

# A Biomethane-RNG Roadmap for Washington State

BioCycle REFOR17
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### The Natural Gas Debate



**Dan Kirschner -** Executive director of the Northwest Gas Association



**Bill McKibben -** Founder of the global climate campaign 350.org

The power of natural gas in the war on carbon emissions

Natural gas makes possible the renewable power we care so deeply about. Natural-gas vehicles and renewable natural gas present our region with terrific opportunities.

Switching from coal to natural gas will not save our planet

Natural gas is not reducing the amount of greenhouse-gas emissions. And worse, it's making it much harder to take the steps that really would matter.

# **Travel Plan**

- Destination
- Current location
- Lay of the land
- Let's get moving
- Obstacles
- Roadside assistance
- Safe arrival

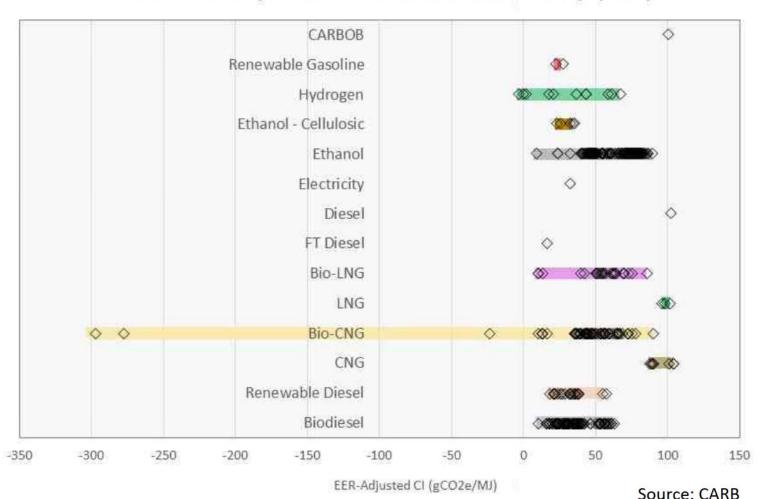


### Destination

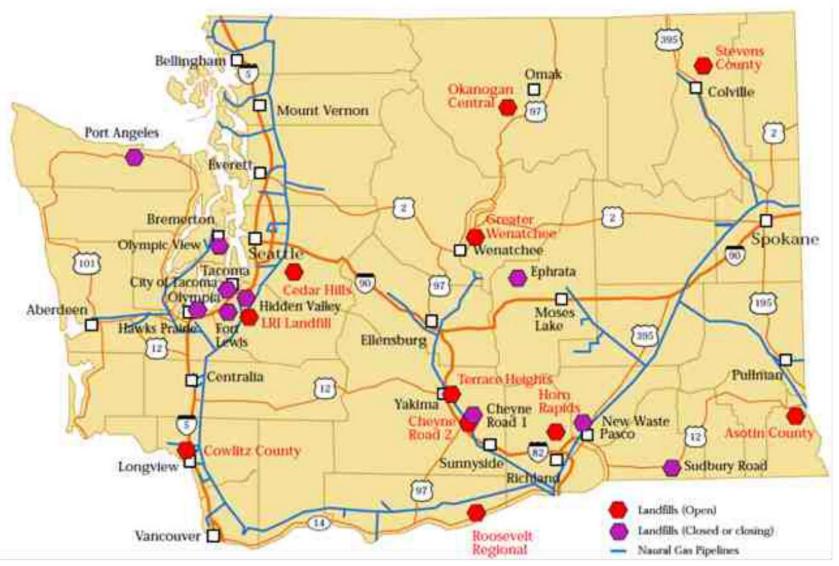
- 1. GHG limits set by 2008 Legislature:
  - 2020—reduce to 1990 levels
  - 2035—25% below 1990 levels (40%)
  - 2050—50% below 1990 levels (80%)
- Gov. Inslee's agenda priorities: building energy efficiency, renewables integration, resiliency, natural gas policy
- 3. Pacific Coast Collaborative (WA, OR, CA & BC)

#### **GHG Reduction Potential from RNG**

#### Carbon Intensity Values of Current Certified Pathways (2017)



# Landfills



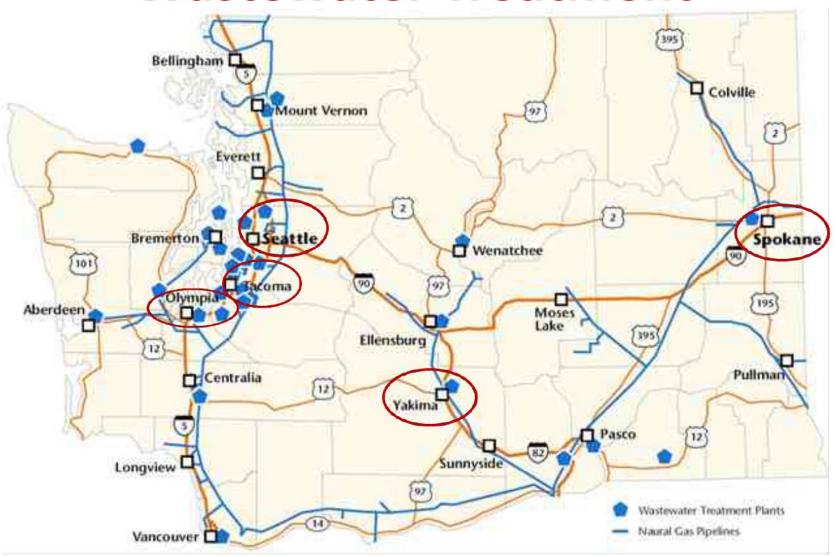
# Landfills



# **Wastewater Treatment**



# **Wastewater Treatment**



# **Agriculture (Dairy)**



# **Industrial Food Waste**

- Food processing is the second largest user of electricity in the Northwest.
- Energy generation and fossil fuel use account for vast majority of GHG emissions.
- Successful projects at AgriBeef and JR
   Simplot provide internal energy offsets.

# **MSW**

#### **Successful Projects**

- JC Biomethane Junction City, OR
- Harvest Power
   Vancouver, BC
- (Biofuel Facility)
   Surrey, BC

None in Washington

#### **Stalled Projects**

- Cedar Grove Everett, WA
- PacifiClean
   Cle Elum, WA
- Columbia Biogas Portland, OR

Regulations, finance, and NIMBY opposition

# **Thermal Gasification**

- Competition for woody materials from biojet fuel, biomass CHP for industry, etc.
- We started by quantifying RNG from urban/MSW woody materials.
- In BC analysis, gasification of forestry debris nearly doubled the volume of RNG.

# **Current Position**

RNG source	Potential Energy (MMBTU/yr)	Electricity (MWh/yr)	Fuel (DGE/yr)
Landfills	16,519,219	1,191,842	119,963,224
Wastewater treatment plants	1,716,062	145,807	12,217,767
Private sector biogas: agriculture, food industries	1,399,410	80,000	8,000,000
Municipal solid waste	3,298,890	366,543	25,182,365
Thermal gasification (fiber)	8,270,925	918,992	63,136,834

2011, 2013, 2017 state data



# **Natural Gas & RNG**

# 1,988 trillion BTU

energy consumption (2015)

#### 308 trillion BTU

nat gas consumption (2015)

(308 million cubic feet)

(15.5% of all energy)

#### 20-30 trillion BTU

est RNG production (6.5-10% of nat gas)

285 million BTU estimated per capita consumption

\$21,798 million = Total energy expenditures (2014)

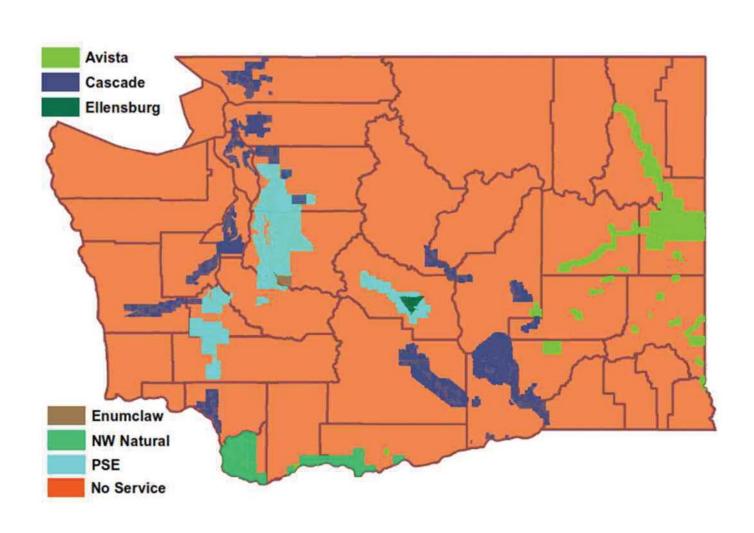
\$3,653 = Total energy expenditures per capita (2014)

265 million cubic feet, or 265 trillion BTU (2011 est.)

Sources: Energy Information Administration, State Energy Data System

# Lay of the Land

(Natural Gas Market in Washington)



# Western Gas Pipeline Grid



Williams (Northwest)

Pipeline supplies natural gas from Canada, from the Rocky Mountain region, and from the San Juan Basin in the U.S. Southwest.

Gas Transmission Northwest Pipeline enters the state from Idaho, bringing natural gas, primarily from Canada.

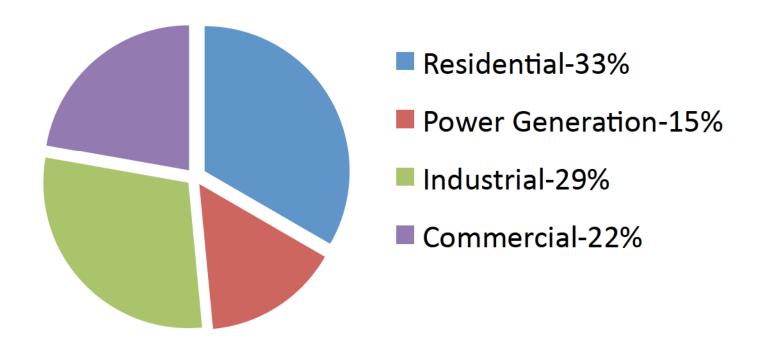
# **Washington Gas Pipeline Grid**



# **Natural Gas Utilities**

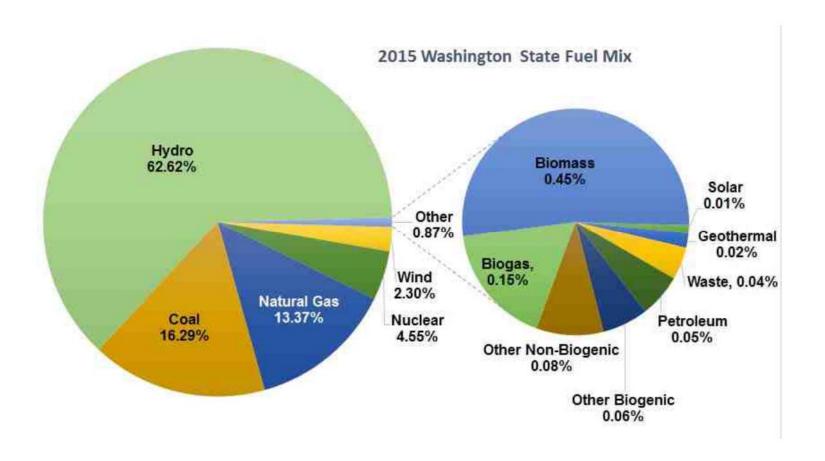
Utility	Gas Customers	Territory
Puget Sound Energy Bellevue, WA	790,000	Central Puget Sound region
Avista Corp. Spokane, WA	300,000	Eastern Washington and northern Idaho
Cascade Natural Gas Kennewick, WA	282,000	Scattered among NW, central and southern Washington counties
Northwest Natural Gas Co. Portland, OR	650,000	Western Oregon and southwest Washington

# **Natural Gas Use**



Source: EIA, 2011

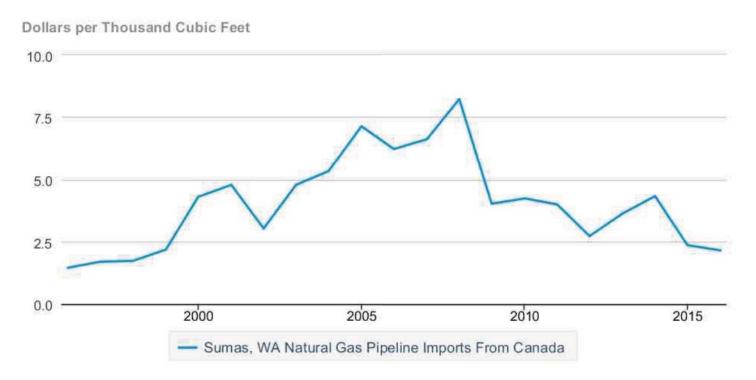
### **Natural Gas for Power**



Source: Dept of Commerce Fuel Mix Disclosure, 2015. Additional sources: Energy Information Administration, State Energy Data System

# Natural gas price trends

#### Sumas, WA Natural Gas Pipeline Imports From Canada



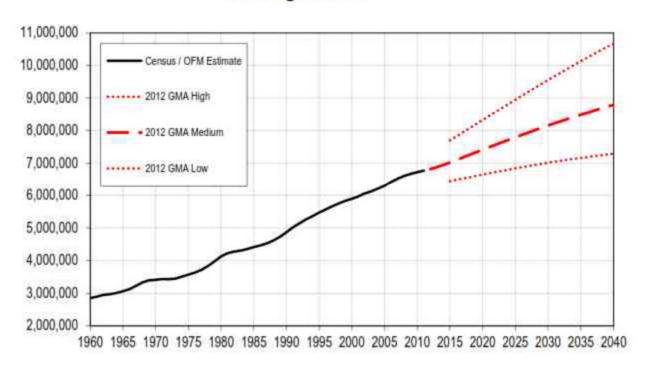
Residential: \$10.26 /1000 cf (2017) -- City Gate: NA /1000 cf (2017)

Residential: \$13.02 /1000 cf (2013) -- City Gate: \$5.86 /1000 cf (2013)

Source: Energy Information Administration, State Energy Data System

# Projected population growth

#### **Washington State**



Washington State population (OFM, April 2016) = **7,183,700** Population growth curves shown in the table below.

Source: Office of Financial Management, 2012. *County Growth Management Population Projections by Age and Sex:* 2010-2040 <a href="http://www.ofm.wa.gov/pop/gma/projections12/GMA">http://www.ofm.wa.gov/pop/gma/projections12/GMA</a> 2012 county pop projections.pdf

# Where are the Keys?

- Location, location
- Interstate interconnection
- Monetize environmental benefits (transportation & California links)
- Co-products
- Private finance
- State and local support



# We're on the Move





Landfills

**WWTPs** 





**Private** 

**MSW** 

### **Road Hazards**



- Limited pipeline infrastructure
- 2. RNG quality standards for pipeline gas
- 3. Scattered RNG sources
- 4. Price trends
- 5. Insufficient incentives

# **Roadside Assistance**





**Federal** 

State







Research

# **State Policy Options**

- Carbon pricing on GHG emissions
- RNG portfolio standard for gas utilities
- Clean fuel standard
- Utility regulation (interconnection standards, net metering, standard offers)
- Environmental and waste regulations
- Streamline permitting for new facilities
- Purchasing contracts and preferences, including state highways and fleets
- Financial assistance/incentives (Clean Energy Fund, property tax deferral, sales tax exemptions, etc.)

# **Coordinated Efforts**

POLICY – state and local governments

BENEFITS – economic, environmental, social

FINANCE – public and private



# **Thank You**

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