

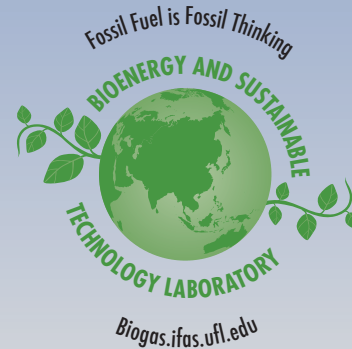
## FOOD WASTE IN FLORIDA

- 1.7 million tons generated annually
- Only 1% is currently recycled
- Most is currently landfilled



## FLORIDA'S RECYCLING GOAL

- 75% recycling of MSW by 2020
- 28% of MSW is currently recycled
- Food waste constitutes 6% of MSW in Florida
- Food waste diversion supports the recycling goal



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## DIVERTING FOOD WASTE from LANDFILLS

*Increasing food waste recycling rates in Florida through sustainable biological conversion*



**DIVERTING FOOD WASTE FROM LANDFILLS**  
<http://biogas.ifas.ufl.edu/foodwaste>

**BIOGAS – A RENEWABLE BIOFUEL**  
<http://biogas.ifas.ufl.edu>



## TYPICAL GENERATORS OF FOOD WASTE

- Grocery stores
- Restaurants
- Households
- Lodging facilities
- Schools and colleges
- Prisons
- Food processing plants

## COMPOSITION OF FOOD WASTE

- High moisture content ~ 70%
- Contains valuable plant nutrients
- Potential feedstock for biofuels

## ANAEROBIC DIGESTION OF FOOD WASTE IS WIDELY PRACTICED IN OTHER COUNTRIES.

### ANAEROBIC DIGESTION:

An option for food waste diversion

Anaerobic digestion is a natural process where microbes break down organic matter like food waste into biogas and plant nutrients. Anaerobic digesters create a closed-loop cycle to recover biogas and nutrients. Biogas is a renewable biofuel composed mostly of methane – the principal component of natural gas. Effluent from digesters can be used as a liquid biofertilizer. Anaerobic digesters can be built on any scale – from small on-site units to large centralized facilities.

### BENEFITS OF ANAEROBIC DIGESTION OF FOOD WASTE

- Diverts waste from landfills
- Reduces landfill greenhouse gas emissions
- Reduces pollutants and total volume of landfill leachate
- Produces renewable energy
- Recovers valuable plant nutrients
- Reduces transportation costs and emissions when food waste is digested locally

