

CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR 2013 PROJECT SUMMARY

Name(s)

Kimberly J. Mitchell

Project Number

J1013

Project Title

The New Gassy World

Abstract

Objectives/Goals

The purpose of this experiment is to find out if the use of leftover fruits and vegetables from supermarkets used like feedstock in an anaerobic digester is a cheaper alternative to produce biogas in place of specialized energy crops at the same anaerobic conditions.

Methods/Materials

To conduct this experiment, I had to build a biogas system and make samples for Predigester A and Predigester B. After that,I put slurry A into C,D, and E and slurry B into F,G,and H; put the digesters into temperatures 59F (C and F),72F (D and G),and 100F (E and H) for 10 days, measuring biogas using water displacement and Syringe Protocol.

Results

Slurry F produced more biogas than slurry C at 59F, slurry G produced more biogas than slurry d at 72F, and slurry E produced more biogas than slurry H at 100F. The most production of biogas produced was at 100F for slurry E and slurry H, but slurry H had the most production of biogas.

Conclusions/Discussion

My hypothesis should be considered false because the feedstock of maize and sorghum produced more biogas than the feedstock of vegetables and fruit.

Summary Statement

My project is about if the combination of unsold fruits and vegetables could produce more biogas than the combination of specialized energy crops, maize and sorghum.

Help Received

Father helped me with building the biogas system. Father and Mother supervised me for my safety.