

Definitions for “Conversion Technologies” and “Recovery”

For Discussion at Sept. 20, 2012 Task Force Meeting

1. Definition of “Conversion Technologies”

Original Definition Proposed by Staff:

Conversion Technologies: The term “conversion technologies” refers to a wide array of technologies capable of converting post-recycled or residual solid waste into useful products, green fuels, and renewable energy through non-combustion thermal, chemical, or biological processes. Conversion technologies may include mechanical processes when combined with a secondary conversion process.

Proposed Definition amended by ATAS – 8/16/12:

Conversion Technologies: The term “conversion technologies” refers to a wide array of technologies capable of converting post-recycled or residual ~~solid~~ waste into useful products, green fuels, and renewable energy through non-combustion thermal, chemical, or biological processes. Conversion technologies may include mechanical processes when combined with a secondary conversion process.

2. Definition of “Recovery”

Proposed Definition by Staff, as requested by the Task Force on 8/16/12

Recovery: Recovery is defined as any waste management operation that diverts a material from the waste stream and which results in a product with a potential economic or ecological benefit. Recovery mainly refers to the following operations 1) re-use, 2) material recovery such as recycling 3) biological recovery such as composting, and 4) energy recovery such as fuel production.

Current draft definition in Countywide Siting Element:

Conversion/Recovery Technologies: Refers to a wide array of technologies capable of converting post-recycled or residual solid waste into useful products, green fuels, and renewable energy through non-combustion thermal, chemical, or biological processes. Conversion/recovery technologies may include mechanical processes, but only when combined with a secondary conversion process.