

Appendix C. Biomass Conversion Matrix

		1. Biomass Conversion Technology	2. Feedstocks	3. Products		
Thermochemical	Gasification	Fixed Bed Downdraft Co-Current Fixed Bed Updraft Co-Current Fixed Bed Cross-Draft Fixed Bed Open Core Fixed Bed	Any Organic Material Examples: Agricultural wastes, hazardous organic wastes, industrial wastes. Pretreatment: Waste typically segregated. Qualifications: Dry MSW is favorable. Coal size distribution must be controlled to ensure good bed permeability. Final Conversion Technology (Optional): Fischer-Tropsch Catalytic Conversion	Intermediate Products: Combustible gases, liquids, tars, and inert fluidizing gases. Final Products: Electricity, Thermal Energy, Hydrogen, Ethanol and other alcohols, Diesel type fuels, Gasoline. Co-products: Charcoal, Ash, Carbon Dioxide.		
		Fluidized Bed Pressurized Circulating Fluidized Bed Atmospheric Circulating Fluidized Bed				
		Novel Design Plasma Arc Gasifier 2-stage Gasifier Open Top Aqueous Phase Reforming				
	Pyrolysis	Fast Pyrolysis Ablative Fast Pyrolysis Cyclonic Fast Pyrolysis Rotating Core Fast Pyrolysis Open Core Fast Pyrolysis	Any Organic Material Pretreatment: Sorting Qualifications: None	Intermediate products: Syngas and Charcoal Final Products: Bio-Oil and Charcoal Co-products: Electricity and Thermal Energy		
		Slow Pyrolysis Vacuum Pyrolysis Flash Pyrolysis	Any Organic Material Pretreatment: Sorting. Qualifications: Waste must be pre-sorted and processed to <6 mm (1 to 2 mm. preferred) and <10% moisture content to assure high heat transfer rate.			
	Ethanol Production	Wet-Mill Fermentation		Grains Mostly: Corn Pretreatment: Separation of the oil, protein, fiber and the bulk of the nutrients from the starch	Intermediate Products: Mash, Sugar Final Products: Ethanol Co-products: Distillers grains plus solubles, Carbon Dioxide	
Dry-Mill Fermentation		Grains, Sugars and Waste , Starches and Sugars Examples: Grains (corn, sorghum, barley), Sugars (Sugarcane and beets), Beer, and other waste sugars and starches. Pretreatment: Grinding, cooking and fermentation	Intermediate Products: Starch, Sugar Final Products: Ethanol Co-products: Corn oil, corn gluten meal, corn gluten feed, carbon dioxide, liquid bio-fertilizers			
Lignocellulosic Biomass Fermentation		Cellulosic/Woody Biomass Pretreatment: Hydrolysis (Dilute Acid, Concentrated Acid, Enzymatic, Steam explosion)	Intermediate Products: Cellulose, hemicellulose, lignin Final Products: Ethanol Co-products: Carbon Dioxide, residual cellulose and lignin, electricity and thermal energy			
Biochemical	Anaerobic Digesters	Mesophilic Process or Thermophilic Process Anaerobic activated sludge process Anaerobic clarigester Anaerobic contact process Anaerobic expanded-bed reactor Anaerobic filter Anaerobic fluidized bed Anaerobic lagoon Anaerobic migrating blanket reactor Batch system anaerobic digester Expanded granular sludge bed digestion Hybrid reactor Imhoff tank One-stage anaerobic digester Submerged media anaerobic reactor Two-stage anaerobic digester Upflow anaerobic sludge blanket digestion Upflow and down-flow anaerobic attached growth	Almost any organic material: paper, grass clippings, leftover food, sewages, animal wastes; and other forms of biomass such as distillers grains. Pretreatment: Sorting or screening to remove inorganic material. Qualifications: The material may need to be pre-processed and water added.	Intermediate products: N/A. Final Products: Biogas, Thermal Energy, Digestate. Co-products: Liquid and Solid Biofertilizers.		
			Landfill	Bioreactor vessel	Organic Wastes Pretreatment: Sorting pre-treatment Qualifications: The waste must be contained, compacted and covered in a vessel	Intermediate products: Biogas composed of Methane, Carbon Dioxide, Nitrogen, Hydrogen, Hydrogen Sulfide and Oxygen. Final Products: Electricity, thermal energy, methane. CNG or LNG for vehicle fuel. Co-products: Carbon Dioxide for possible use in greenhouse operations, and Biofertilizers.
				Landfill Site	Organic Wastes Pretreatment: None Qualifications: None	
Aerobic	Static Pile Enclosed Compost Turned Window In-Vessel Compost Transesterification		Practically any Organic Waste Pretreatment: Sorting Qualifications: A separation between organic and contaminants is necessary.	Intermediate products: None Final Products: Valuable Compost Co-products: Heat and Carbon Dioxide. (May be useful in a greenhouse environment or for heating)		
	Chemical	Biodiesel Production		Oils, fats, used cooking oils, greases, methanol or ethanol and a catalyst Pretreatment: Used cooking oils, yellow greases, and some tree oils are taken through an esterification process to remove fatty acid that should, preferably, be reduced to less than 1% (at least below 4%). Qualifications: Essentially any bio-oil, animal fat or tallow, used cooking oil, yellow/trap grease, plant or tree oil can be converted into biodiesel if the fatty acid content is low enough.	Intermediate Products: Oils fats or greases taken through transesterification Final Products: Biodiesel Co-products: Glycerin, Soaps	

* Washington, D.C.: Sustainability Program, Office of Research and Development, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. December 2007.