

**Table 4. Typical Heat Content of Materials in Municipal Solid Waste (MSW)  
(Million Btu Per Ton)**

Materials	Million Btu Per Ton
Plastics	
Polyethylene terephthalate <sup>c,e</sup> (PET)	20.5
High density polyethylene <sup>c</sup> (HDPE)	19
Polyvinyl chloride <sup>c</sup> (PVC)	16.5
Low density polyethylene/ Linear low density polyethylene <sup>e</sup> (LDPE/LLDPE)	24.1
Polypropylene <sup>c</sup> (PP)	38
Polystyrene <sup>c</sup> (PS)	35.6
Other <sup>c</sup>	20.5
Rubber <sup>b</sup>	26.9
Leather <sup>d</sup>	14.4
Textiles <sup>c</sup>	13.8
Wood <sup>b</sup>	10
Food <sup>a,c</sup>	5.2
Yard trimmings <sup>b</sup>	6
Newspaper <sup>c</sup>	16
Corrugated Cardboard <sup>c,d</sup>	16.5
Mixed paper <sup>e</sup>	6.7

a Includes recovery of other MSW organics for composting.

b Energy Information Administration, Renewable Energy Annual 2004, "Average Heat Content of Selected Biomass Fuels," (Washington, DC, 2005).

c Penn State Agricultural College Agricultural and Biological Engineering and Council for Solid Waste Solutions, Garth, J. and Kowal, P. Resource Recovery, Turning Waste into Energy, University Park, PA, 1993.

d Bahillo, A. et al. Journal of Energy Resources Technology, "NOx and N2O Emissions During Fluidized Bed Combustion of Leather Wastes," Volume 128, Issue 2, June 2006. pp. 99-103.

<sup>e</sup> Utah State University Recycling Center Frequently Asked Questions. <http://www.usu.edu/recycle/faq.htm>