposal in place could make a lot of people look good. I also believe that we are virtually in a crisis situation, and as we have previously been stating, the time for more talk and promises is over – we need actions.



Those that oppose this initiative to have tires be considered a renewable source of energy are also not thinking of the consequences of tires **not** being classified that way. They may use other reasons, such as being concerned about pollution and the environmental impacts, but they are profoundly dismissing other methods of using tires for energy production that have nothing to do with traditional incineration, including combustion processes that are non-polluting. If we address this properly, we should

be able to get the other side to stipulate to the benefits that using tires (and other materials) as a fuel source for energy production has over our current and conventional methods, such as coal power. The EPA openly states that tires are a more efficient source of fuel for energy production, and that they produce much lower environmental contaminants than coal. This should not become an emotional issue, or one controlled by the NIMBY (Not In My Back Yard) folks, and we shouldn't be trying to develop our energy programs based on who has the best PR activities.

Right now, some forms of energy production using tires as the primary fuel source are looked on in a very bad light, because of the conventional belief that anything burning is bad. Not only is that ridiculous, but it can be very harmful to our need to become energy independent in this country. In a related issue currently in the news, many opponents of offshore oil drilling are now pointing to the recent disaster in the Gulf as proof that all offshore drilling is bad and should be stopped. Offshore drilling accounts for less than 1% of the oil that is spilled into the gulf, oceans, rivers, and other waterways, and yet it is vilified as the primary evil that impacts our environment. The same holds true for the use of tires to produce energy. More often than not, people that are reacting on emotions and are less educated on the true facts, may block or delay important programs, in much the same manner that wind turbines face objection from installation from Cape Cod, to the Plains, to the Great Northwest.

So, our direction should be clearly defined as to the purpose, the criteria, and the implementation of offering these benefits to producers of TDF. We hear our public officials proclaiming the need for renewable or alternative energy, and yet their actions do not follow their words. The sound bites may hit a chord with some folks, but I believe the American public is starting to get tired of only hearing promises and platitudes. Times call for action, and right now, we need real leadership. This is not a partisan issue, but one that is uniquely American. We can't follow what other countries are doing; we must develop comprehensive and immediate energy policies that will make a real difference. Just like the *Six Million Dollar Man*: "We have the technology. We can rebuild him and make him stronger." We can rebuild America's energy programs, and we will make them stronger and better for everyone!

Please join us as we move forward in developing energy programs and policies that take a serious look at the many technologies that we have available right now, not those years down the line. We need to Take Action!

For more information, please contact:

Jim VanNatta

Energize America Now!

JimV@EnergizeAmericaNow.org

317-512-6951

What does it take to get you energized?

If you need help, visit: www.EnergizeAmericaNow.org/TakeAction

