

Zero Waste Strategy LCA Results:

Why the Vancouver Region Should Fund & Promote 3Rs not 2Ds

Dr. Jeffrey Morris

Sound Resource Management

Olympia, Washington, USA

Tel. 360.867.1033

jeff.morris@zerowaste.com

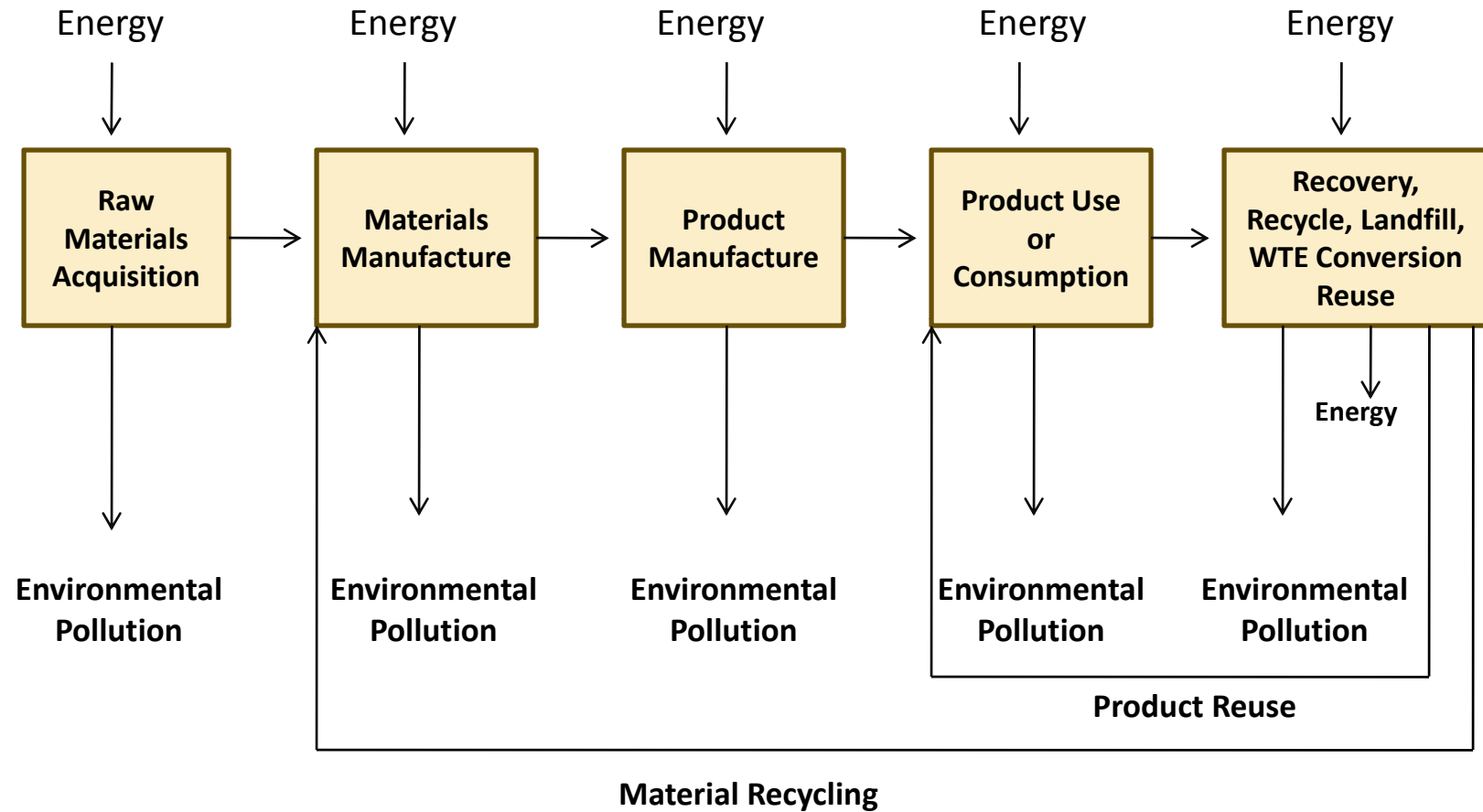
Presentation Outline & Summary

- ✘ MSW: garbage glob vs. discarded resources
- ✘ Recycling widely preferable to disposal in terms of energy and pollution savings
- ✘ Disposal is interim solution not THE solution
- ✘ Landfills better than WTE for climate, human health and ecosystems
- ✘ WTE needs steady fuel supply, which can interfere with waste prevention and recycling opportunities
- ✘ Recycling provides green jobs and local economic development potential

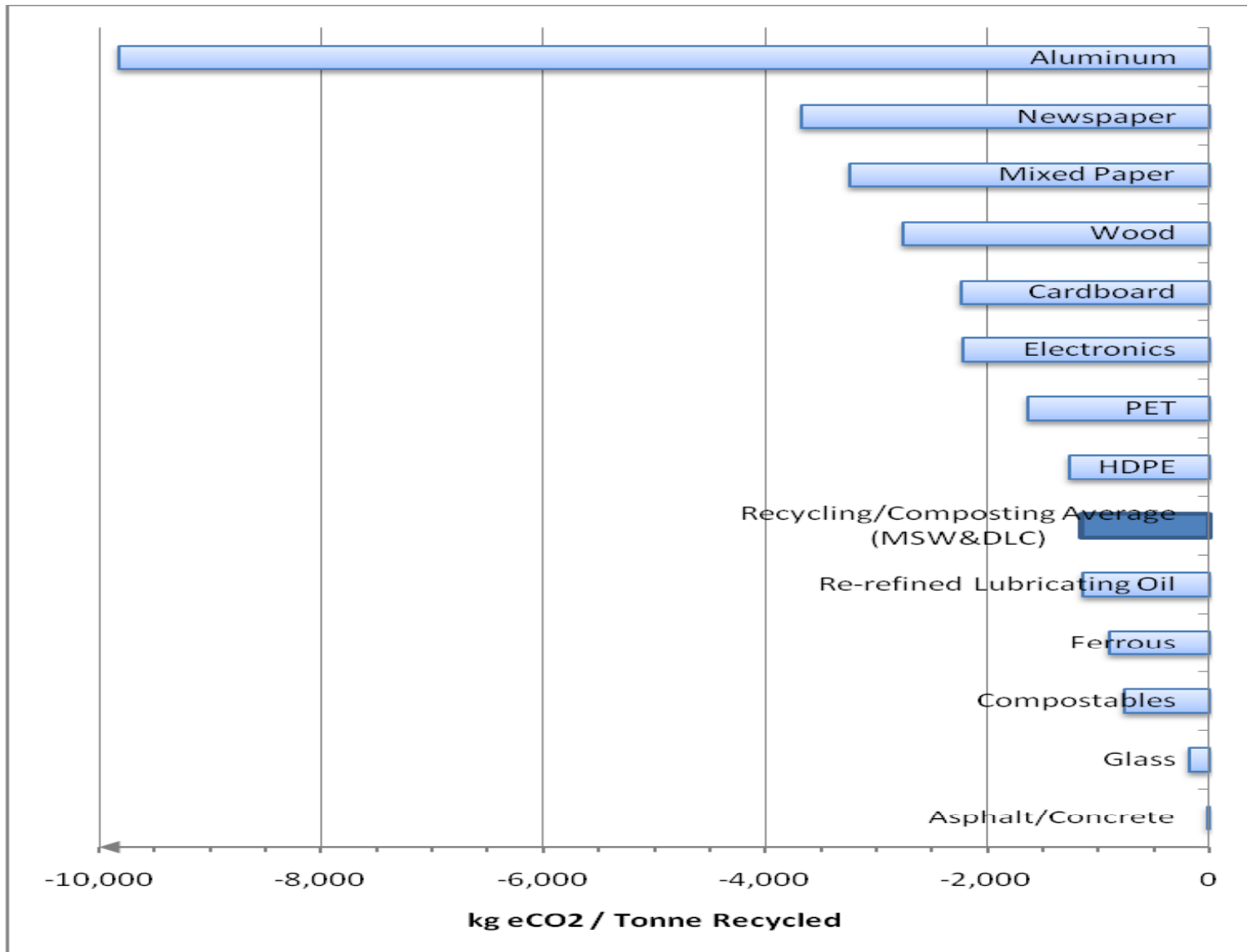
Zero Waste Focus:

**Waste Materials Are Resources
That Reduce Pollution & Energy Use!**

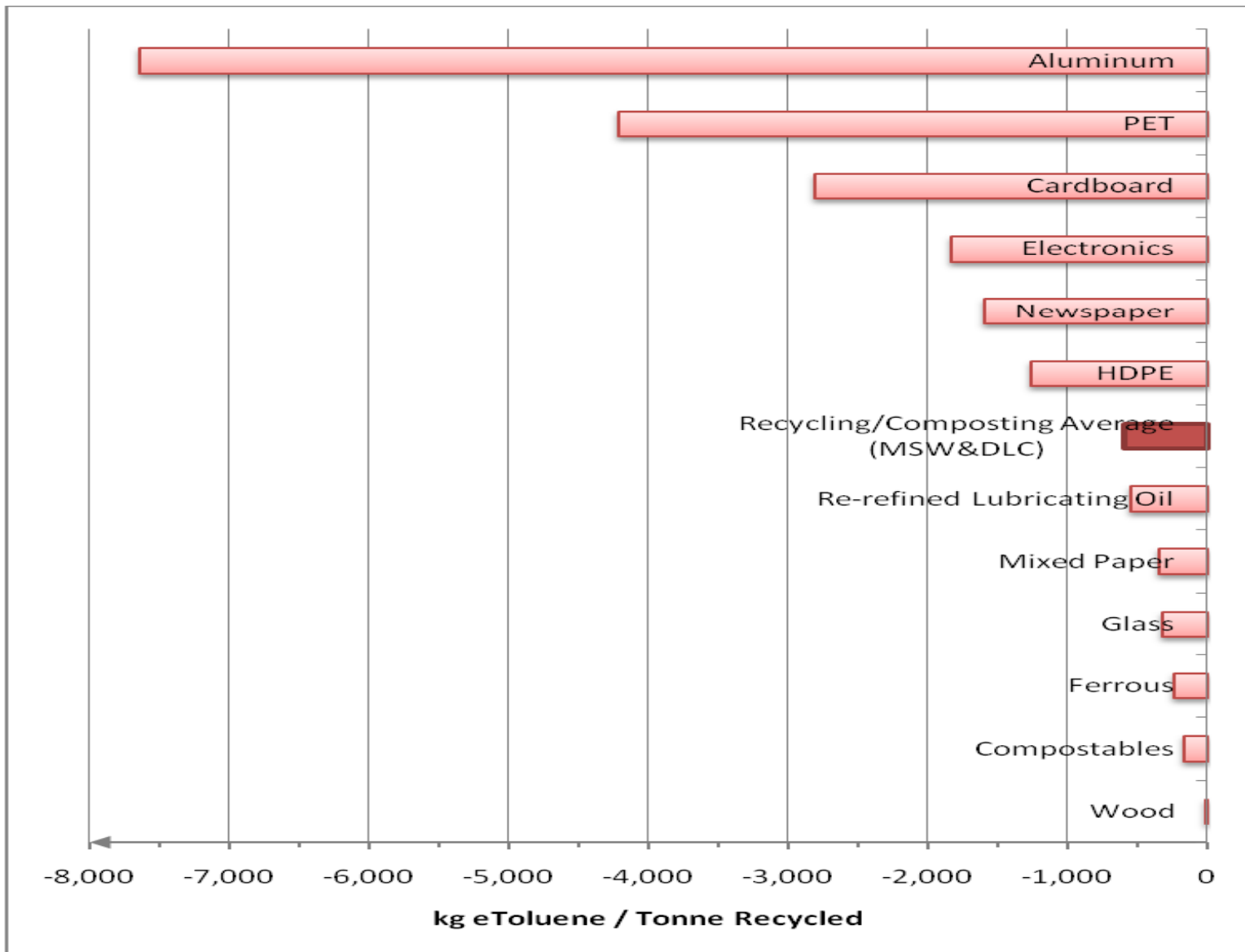
Life Cycle Analysis (LCA)



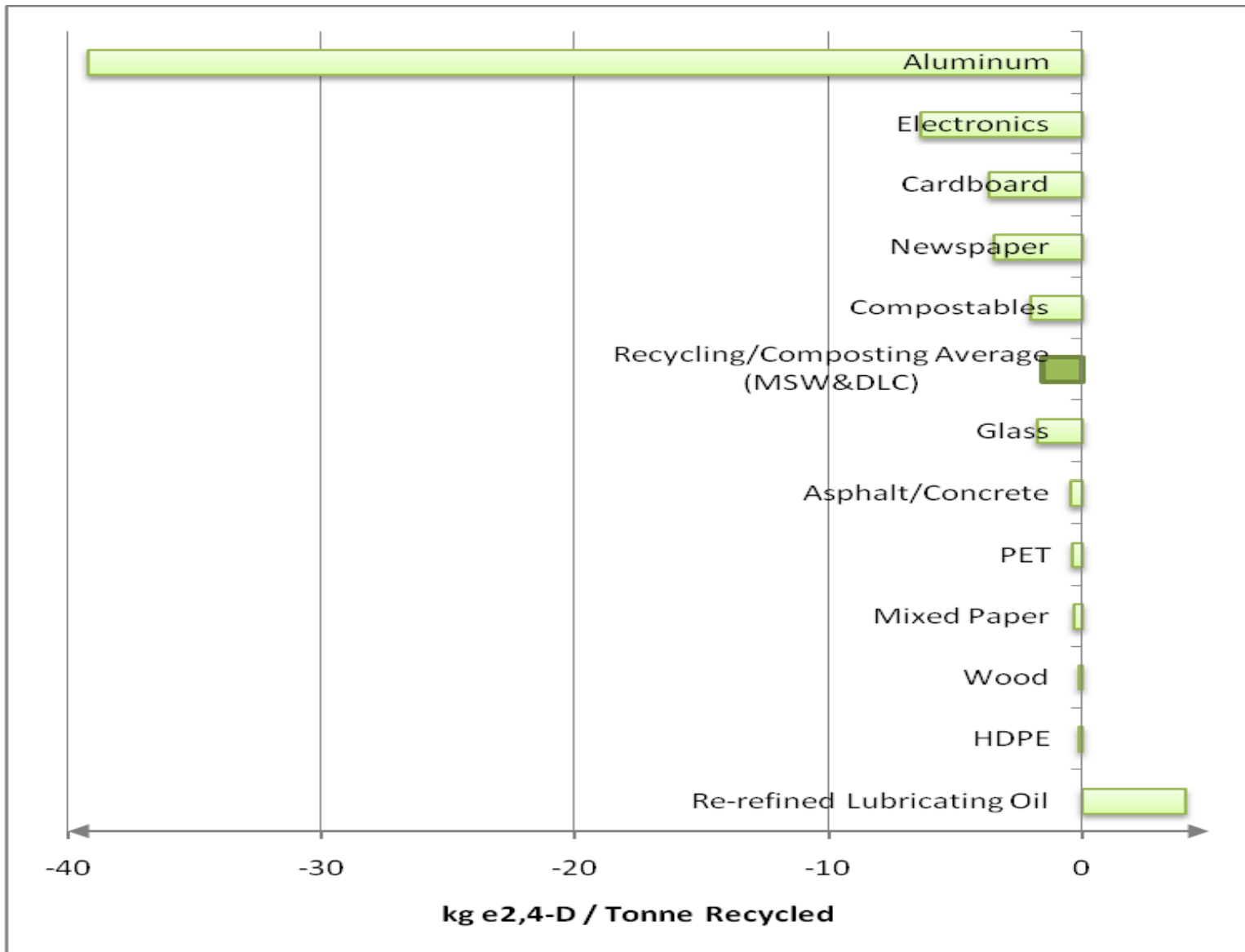
Greenhouse Gas Emissions per Tonne – Select Recyclable Materials (2008)



Human Health Emissions per Tonne – Select Recyclable Materials (2008)



Ecosystem Toxicity Emissions per Tonne – Select Recyclable Materials (2008)

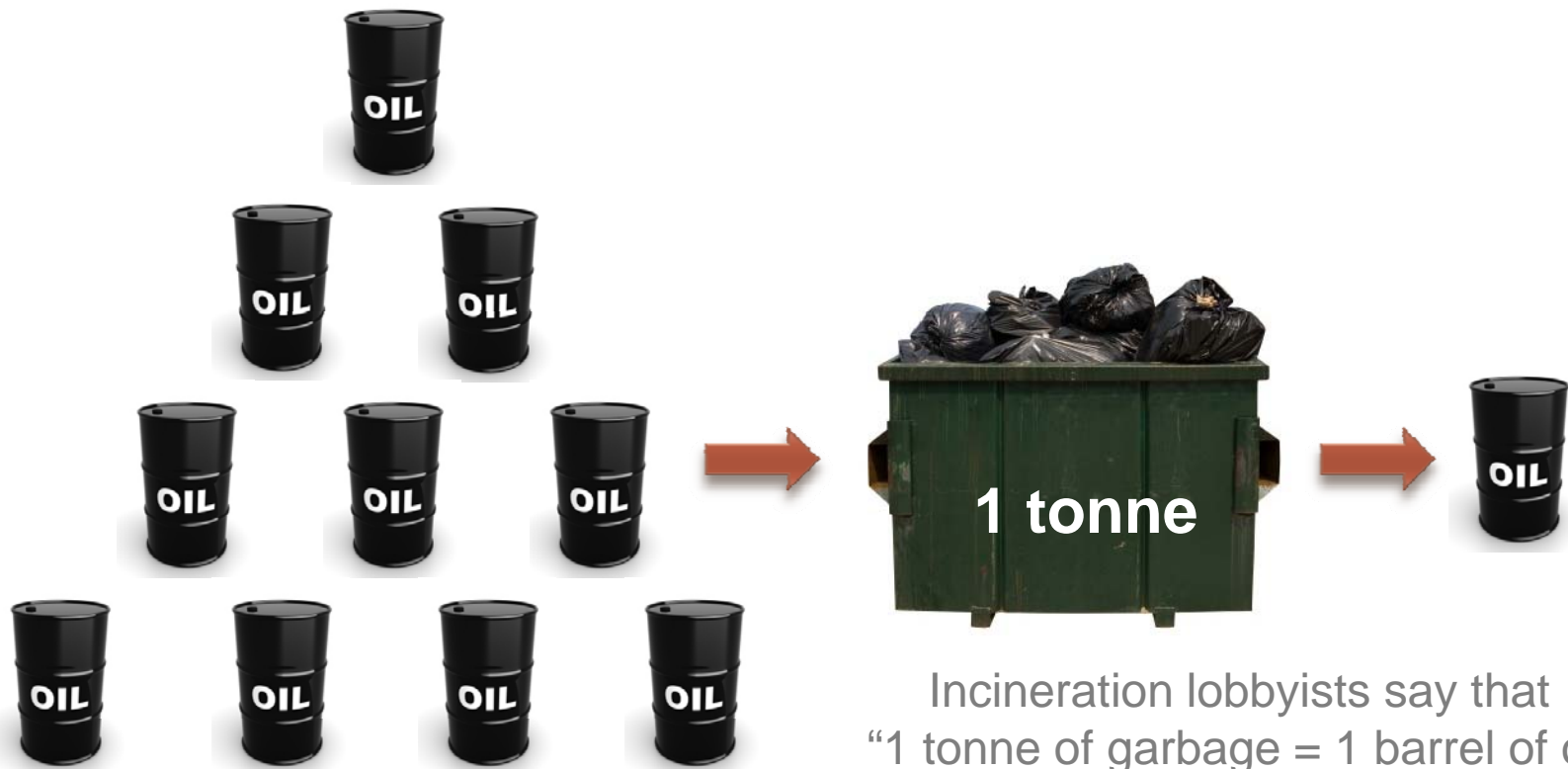


Garbage is:

Renewable & Sustainable Energy?



Incineration lobbyists say that
"1 tonne of garbage = 1 barrel of oil"



The full picture: it takes **8-10 barrels** of oil to produce 1 tonne of garbage.
From this perspective, garbage is neither a sustainable nor a renewable fuel.



Recycling **saves** the equivalent of 4 barrels of the oil needed to produce 1 tonne of garbage

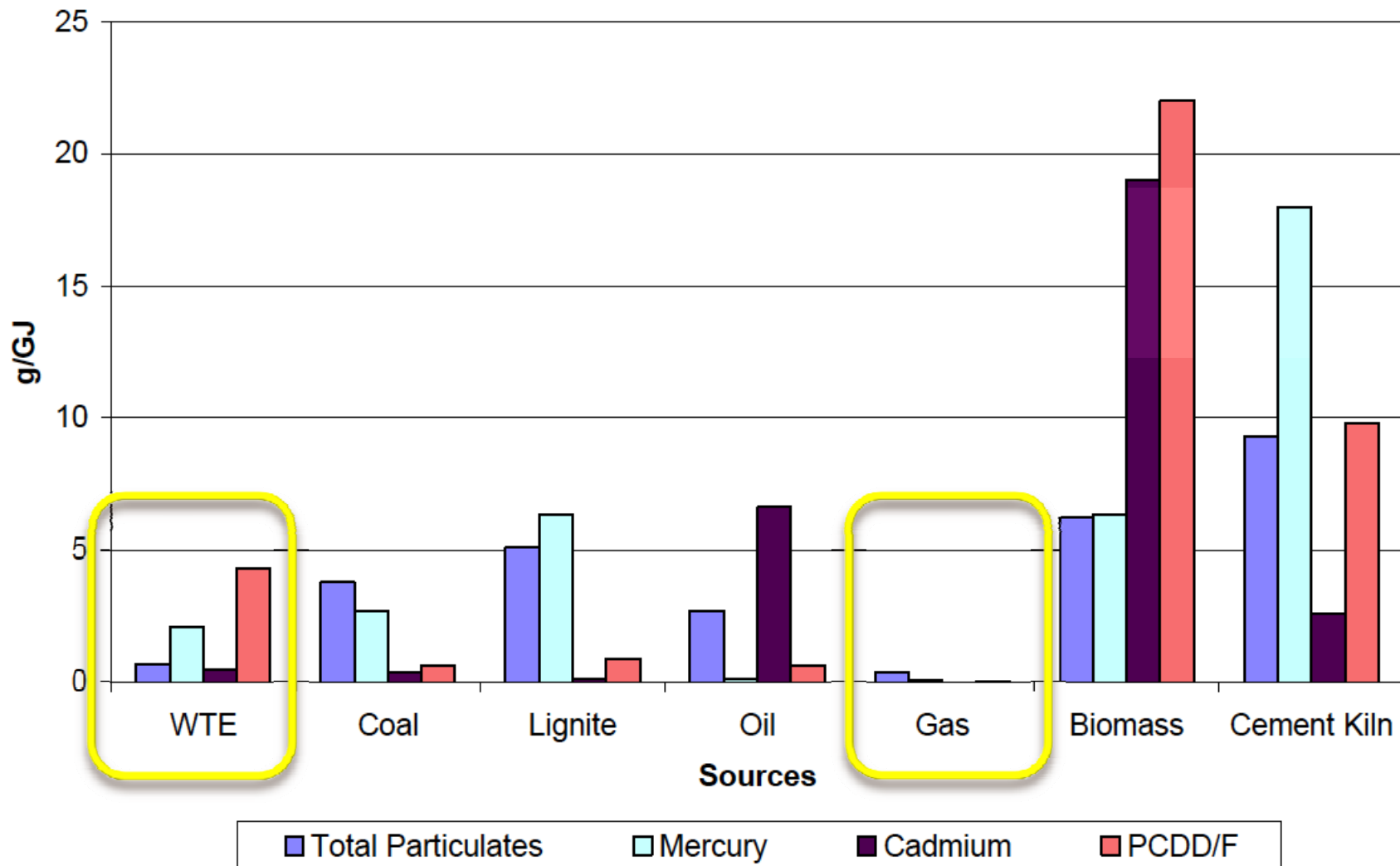
Garbage is:

Clean & Green Energy?

GHG Emissions for Electricity Generation (tonnes eCO₂ per GWh)

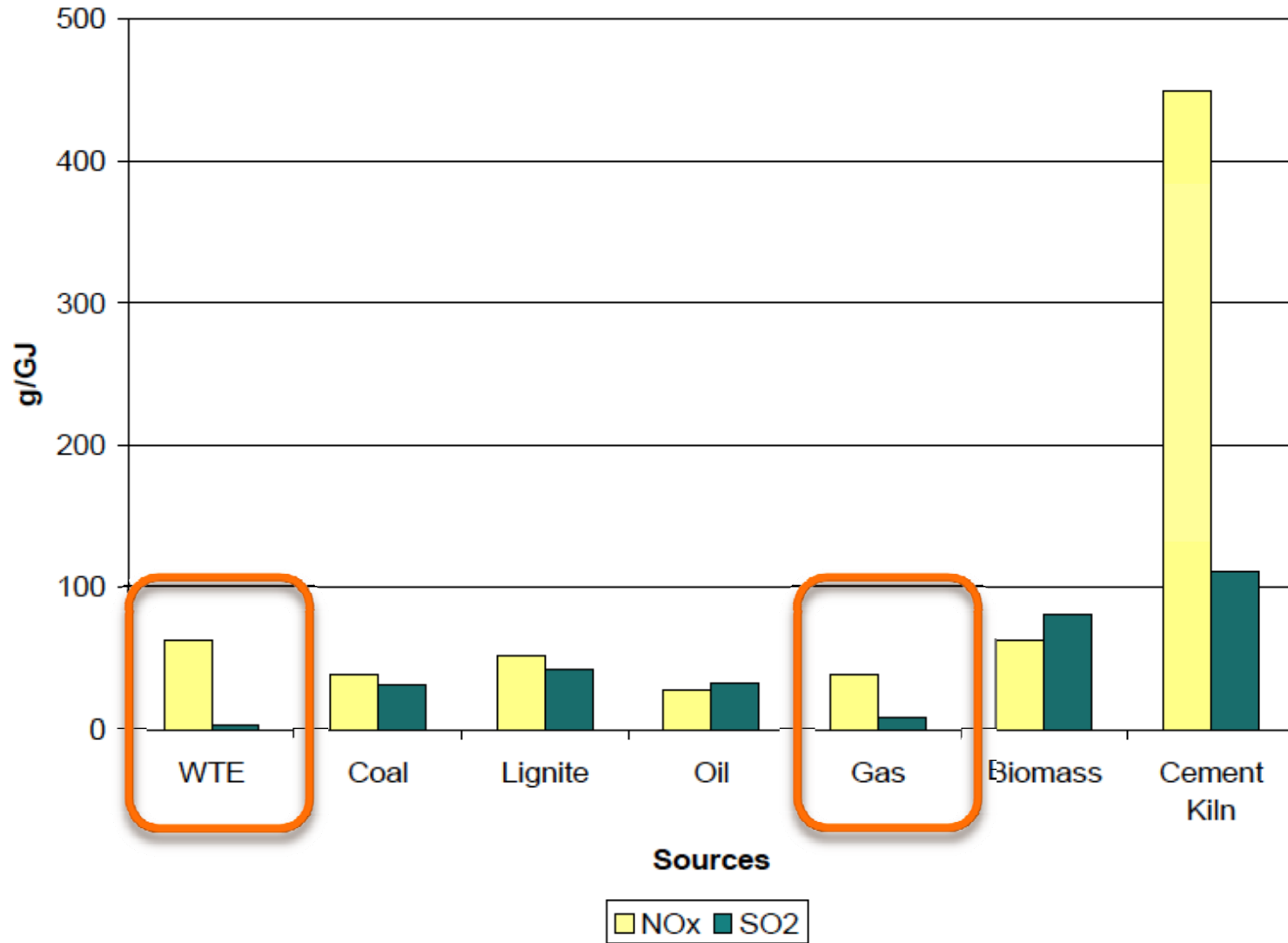
Coal	900 - 1000
MSW Waste-to-Energy	600 - 900
Natural Gas	350 - 400
BC Consumption Avg.	87
Wind	0

Figure 18. Emissions per GJ of Energy Input (1)



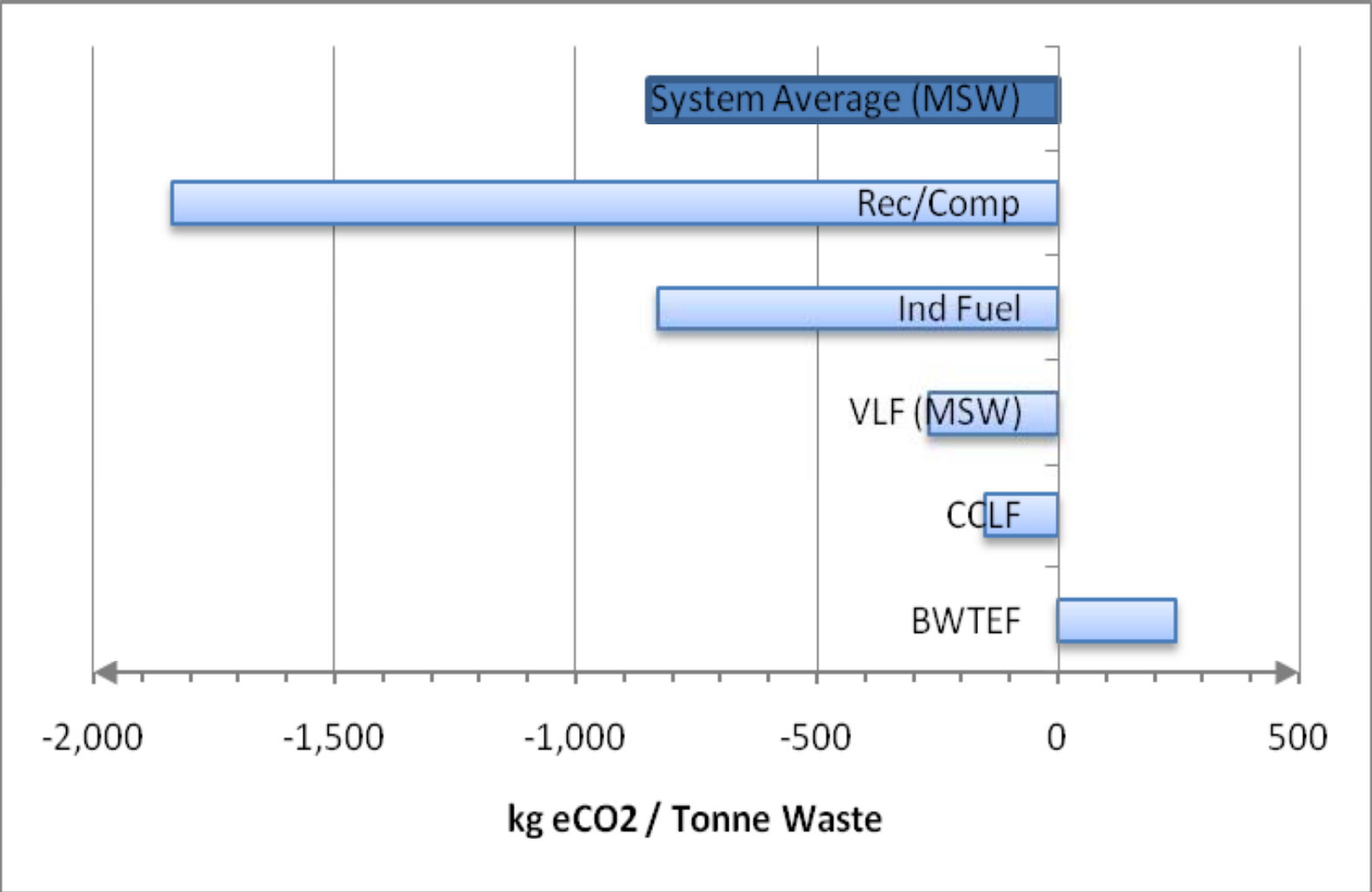
Source: AECOM Canada (2009). *Management of Municipal Solid Waste in Metro Vancouver*.

Figure 19. Emissions per GJ Energy Input (2)



Source: AECOM Canada (2009). *Management of Municipal Solid Waste in Metro Vancouver*.

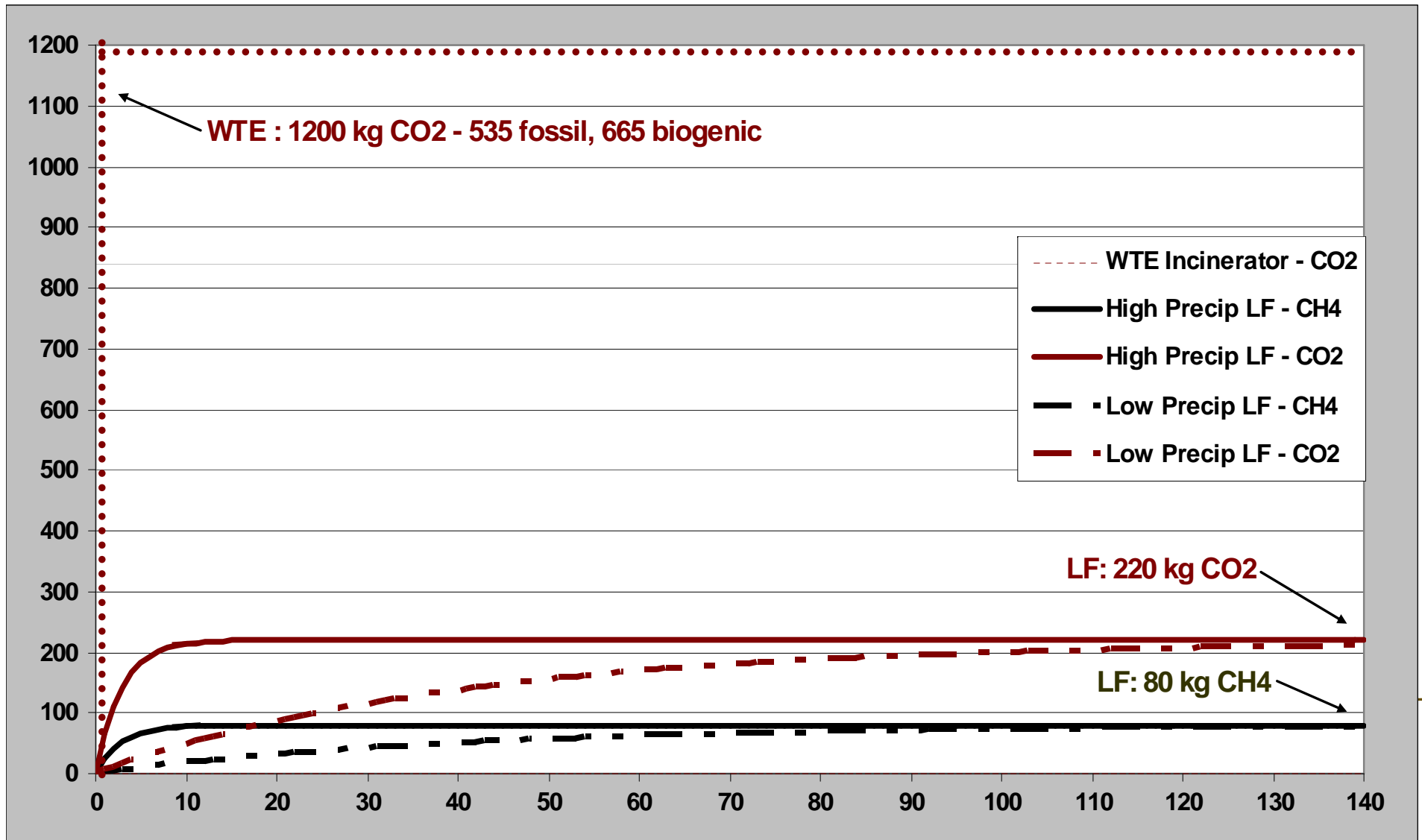
Greenhouse Gas Emissions per Tonne – MSW (2008)



Average Environmental Impact per Tonne – MSW (2008)

	Climate (eCO ₂)	Health (eToluene)	Ecosystems (e2,4-D)
Recycling & Composting	-1,835	-945	-2
Landfill	-215	60	<0.1
WTE	245	105	2

CO2 & CH4 Cumulative Generation Over 140 Years (kilograms per tonne of MSW disposal)



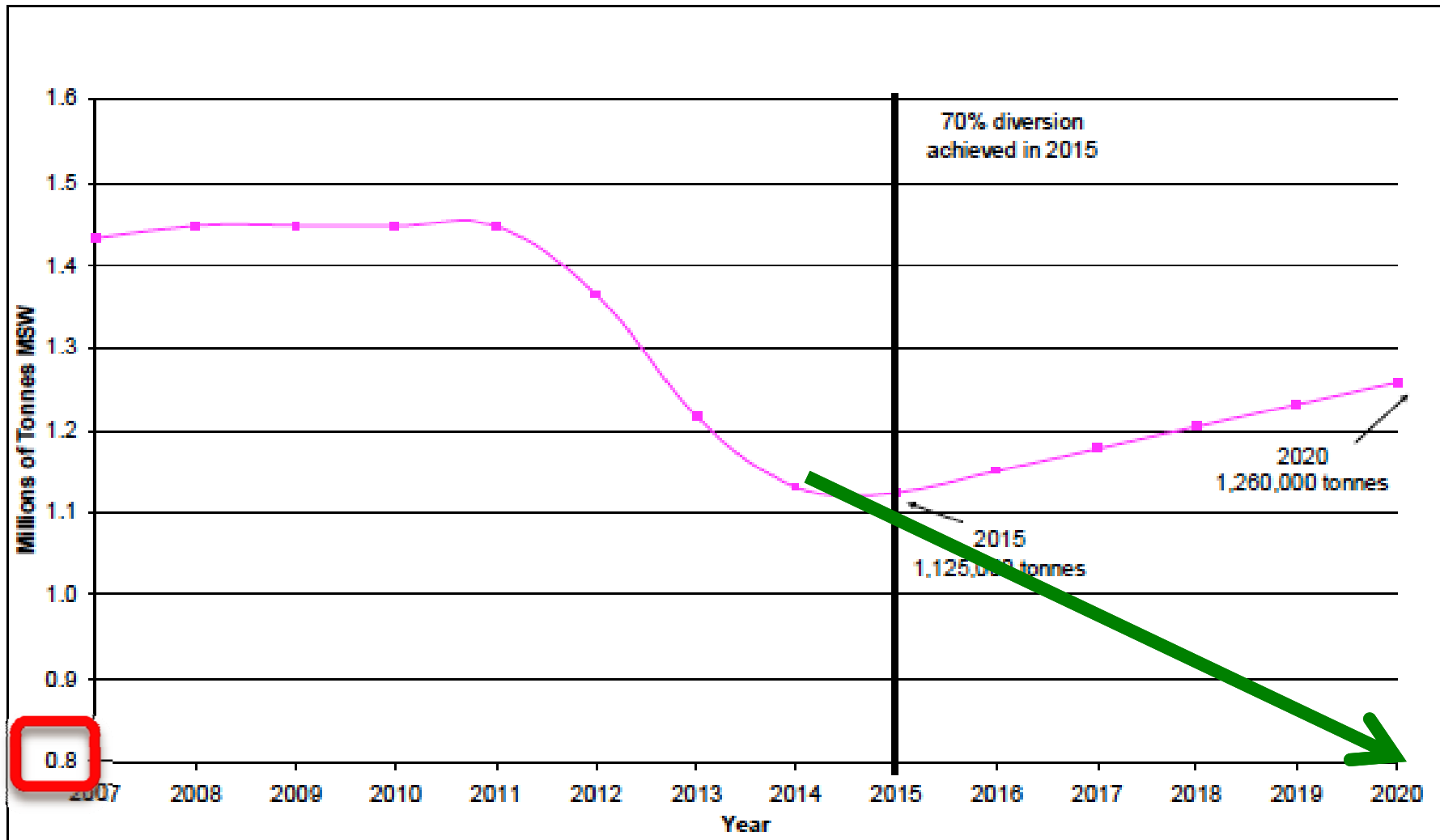
Carbon Content Stored in Landfill – Select Recyclable Materials (US EPA, 2008)

Newspaper	86%
Cardboard	55
Food Scraps	16
Grass	53
Leaves	85

Zero Waste Strategy:

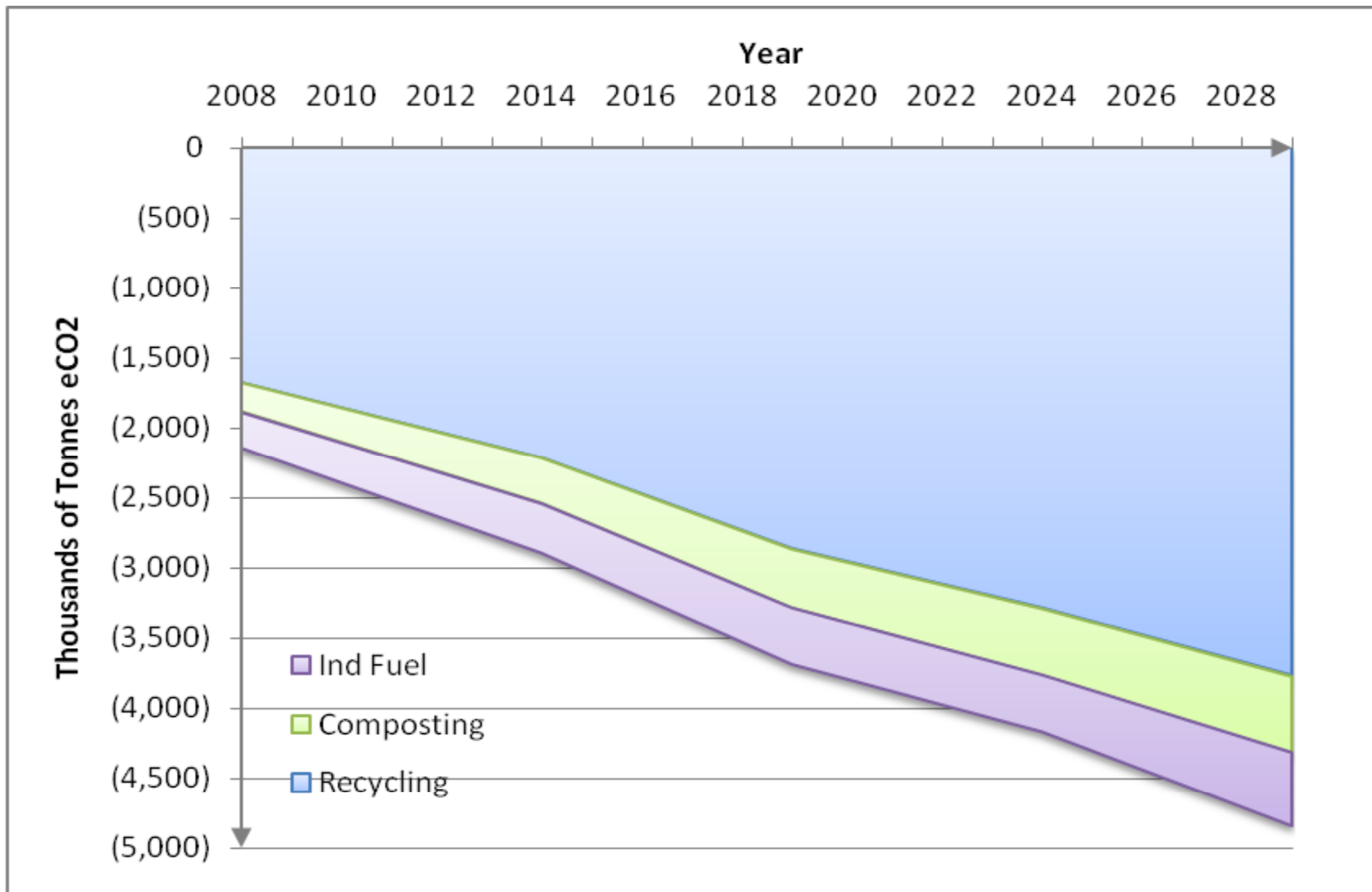
Benefits & Methods

Waste Requiring Further Treatment and Disposal

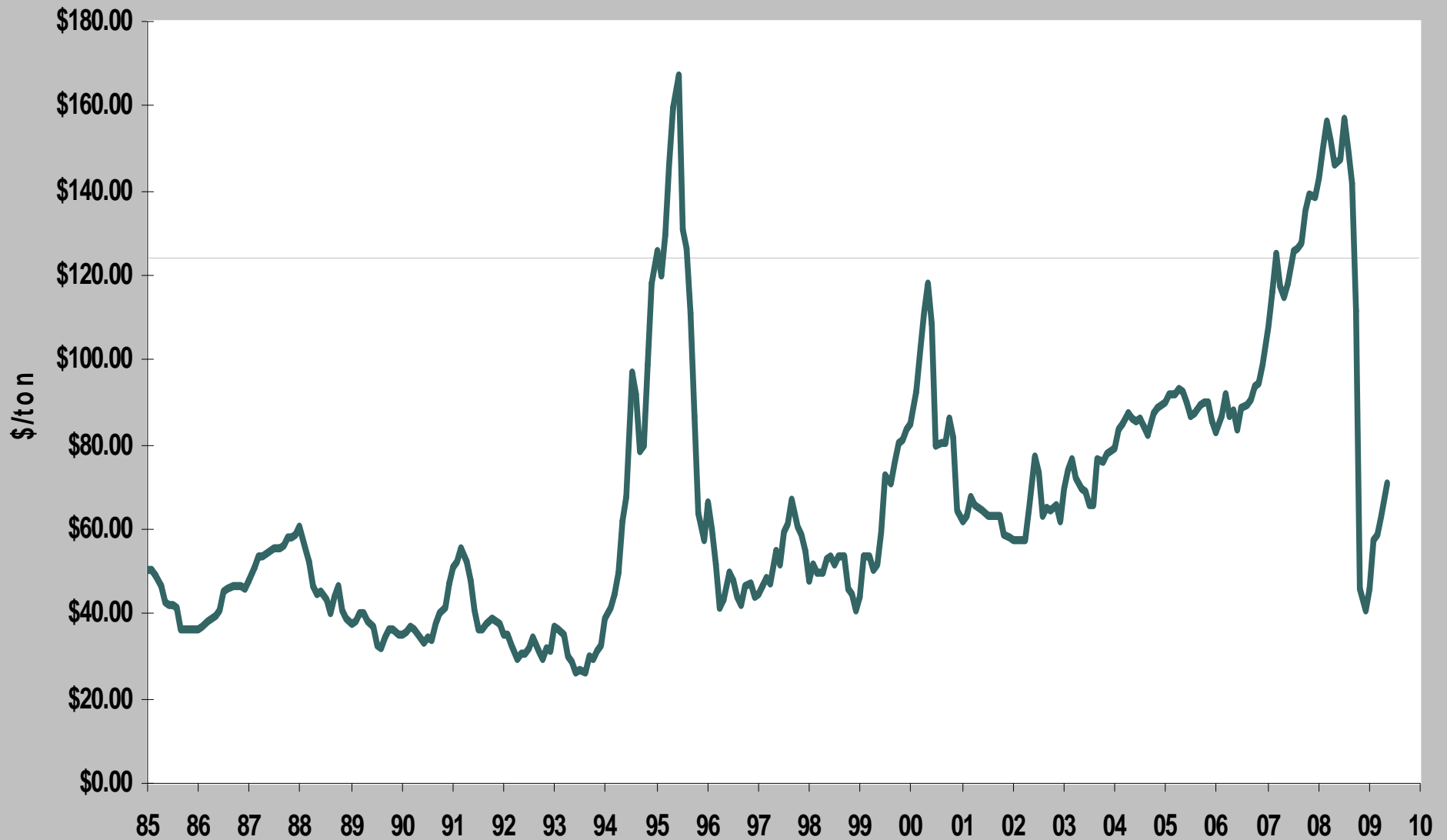


Source: AECOM Canada (2009). *Management of Municipal Solid Waste in Metro Vancouver*.

Net GHG Emissions from Waste Diversion (2008-29) Zero Waste Scenario



Average Value for Curbside Recycled Materials Pacific Northwest, 1985-2009



Zero Waste Strategy Methods

- ✘ Economic Incentives – linear garbage rates, deposits and refunds, EPR, sin taxes
- ✘ Collection Opportunities - curbside, on site, streetside, and public event containers for recyclables and compostables
- ✘ Bans & Regulations – disposal bans, recycling bylaws, building code specs for collection containers
- ✘ Education & Social Marketing

Conclusions

- ✘ Zero waste strategy optimizes environmental and local economic development potentials of recycling
- ✘ Disposal should be viewed as bridging option on the road to zero waste
- ✘ Landfills definitely better than WTE for climate, and at least as good for human health and ecosystems
- ✘ WTE is neither clean, green, renewable, nor sustainable
- ✘ WTE needs steady fuel supply, which can interfere with waste reduction and recycling opportunities
- ✘ Recycling provides green jobs and local economic development potential

Thank you.

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Report available at www.belkorp.com