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THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF MECHANICAL-BIOLOGICAL WASTE TREATMENT BY LCA METHOD

Abstract

The computer program IWM-PL for the life cycle assessment (LCA) of waste was described. The environmental impact of the mechanical-biological treatment (MBT) technology was estimated. Final report shows that the analysed MBT plant does not have negative impact on the environment.

Keywords: MBT, biodrying, life cycle assessment (LCA)

1. Introduction

The European Directive 2008/98/EC [1] lays down waste management targets that should eliminate risk for the human health and the environment. Waste legislation and policy prefer technologies that minimize risk pollution to water, air, soil without causing noise or odors. The process of choosing the best waste treatment technology can be supported by the method called the life cycle assessment (LCA). The international standards ISO 14041 [2], ISO 14042 [3], ISO 14043 [4], ISO/TR 14049 [5] include detailed descriptions of the various LCA phases. LCA analysis are based on a number of assumption and averages [6, 7, 8]. Traditional LCA models can be supported by many computer programs with wide capabilities i.e. EASETECH (www.easetech.dk/EASEWASTE), SimaPro (www.pre-sustainability.com/simapro), GaBi (www.gabi-software.com), Umberto (www.umberto.de/), IWM (www.iwm-software.de/).

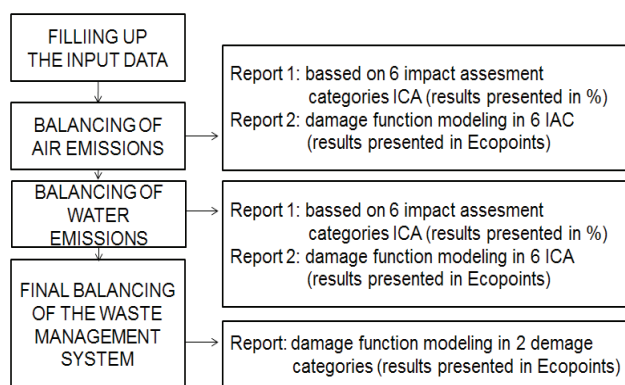
This paper focuses on the LCA applied in the IWM-PL program. The analyzed program IWM-PL is the polish version of the IWM-2 (developed by Forbes R. McDougall, Peter R. White, Marina Franke and Peter Hindle) [9]. The IWM-PL software was created by A. Kraszewski, E. Pietrzyk-Sokulska, E. den Boer, A. Generowicz, J. Kulczycka, R. Szpadt, M. Cholewa, I. Kosińska. The capabilities of the IWM-PL were discussed by Grzesik K. [10, 11, 12].

2. IWM-PL characterization [13, 14, 15]

IWM-PL users are obligated to fill up a simplified range of data concerning materials and energies balance. The program offers the use of the *default values* for instance the average parameters for the selected process. The functional unit IWM-PL is the total amount of the waste input into the system. The software includes **10 main categories**: waste collection system, sorting process, production of alternative fuel (residual derived fuels RDF), biological treatment process, thermal treatment process, RDF incineration, landfilling of non-hazardous waste, landfilling of hazardous waste, recycling and economic assessment of investment. Each category contains one or more steps. Steps make possible to fill up the input data on the basis of which the output data are calculated. Most steps are in the waste collection system category because the morphology of the waste has a very large impact on the LCA analysis. Some categories are based on the data entered in the previous stages and contain only one step: *Inputs and outputs of the process*. Usually in these steps program requires following data: consumption of the electricity and diesel oil, production of biogas and leachate.

IWM-PL program calculates the impact of emissions occurring in two areas: **air and water**. The results are given in 2 reports, separated for water and air. The first

report is based on **6 impact assessment categories: carcinogens, the effect of organic/inorganic compounds on the human respiratory system, climate changes, ecotoxicity and acidification.** The results are presented in percent. The second report is based on the damage function modeling and contains the results converted into Ecopoints. Ecopoint is the ratio of the total environmental load in Europe for the number of its population, multiplied by 1000. The final step summarizes results of water and air pollution in **2 damages categories: a human healthy and ecosystem quality.** The results are given in Ecopoints. Figure 1 shows the data processing steps in the IWM-PL software.



- **Ecopoint (Pt)** - the ratio of the total environmental load in Europe for the number of its population, multiplied by 1000.

Fig. 1. The data processing scheme in the IWM-PL software

3. The analyzed mechanical-biological treatment (MBT) plant

The technology concept treats 45 000 Mg of the unsorted solid waste. According to Fig. 2, sixty percent of waste is directed to the biological stage, while the rest goes to the RDF production. The biological stage idea works on the biodrying concept that produces 50% of waste treated by the thermal methods and 50% of stabilized (biologically inactive) waste going to landfill. The waste morphology was presented in table 1.

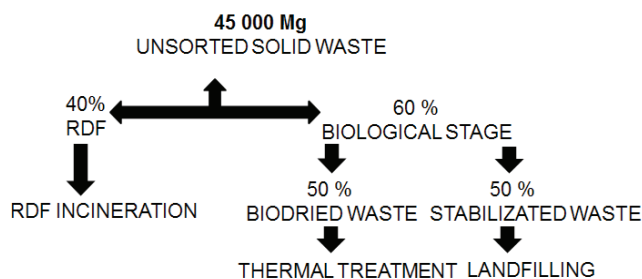


Fig. 2. The technology concept of the analyzed plant

Table 1. The morphology of waste treated in the analyzed plant

| Waste morphology [%] | |
|----------------------|-------|
| Paper | 7.74 |
| Glass | 10.09 |
| Metals | 1.87 |
| Plastics | 10.95 |
| Textiles | 3.22 |
| Organic | 38.05 |
| Others | 28.08 |
| Metals [%] | |
| Ferrous metals | 50.00 |
| Non-ferrous metals | 50.00 |
| Plastic [%] | |
| Soft | 50.00 |
| Hard | 50.00 |

4. IWM-PL results

4.1. Air emissions

Table 2 presents air emission from analyzed plant in kg. The program IWM-PL calculated zero emissions from transport and sorting processes. The software evaluates pollution from transport and sorting only during selective waste collection that does not occur in the analyzed plant. Program does not include transport emission from the place of collection waste to the analyzed plant. Those are formal restrictions of the IWM-PL. The values below zero are interpreted as avoided emissions.

Figure 3 presents air emissions in 6 impact assessment categories. The program IWM-PL assesses significant emissions occurred in the category: inorganic compounds in the human respiratory system. The results from other categories are below zero level and are interpreted as not affecting the air quality.

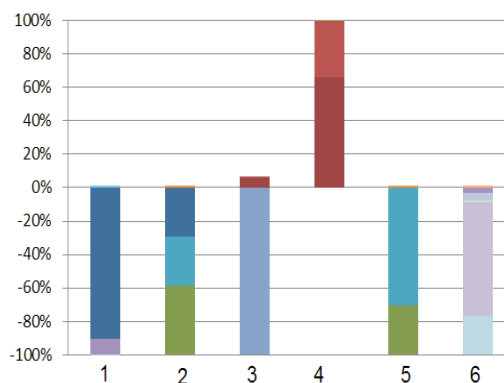


Fig. 3. The first air report: emissions occurring in 6 impact assessment categories calculated by IWM-PL software: 1 – carcinogens, 2 – organic compounds in the human respiratory system (HRS), 3 – climate changes, 4 – inorganic compounds on the HRS, 5 – acidification, 6 – ecotoxicity

Table 2. The air emissions estimated from the analyzed plant calculated by IWM-PL software.

| Emission to air [kg] | RDF production | Biological treatment | Thermal treatment | Landfilling | Recycling | Sum |
|----------------------|----------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| Dusts | 4204.62 | 1907.56 | -79015.93 | 300.87 | -4177.43 | -76780.31 |
| CO | 301.05 | 136.58 | -5656.90 | 437.93 | -18582.06 | -23363.40 |
| CO ₂ | 2649895.88 | 1202543.26 | -49798215.59 | 1165253.01 | -2291241.20 | -47071764.64 |
| CH ₄ | 6206.59 | 2815.81 | 0.00 | 132470.65 | -7306.62 | 134186.43 |
| NO _x | 5404.29 | 2451.82 | -101559.51 | 877.53 | -4245.89 | -97071.76 |
| N ₂ O | 15.63 | 7.09 | 0.00 | 1.07 | -10.04 | 13.75 |
| SO _x | 12059.64 | 5471.23 | -226631.87 | 875.75 | -11868.08 | -220093.33 |
| HCl | 672.36 | 305.04 | -12635.50 | 72.08 | -109.25 | -11695.27 |
| HF | 64.10 | 29.08 | 0.00 | 8.77 | -9.79 | 92.16 |
| H ₂ S | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 67.32 | -4.75 | 62.57 |
| Hydrocarbons | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 692.22 | 0.00 | 692.22 |
| Hydrocarb. h. | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 15.15 | 0.00 | 15.15 |
| Dioxins/furans | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| NH ₃ | 8.44 | 3.83 | 0.00 | 0.58 | -2.62 | 10.23 |
| As | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Cd | 0.03 | 0.01 | -0.53 | 0.00 | -0.10 | -0.59 |
| Cr | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | -0.02 | -0.02 |
| Cu | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | -0.13 | -0.13 |
| Pb | 0.31 | 0.14 | -5.89 | 0.02 | -2.15 | -7.57 |
| Mg | 0.19 | 0.09 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.29 |
| Hg | 0.10 | 0.05 | -1.87 | 0.01 | -0.02 | -1.73 |
| Ni | 0.86 | 0.39 | -16.14 | 0.06 | -2.31 | -17.14 |
| Zn | 0.79 | 0.36 | -14.93 | 0.08 | -0.46 | -14.16 |

Figure 4 shows damage function modeling from balancing of the air stage. The results are estimated in Ecopoints (Pt). The software calculated that presented technology concept had negative impact on the climate changes category (NO_x). The results from other categories are again below zero level. The main compounds in the second category are: SO_x, NO_x, and CH₄. Carbon dioxide is the avoided substance in the third category.



Fig. 4. The second air report: damage function modeling in 6 impact assessment categories calculated by IWM-PL software: 1 – carcinogens, 2 – organic compounds in the human respiratory system (HRS), 3 – climate changes, 4 – inorganic compounds in the HRS, 5 – acidification, 6 – ecotoxicity

4.2. Water emissions

Figure 5 presents water emissions in 6 impact assessment categories. The program IWM-PL assesses that water emissions occurring only in 2 categories: carcinogens and ecotoxicity. Arsenic has the largest percentage share in the carcinogens category. It is difficult to interpret the amount of fenols that is below zero and means avoided emissions. In the ecotoxicity category the percentage of chrome, copper and nickel are similar.

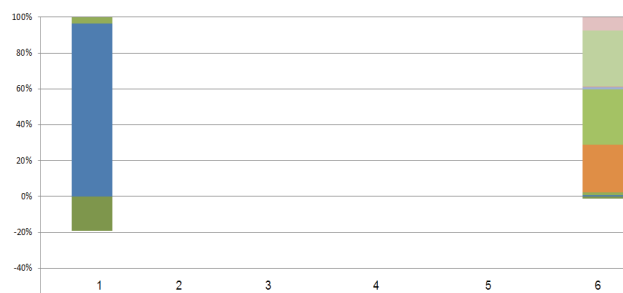


Fig. 5. The first water report: emissions occurring in 6 impact assessment categories calculated by IWM-PL software: 1 – carcinogens, 2 – organic compounds on the human respiratory system (HRS), 3 – climate changes, 4 – inorganic compounds in the HRS, 5 – acidification, 6 – ecotoxicity

Table 3 presents water emission from analyzed plant in kg. Emissions are not calculated for transport and sorting.

Table 3. The air emissions estimated from the analyzed plant calculated by IWM-PL software

| Emission to water [kg] | RDF production | Biological treatment | Landfilling | Recycling | Sum |
|------------------------------|----------------|----------------------|-------------|-----------|----------|
| BOD | 0.22 | 849.70 | 794.28 | -0.63 | 1643.57 |
| COD | 6.47 | 1439.92 | 794.71 | -18.05 | 2223.05 |
| Suspensions | 102.09 | 46.31 | 32.47 | -984.13 | -803.26 |
| TOC | 31.10 | 14.11 | 6.07 | -131.97 | -80.69 |
| AOX | 0.00 | 0.00 | 4.12 | -0.29 | 3.83 |
| Hydrocarbons h. | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | -0.00 | 0 |
| Dioxins/furans | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | -0.00 | 0 |
| Fenols | 0.18 | 0.08 | 0.77 | -1.96 | -0.93 |
| Al | 1338.50 | 607.25 | 91.87 | -1243.17 | 794.45 |
| NH ₄ ⁺ | 2.66 | 148.05 | 40.34 | -16.89 | 174.16 |
| Arsenic | 2.70 | 1.23 | 0.22 | -2.50 | 1.65 |
| Ba | 110.04 | 49.92 | 7.55 | -133.59 | 33.92 |
| Cd | 0.07 | 0.03 | 0.03 | -0.08 | 0.05 |
| Chlorides | 8997.78 | 4082.12 | 1005.17 | -1002.20 | 13082.87 |
| Cr | 13.42 | 6.09 | 1.06 | -12.56 | 8.01 |
| Cu | 6.71 | 3.05 | 0.60 | -6.08 | 4.28 |
| Cyanides | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0 |
| Fluorides | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.94 | -0.52 | 0.42 |
| Pb | 6.73 | 3.06 | 0.59 | -6.41 | 3.97 |
| Hg | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0 |
| Ni | 6.77 | 3.07 | 0.84 | -6.15 | 4.53 |
| Nitrates | 32.48 | 14.74 | 2.23 | -16.74 | 32.71 |
| Phosphates | 80.31 | 36.43 | 5.51 | -74.33 | 47.92 |
| Sulfates | 10517.23 | 4771.47 | 729.41 | -6113.41 | 9904.7 |
| Sulfides | 0.04 | 0.02 | 0.00 | -0.43 | -0.37 |

Figure 6 shows damage function modeling from balancing of the water stage. The results from Figure 5 were calculated and presented in Ecopoints (Pt) in Figure 6. The highest influence has arsenic in carcinogens category, about 2700 Pt.

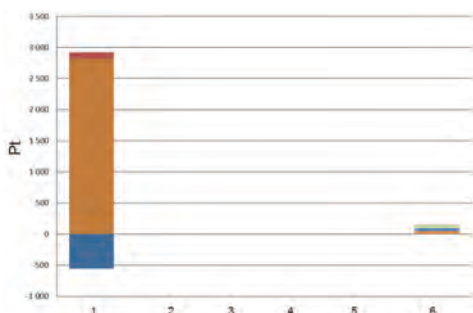


Fig. 6. The second water report: damage function modeling in 6 impact assessment categories calculated by IWM-PL software: 1 – carcinogens, 2 – organic compounds on the human respiratory system (HRS), 3 – climate changes, 4 – inorganic compounds in the HRS, 5 – acidification, 6 – ecotoxicity

4.3. Final report

The final report summarizes results from air and water and counting them for 2 damage categories: human healthy and ecosystem quality. The balance of benefits and losses resulting from waste processing in the analyzed MBT plant is presented in the final report (Fig. 7). Negative results confirmed that analyzed MBT plant does not negatively affect the environment.

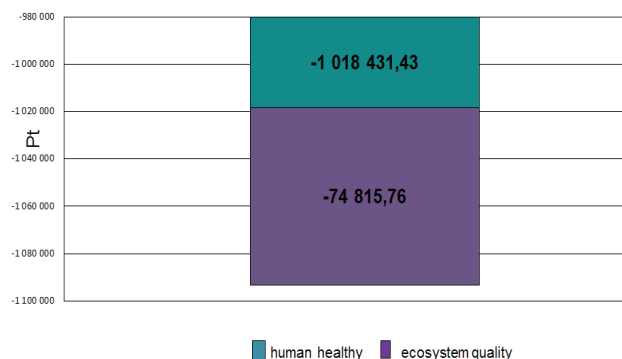


Fig. 7. Final report from damage function modeling in two damage categories: human healthy and ecosystem quality

5. Conclusions

The analyzed MBT plant produces emissions to air in one category: inorganic compounds in the HRS. CO₂ is below zero because incineration of waste: RDF and biodried fraction produced in biological treatment stage (that is in accordance with the technology concept).

MBT plant produce emissions to water in 2 categories: carcinogens (arsenic, cadmium, fenols) and ecotoxicity (chrome, copper, nickel).

Final report shows that analysed MBT plant doesn't have negative impact on the environment.

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Ocena oddziaływania mechaniczno-biologicznego przetwarzania odpadów (MBP) metodą LCA

1. Wstęp

W przepisach wyraźnie preferowane są technologie przetwarzania odpadów, które nie powodują zanieczyszczenia wody, powietrza i gleby oraz minimalizują uciążliwość odorowe i hałas [1]. Wybór najlepszej technologii przetwarzania odpadów może być podparty metodą zwaną oceną cyklu życia (ang. Life Cycle Assessment LCA). Zakres i fazy oceny środowiskowej LCA opisują międzynarodowe normy ISO 14041 [2], ISO 14042 [3], ISO 14043 [4], ISO/TR 14049 [5]. Analiza LCA opiera się na szeregu założeń i uśrednień [6-8]. Tradycyjne modele LCA mogą być wspierane analizami z wykorzystaniem programów komputerowych. Program IWM-PL jest pierwszą aplikacją polskojęzyczną, stworzoną na bazie programu IWM-2 przez zespół polskich naukowców [9]. Możliwości i ograniczenia IWM-PL przedstawiła Grzesik w swoich publikacjach [10-12].

2. IWM-PL [13, 14, 15]

Użytkownik IWM-PL wprowadza uproszczony zakres danych dotyczących bilansu materiałowo-energetycznego. Jednostką funkcjonalną IWM-PL jest całkowita ilość odpadów wprowadzonych do systemu. W zakres analizy wchodzi 10 **kategorii głównych**: zbiórka odpadów, proces sortowania, proces produkcji paliwa alternatywnego, proces biologicznego przetwarzania, proces termicznego przetwarzania, spalanie RDF, składowanie odpadów, recykling i ocena ekonomiczna inwestycji. Program uwzględnia wszystkie przepływy przez system tzw. wejścia i wyjścia, które powodują uwalnianie emisji do środowiska. Bardzo duży wpływ na analizę LCA mają: morfologia odpadów, dane dotyczące zużycia energii elektrycznej, oleju napędowego, ilość i jakość biogazu i odcieków.

3. Charakterystyka analizowanego zakładu MBP

Zakład przetwarza 45 000 Mg nieposortowanych odpadów stałych. Przepływ strumieni odpadów przedstawia rysunek 2, natomiast morfologię zaprezentowano w tabeli 1. Udział frakcji odpadów kierowanych do produkcji paliwa alternatywnego wynosi 40%, pozostałe odpady przetwarzane są metodami biologicznymi. Odpady organiczne stanowią największy udział w składzie odpadów (ok. 40%).

4. Wyniki analizy IWM-PL

4.1. Emisje do powietrza

Tabela 2 przedstawia zanieczyszczenia emitowane przez zakład MBP do powietrza w kg. Program IWM-PL obliczył zerowe emisje z transportu i procesów sortowania, co jest zgodne z ideą technologiczną zakładu. Program poddaje kalkulacji ilość zanieczyszczeń pochodzących z transportu i sortowania tylko podczas selektywnej zbiórki odpadów, która nie występuje w analizowanym zakładzie. Należy podkreślić, że wyniki ujemne zanieczyszczeń znajdujące się w tabeli 2 są interpretowane jako emisje uniknięte. Na rysunku 3 przedstawiono emisje do powietrza w 6 kategoriach wpływu. Emisje wystąpiły w kategorii układ oddechowy- związki nieorganiczne.

4.2. Emisje do wody

Tabela 3 przedstawia wartości substancji szkodliwych emitowanych do wody w kg. Emisji nie oblicza się dla transportu i sortowania, analogicznie jak w przypadku emisji do powietrza. Na rysunku 5 przedstawiono emisję do wody w 6 kategoriach wpływu. Program IWM-PL oszacował, że emisje do wody występują tylko w dwóch kategoriach: rakotwórczość i ekotoksyczność. Arsen ma największy udział procentowy w kategorii rakotwórczość, natomiast chrom, miedź i nikiel dominują w kategorii ekotoksyczność.

4.3. Raport końcowy

Końcowy raport podsumowuje wyniki z powietrza i wody, przeliczając je na dwie kategorie szkody: zdrowie ludzkie i jakość ekosystemu. Bilans korzyści i strat wynikających z przetwarzania odpadów w analizowanym zakładzie MBP został zaprezentowany w raporcie końcowym (rys. 7). Ujemne wartości wskazują, że zakład nie wpływa negatywnie na środowisko.

5. Wnioski

Zakład mechaniczno-biologicznego przetwarzania odpadów produkuje emisje do powietrza w jednej kategorii: układ oddechowy- związki nieorganiczne.

Ilość CO₂ jest ujemna dzięki spalaniu paliwa alternatywnego RDF, przez co oszczędzamy zasoby paliw tradycyjnych. Zakład MBP wytwarza szkodliwe substancje do wody w dwóch kategoriach: rakotwórczość (arsen, kadm, fenole) oraz ekotoksyczność (chrom, miedź, nikiel). Raport końcowy wykazał, że analizowany przypadek przetwarzania odpadów nie pogarsza stanu środowiska.