

Estimation of landfill gas and its renewable energy potential in Lagos, Nigeria

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Abstract Estimation of the landfill gas (LFG) and electricity potential is one of the significant aspects of an integrated landfill development. In view of this, geological surveys were undertaken in all the government operated landfills in Lagos to appraise ground conditions for the exploitation of the anaerobically generated LFG. Thereafter, attempts were made to estimate the electricity potentials based on various equations and models. The geology of the landfill areas is essentially that of the Oligocene to Pleistocene Coastal Plain Sands except for that of Epe landfill area which is of Recent Deposits. The lithologies of the landfills in the Coastal Plain Sands areas seem suitable for landfill gas capture upon capping. Using stoichiometry, an achievable electrical power of 123.75 MW was deduced. By juxtaposition with an established Malaysian scenario, the yearly electrical energy was placed at 646,663.2 MWh with a tariff revenue in excess of US\$64.68 million/year. Furthermore, an accruing carbon credit of about US\$31.73 million/year is expected from certified emission reduction (CER) under the Kyoto Protocol. However, estimations by comparison with gas capturing sites across the globe yielded a mean of 38.35 MW. This is about 30 % of the theoretical and is capable of providing electricity to over 230,000 inhabitants. Hinged on actuality, this latter evaluation may aid to eradicate spurious estimations for practical purposes, and is critical in terms of global LFG capture economics. The concomitant benefits of LFG exploitation are expected

to be exponentially higher in terms of reduction of greenhouse gases and mitigation of environmental hazards.

Keywords Landfill gas · Electrical power · Certified emission reduction (CER) · Lagos

Introduction

Globally, about 1.5 billion tonnes of methane is produced from landfills every year but only about 10 % of this is captured [1]. Landfill gas is a product of anaerobic biodegradation of refuse in landfills, and it primarily contains methane (CH_4) and carbon dioxide (CO_2), with trace amounts of non-methane organic compounds (NMOC) that include air and volatile organic compounds pollutant [2].

The IPCC (2013) Report, asserted with about 95 % certainty that humans are the dominant factor in view of climate change since the 1950s. Therefore, the ability to capture methane from the Lagos landfills will help to mitigate contributory effects to global warming and its attendant consequences [3].

Various practical data and scholarly estimations of the electricity potentials of landfill gas (LFG) have been forwarded and these can be juxtaposed for estimations in the megacity called Lagos. However, in order to limit observable disparities and ambiguities in these derivations and thus allow for more accurate projections, these estimations can be gauged by comparing theoretical values with those obtained in the field. In terms of LFG capture economics, the latter are far more significant in that they are hinged on available technology and actuality.

Methane is lighter than air and can accumulate beneath structures and buildings, resulting in vegetational stress and toxicity due to H_2S and VOCs, corrosion due to CO_2 —

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created acidity, greenhouse gases and air emissions. It is explosive above 5–15 % by volume and causes subsurface migration offsite (up to 150 m). Nonetheless, attenuative and compacted soils serve as seals and can prevent further migration of landfill gases thereby enhancing their beneficiation potentials. All the landfill areas are underlain by these soils except in Epe.

Lagos which has about 27.4 % of the country's urban population but which has had its electric power allocation plummeting from over 800 MW (of the country's 4000 MW) in the last decade to below 300 MW in 2011 [4], is in dire need of alternative energy sources. Therefore, the exploitation of the LFG potentials provides veritable options in terms of electricity and environmental benefits. For this to be actualized, proper estimation of the practically derivable electricity is pivotal in the economics of the entire process. Hence, the thrust of this study is to attempt the estimation of the green energy potential of the landfill gas (LFG) in the Lagos area using models and equations devised across the globe. The goal is to project values that are more in harmony with actuality.

Objectives

Given existing ambiguities and disparities in LFG estimations, the thrust of this study is to evaluate the LFG electricity potential of the Lagos area by comparisons with several theoretical models and field data. The essence is to project values that are more in line with observed field data. This will help to provide relevant agencies across the world with a practicable template to formulate their LFG gas capture projections and economics.

Study area

The study was undertaken in all the government-operated landfill areas in Lagos (Fig. 1). The Lagos Waste Management Authority (LAWMA) is the Government Agency that is statutorily charged with Solid Waste Management in Lagos State. It is saddled with the responsibility of collecting, transporting and general handling of all the solid waste generated from different sources within Lagos. Given its associated successes in the current political dispensation, the LAWMA's model is being replicated in such places as Federal Capital territory (Abuja) Ogun State, Plateau State, Ekiti State, Cross Rivers State, Osun State, Banjul (Gambia), Accra Metropolitan Authority (Ghana), City of Freetown (Sierra Leone), Addis Ababa (Ethiopia).

Lagos State lies approximately between longitudes 2°42'–3°42' East and latitudes 6°22'–6°52' North. The southern boundary of the state lies along the Atlantic

coastline while its northern and eastern boundaries are shared with Ogun State. The western boundary is bordered by the Republic of Benin. Its size is about 3577 km², has about 180 km Coastline and is about 4.6 m above sea level (ASL). It has about 22 % water coverage consisting of rivers, lagoons, creeks and streams [4] with 20 LGAs and 37 LCDAs and over 2600 communities. In 2006, the National Population Commission (NPC) recorded a population of 9,013,534 with an annual growth rate of 3.2 %. However, according to the report of UN (1992), Lagos has a geographical area that is 0.39 % of Nigeria's 923,773 km² and a population estimate of 16.86 million (27.4 % of Country Urban). The projected population was 20.19 million (2010) and 24.5 million (2015) in the said report. Lagos is the most populous city in Nigeria, the second fastest growing city in Africa and the seventh fastest growing city in the world. Corollary, in this work, the population is estimated at 21 million.

Geological settings

The geology of the landfill areas is essentially that of the Oligocene to Pleistocene Benin Formation (Coastal Plain Sands) except for that of Epe landfill area which is of Holocene (Recent Littoral and Lagoonal) Deposit (Fig. 2). The name Coastal Plains Sands, now called Benin Formation, was introduced by Tattam [5] to describe the extensive red earths and loose, ill-sorted sands underlying the Recent Deposits of the Niger Delta and overlying the (Pliocene–Eocene) Tertiary Sedimentary Group. The name Benin Formation is now well-established in the stratigraphy of the Delta and it has been retained in the Southern Nigeria Sedimentary Basin, although the abundance of clays in the Formation in this area does not make it entirely appropriate [6]. They are indistinguishable in the field from the Tertiary–Cretaceous sediments, mainly much of the Ilaro Formation and the basal continental beds of the Abeokuta Formation.

Antecedent and assessments of the landfills

The geology of the Olusosun area is generally characterized by Coastal Plain Sands. It forms low lying, gently sloping topography with extensive red earths and loose poorly sorted sands that are mixed with an abundance of clays. Thicknesses of over 15 m of clayey/lateritic soils were observed in several locales within the landfill. The elevation generally ranges from 18 to 52 m above the mean sea level.

It was officially opened for use as a landfill on the 19th of November, 1992. Unlike the other landfills which only operates during the day (7 am–7 pm, 7 days a week), the Olusosun landfill operates for all 24 h of the day and



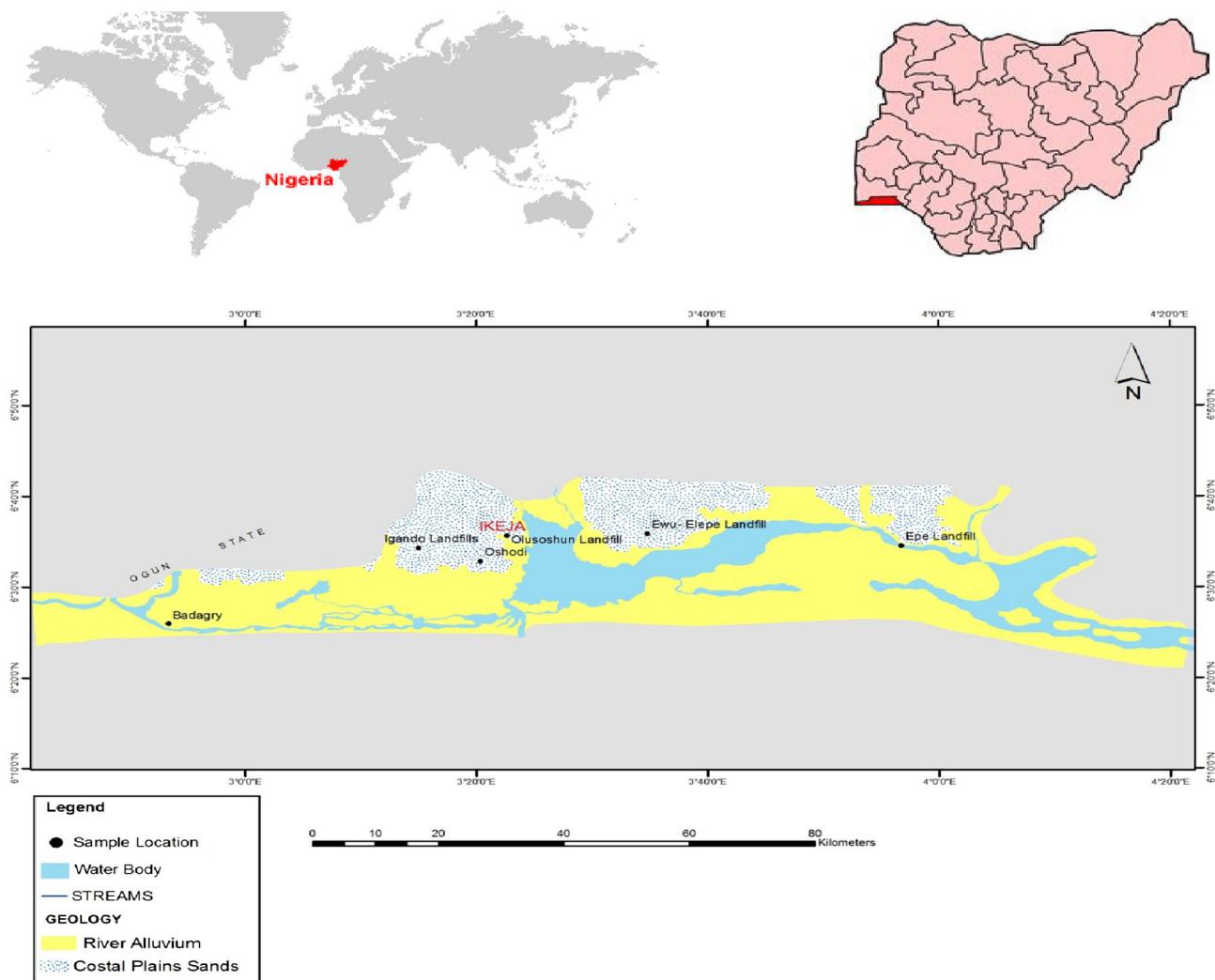


Fig. 1 Map of the geology of Lagos state showing the landfill locations and other areas (inset world map showing Nigeria and map of Nigeria showing Lagos State)

everyday of the year. It occupies an area of about 42 hectares. It is by far the busiest landfill in Lagos and receives about 54 % of the state's MSW. The site had been used in the past as a burrow pit where sand was mined for the Lagos—Ibadan road construction. Initial excavation depth of 7–12 m existed before tipping of waste commenced. The landfill was designed to receive 7,365,000 tonnes of solid waste during its operational lifespan of 10 years. This figure represents a yearly average tipping volume of 736,500 tonnes. Operational design of waste to cover ratio of 9:1 was chosen for the 10 years duration [7].

The writers suggest that the landfill is still able to receive MSW based on a number of factors. Firstly, it is possible that before the renaissance of LAWMA, and considering losses by decomposition, compaction and recycling, only about half of the projected 736,500 tonnes/year were emplaced before 2008 (amounting to a total MSW in place of 5,523,750 tonnes in the intervening

15 years). Also, the current depth in parts hovers around 15 m. Settlement, overlying pressure of the waste and further compaction by machines, may also have increased the density of the deposited waste streams with time. Bhide [8] estimated a MSW density of 800 kg/m^3 after dumping. Given the plethora of factors, it is plausible to arrive at a density of about 2200 kg/m^3 bringing the capacity of the landfill to 13,860,000 tonnes. The Olusosun currently receives about 1,700,000 tonnes/year of MSW. Given that the quantity of soil added periodically is marginal and discounting for recycling and decomposition, only about 60 % of these may be emplaced in the landfill. In addition, the operators of the landfill are at liberty to marginally extend the elevation of the sites to accommodate more wastes provided proper capping is done and other sanitary conditions met. Therefore, it is possible for the Olusosun landfill operations to subsist for upward of another ten years.



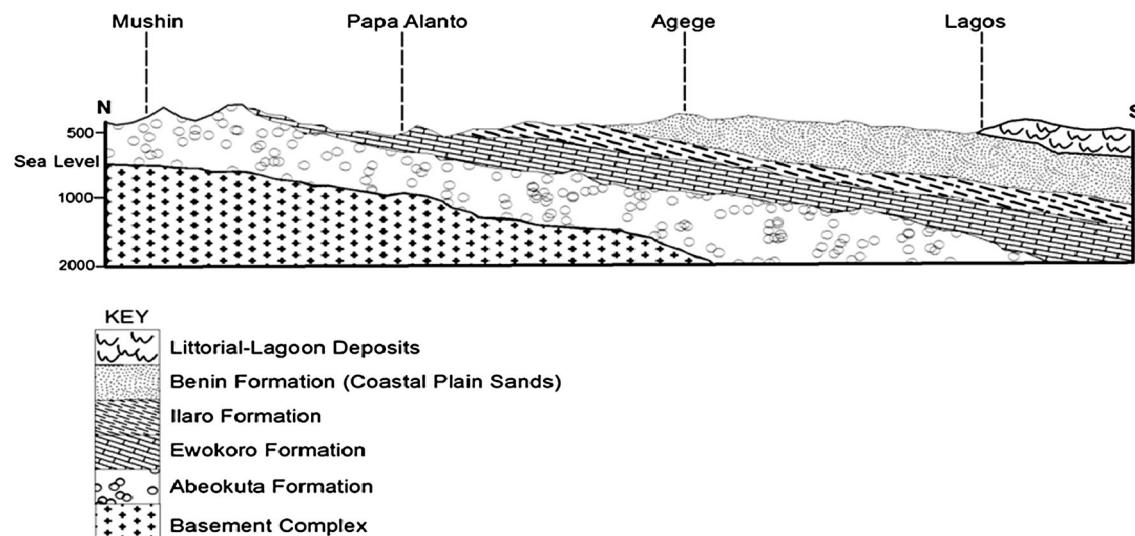


Fig. 2 N-S geological section Showing the major geological formations in the Lagos area [6]

The geology of the Soluos 1–3 areas is the same as that of Olusosun. It consists of inter-bedded sands, gravelly sands, silts and clays. Portions of thicknesses of over 13 m of clayey/lateritic lithology are evident within the landfills. These study areas (Soluos 1 having been closed previously) are situated in Igando town within Alimosho LGA of Lagos. The locations are approximately between latitude 6°31'0"N–6°31'30"N and longitude 3°15'0"E–3°15'30"E. River Owo demarcates the area from Ado-Odo/Ota LG of Ogun State. The soil is composed of red and sandy-clay (laterite). The vegetation is composed of swamp forest and coastal plants. The hydrology is dominated by River Owo and its tributaries (River Abesan, River Oponu and River Illo). They drain into the Ologe Lagoon. Soluos 2 with an area of about 7.8 hectares and with an average current depth about 12 m was opened for operation on the 20th of July 2006. Soluos 3 is about 1 km from Soluos 2. It has an area of 5 hectares with a depth of about 13 m and was opened on the 4th of July, 2008. The hydrogeological condition of the landfill site is consistent with the regional hydrogeological setting of Lagos area [9]. The subsurface geology of the landfill consists of clay intercalated with lateritic clay which is capable of serving as a landfill gas seal.

The Epe landfill was opened on the 12th of February, 2009. It is the largest landfill by size with an area of about 80 hectares (of which 72 hectares rest on the flood plain adjoining the Epe-Lekki Lagoon and 8 hectares is forested land). However, it is the quietest with only about 4 % of the Lagos MSW receipt.

The location is about 5 km on the outskirt of Epe town, along Ibeju/Lekki-Epe Expressway and about 1 km from the Epe Lagoon. The geology is that of Recent Littoral/Lagoonal Deposit consisting mainly of sands and silts. The topsoil exhibits a light greyish colouration and is underlain

by reddish-coloured sand and silts which gives the impression of being clayey from a distance. The site is sequestered away from the town and is almost completely surrounded by trees which have the ability to trap ensuing CO₂. The intention is to develop this site to an integrated landfill. However, the soils which are essentially sandy are incapable of retaining landfill gases in an enclosure.

Coastal Plain Sands underlies Ewu-Elepe. Ewu-Elepe is a suburb of Ikorodu in Lagos. It is semi-urban. Like Olu-sosun and Soluos 1–3, it was established upon erstwhile burrow pits. The landfill slopes towards a floodplain that drains into River Ijede. Farming activities subsist within the plains and other areas. The Ewu-Elepe landfill was opened on the 14th of November, 2008 and receives about 7 % by weight of the MSW in Lagos. The area is underlain by competent attenuative clayey and red lateritic soils.

Overview of electricity in Nigeria

The Nigerian power sector was started in 1962 as Electricity Corporation of Nigeria (ECN). Niger Dam Authority (NDA) was created later to harness the country's hydro-power resources. The name of the power sector was changed to National Electric Power Authority (NEPA) after the merger of NDA and ECN in 1972. Operating under the name of NEPA, the power sector was granted the monopoly of generation, transmission and distribution of electric power in the country. As a result of general poor performance indices of NEPA, a major reform in the sector known as Electric Power Sector Reform (EPSR) Act was carried out in 2005. The foremost objective of the reform was to liberate the marketing policy in the sector by breaking the long-time monopoly being enjoyed by the



NEPA. The reform led to the establishment of a statutory regulatory commission, Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) entrusted with the mandate to monitor all power generation, transmission and distribution-related activities in the nation's power sector. Independent Power Producer (IPP) participation was supported as part of the reform measures. The reform also endeavours to segregate the entire power system operations into three independent companies comprising six generation, one transmission and eleven distribution companies implemented in 2007 [4]. The collection of these independent companies is now called Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN). The reforms are yet to bring significant changes to the situation in the energy sector of the country. The latest final privatization processes of 2013 are ostensibly geared at revamping the power sector.

According to the US Department of Energy (DOE), total installed electricity capacity in Nigeria was 5900 Megawatts in 2004. Total electricity generation during 2004 was 19 million Megawatt-hours. However, the Nigerian electric power sector operates well below its estimated capacity, and power outages occur frequently. Consequently, only about 40 % of Nigerian populace has access to grid electricity supply, which is generally unreliable. All sectors (residential, commercial and industrial) are increasingly in the habit of using privately operated generators to supply electricity occasioned by frequent power outages. In addition, the demand for electricity continues to increase as the population and economy grow. Nigeria's electricity consumption is projected to increase to about 15,000 MW in 2025 [10].

In most recent years, power peaked at 4517 MW (21 December 2012 and dropped to 3443 MW in April, 2013 [11]. The exploitation of the vast landfill gas potentials for electricity generation is therefore recommended in view of the huge concomitant benefits.

Steps in LFG production

Waste in landfill decomposes anaerobically to produce LFG. About 50 % of LFG is methane. This is collected using an underground collection of pipes and wells. From this, the gas is drawn to a renewable energy facility

compression system. Here, it is dewatered, pressurized and filtered to make it clear.

The filter removes any large piece of debris and liquid that may have become mixed with the gas. Then it enters a compressor. This raises the pressure until it is high enough for the gas to be used as a fuel. During compression, the temperature of the gas rises and must be cooled down by an after-cooler. Inside the after-cooler, the temperature of the gas is lowered and this allows for any remaining moisture to be condensed. The gas is then filtered a second time to remove condensed moisture. At this stage, the gas is reheated to prevent any further condensation and is thus ready to be used as a renewable energy fuel. All these processes take seconds.

Engine or turbine can be used to generate electricity. An engine that runs on landfill gas is not too different from a car engine. It is equipped with pistons, air filter, exhaust, radiator and car battery. LFG enters the engine and is combusted causing the pistons to spin a drive shaft. Pistons convert chemical energy to heat energy caused by fuel combustion and then into mechanical energy that turns a drive shaft. The drive shaft/crank shaft is connected to a generator which converts the mechanical energy into electricity [12].

Estimation of LFG potentials: methodology, results and discussion

A synopsis of the quantification of the municipal solid wastes (MSW) in Lagos for some years is given in Table 1. For estimation of the LFG potentials, it was also essential to characterize the wastes. This is because only the organic-related matter is significant for anaerobic degradation and conversion to LFG. The characterization here applied for the Lagos MSW is as reported by Lagos Waste Management Authority, LAWMA and other workers (Fig. 3). Parts of the Olusosun landfill and its inchoate gas capturing scheme are illustrated in Fig. 4. The principles of methane generation as given by several equations and renowned models were applied herein to estimate the derivable electrical energy and the accruing revenues in the Lagos scenario. These numbers of models were explored in order to present a robust overview of possible estimations.

Table 1 Quantification (in tonnes) of MSW to Landfills in Lagos [13]

	Olusosun	Soluos 2	Soluos 3	Ewu-Elepe	Epe	Total
2007	1,078,766	617,657.5	526,321.5			2,222,745.50
2008	1,425,138	688,617.9	700,787.0			2,814,543.45
2009	1,973,427	655,265	757,043	287,015	158,958	3,831,708
2010	1,466,843	422,349	391,436	191,512	77,453	2,549,629



Each model considers some key factors in LFG production/exploitation. However, as may be later evident, none of the theoretical model integrates all the components essential for LFG electricity evaluation. Hence, the associated disparities and seeming ambiguities in derived figures and the need for correlation with field data. Nonetheless, the values devised from them can also be used to make reasonable field projections.

The following are various postulations used for the estimations of the landfill gas potential in the Lagos area.

Model 1 (after Suberu et al. 2012... Malaysia [4])

Suberu et al. [4] used a simplistic zero order equation to estimate the LFG electricity potential of Lagos. This equation only considers the mass of the MSW and its assumed calorific value. The equation is again applied here with more evaluation of recent data.

Preamble:

Population of Lagos = 21,000,000[14]

Generation per capital (GPC) = 0.63 kg/day

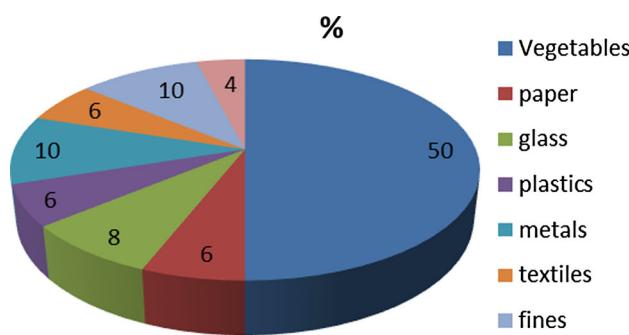


Fig. 3 Characterization of the Lagos waste by weight [11]



Fig. 4 Portions of the Olusosun landfill (**a** partially capped areas; **b** a well-head for LFG capture)

$$\text{MSW generated per day} = 13,230 \text{ tonnes} \quad (1)$$

$$\begin{aligned} 70\% \text{ of (1)} \text{ makes it to the landfill} \\ = 9261 \text{ tonnes/day} \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

$$= 3.38 \text{ million tonnes of waste per year} \quad (3)$$

This compares well with the reported average MSW collection by LAWMA for years 2008–2009 of 3.32 million tonnes (Table 1).

(Note that 60 % of (2) is the organic fraction of the MSW).

Therefore,

$$\text{Waste} = 9261 \text{ tonnes/day} \quad (4)$$

In this model, the power and energy potential can be estimated as follows:

$$E_p = HV \times W \times 0.0011628 \quad (5)$$

$$P_{gp} = E_p / 24, \quad (6)$$

where E_p energy potential (kWh), P_{gp} power generation potential (kW), HV calorific value of the waste (kcal/kg), W weight of the waste (kg).

Calorific value (Higher heating value) used for the purpose of this calculation = 905 kcal/kg.

Substituting,

$$E_p = 905 \times 9261 \times 0.0011628 = 9745.7 \text{ MWh} \quad (7)$$

$$P_{gp} = 406.1 \text{ MW} * . \quad (8)$$

If generators of 30 % efficiency are installed, the amount of actual electricity (or electrical power) that would be generated is

$$\text{Power}(P) = 0.3P_{gp} \quad (9)$$

$$P = 121.83 \text{ MW}. \quad (10)$$

Breakdown:

Olusosun (i.e. 0.54 MSW → 0.54 electrical power)

$$= 65.8 \text{ MW}$$

Soluos 2(0.17 MSW) = 20.7 MW

Soluos 3(0.18 MSW) = 21.9 MW

Ewu- Elepe (0.07 MSW) = 8.5 MW.

(*It is instructive to note that Suberu et al. [4] estimated P_{gp} of 483 MW from a Lagos population of about 17.55 million people (2008). Consequently, an E_p of 13,226 MWh and P_{gp} of 551 MW and electricity of 165.3 MW would be currently derivable. The plausibility of this scenario does not seem supported by available data).

Model 2 (after Taherzadeh 2010: Sweden [15])

Taherzadeh posited that the MSW of 150,000,000 inhabitants can be converted to about 1000–5000 MW electricity, depending on the technology used. The lower value is here considered because the LFG generation process in Lagos is entirely by anaerobic degradation. Thus,

$$150,000,000 \rightarrow 1000 \text{ MW} \text{ (lower limit)} \quad (11)$$

$$\therefore 1,000,000 \rightarrow 6.7 \text{ MW}$$

Estimated population of Lagos = 21,000,000

About 70 % of MSW is landfilled

$$\rightarrow 14,700,000 \text{ people} \rightarrow 9261 \text{ tonnes/day MSW}$$

From (11),

$$14,700,000 \rightarrow 98 \text{ MW} \text{ (lower limit)}$$

$$14,700,000 \rightarrow 490 \text{ MW} \text{ (upper limit)}$$

Using methane emission estimation, he averred that,

$$\text{A population of } 100,000 \rightarrow 500 \text{ m}^3/\text{h of landfill gas (LFG)} \quad (12)$$

Hence,

$$1,000,000 \rightarrow 5000 \text{ m}^3/\text{h} \quad (13)$$

Adopting this in the Lagos estimations,

$$14,700,000 \rightarrow 9261 \text{ tonnes MSW}$$

$$\rightarrow 73,500 \text{ m}^3/\text{h of LFG} \quad (14)$$

Assuming methane is 50 % of the LFG then,

$$14,700,000 \rightarrow 9261 \text{ tonnes MSW}$$

$$\rightarrow 36,750 \text{ m}^3/\text{h of CH}_4 \quad (15)$$

Given:

$$225 \text{ m}^3/\text{h of CH}_4 \rightarrow 2.25 \text{ MW of } P_{gp} \quad (16)$$

$$1 \text{ m}^3/\text{hr of CH}_4 \rightarrow 0.01 \text{ MW of } P_{gp} \quad (17)$$

\therefore From (15),

$$36,750 \text{ m}^3/\text{h of CH}_4 \rightarrow 367.5 \text{ MW of } P_{gp} \quad (18)$$

From (9): Electrical power = 0.3 E_p (i.e. if efficiency of the engine is 30 %)

$$\text{Electricity power} = 110.25 \text{ MW} \quad (19)$$

Breakdown:

Olusosun (0.54 MSW → 0.54 electrical power)

$$= 59.5 \text{ MW}$$

$$\text{Soluos 2}(0.17 \text{ MSW}) = 18.7 \text{ MW}$$

$$\text{Soluos 3}(0.18 \text{ MSW}) = 19.8 \text{ MW}$$

$$\text{Ewu- Elepe }(0.07 \text{ MSW}) = 7.7 \text{ MW}.$$

Model 3 (after Surroop and Moheel 2011: Mauritius [16])

This model is derived from an equation that considers such properties as the density and the lower heating value of generated methane, and the flow rate and gas engine efficiency. The obtained field values in Mauritius were used to estimate for the Lagos area based on waste mass, and by application of standard gas laws.

Given: 1 tonne of MSW

$$\rightarrow 119.8 \text{ m}^3 \text{ LFG (of 49 % CH}_4) - \text{Mauritius} \quad (20)$$

\therefore in Lagos, 1 tonne of MSW

$$\rightarrow 122.24 \text{ m}^3 \text{ LFG (of 50 % CH}_4) \quad (21)$$

$$1 \text{ tonne of MSW} \rightarrow 61.12 \text{ m}^3 \text{ CH}_4$$

Correlating (2) with (21) for the Lagos area,

$$9261 \text{ tonne of MSW} \rightarrow 566,032.32 \text{ m}^3 \text{ CH}_4 \quad (22)$$

(Note that this is the estimate of volumetric flow per day of methane). Also,

$$9261 \text{ tonne of MSW} \rightarrow 23,584.68 \text{ m}^3/\text{h CH}_4 \quad (23)$$

A comparison of (23) of Surroop Model with (15) of Taherzadeh Model gives

$$[\text{from (23)}] 9261 \text{ tonnes MSW} \rightarrow 47,169 \text{ m}^3/\text{h CH}_4$$

$$[\text{from (15)}] 9261 \text{ tonnes MSW} \rightarrow 36,750 \text{ m}^3/\text{h of CH}_4$$

The amount of electricity can be computed using the equation:

$$E = M_{CH_4} \times LHV_{CH_4} \times D \times R \times \eta, \quad (24a)$$

where E electricity or electrical energy in Joules, M_{CH_4} flow rate of methane (m^3/day).

Given LHV_{CH_4} lower heating value of methane $\text{J/kg} = 37.5 \times 10^6 \text{ J/kg}$, D density of methane at



$25^{\circ}\text{C} = 0.656 \text{ kg/m}^3$, R recovery rate of methane = 75 %, η efficiency of gas engine = 30 %.

From (22),

$$M_{\text{CH}_4} = 566,032.32 \text{ m}^3/\text{day}.$$

Substituting values:

$$E = 3.13295 \times 10^{12} \text{ J}$$

But

$$\begin{aligned} 1 \text{ J} &= 1 \text{ Ws} = (1/3600)\text{Wh} = 2.778 \times 10^{-4} \text{ Wh} \\ \therefore E &= 0.87035 \text{ GWh} \end{aligned} \quad (24\text{b})$$

Recall: Power (P) = Energy/time

$$\therefore P = 36.265 \text{ MW} \quad (25\text{a})$$

Summarily:

$$9261 \text{ tonnes MSW} \rightarrow 47,169 \text{ m}^3/\text{h CH}_4 \rightarrow 36.265 \text{ MW} \quad (25\text{b})$$

$$\begin{aligned} 566,032.32 \text{ m}^3/\text{day CH}_4 &\rightarrow 47,169 \text{ m}^3/\text{h CH}_4 \\ &\rightarrow 36.265 \text{ MW}. \end{aligned} \quad (25\text{c})$$

Model 4a: (after Johari et al. 2012, Malaysia [17])

Unlike in previous models where the entire mass of the MSW was considered, this model has stoichiometry as a critical component and considers the biomass. The biomass is the actual methane yielding component of a MSW. Based on the percentage of biomass, the estimated value in Malaysia was correlated for evaluation in this study area. This is how it works.

Johari et al. 2012 estimated that in Malaysia

$$\begin{aligned} 8,196,000 \text{ MSW} (\text{of } 61.17\% \text{ biomass}) \\ \rightarrow 310,220 \text{ tonnes of methane}. \end{aligned} \quad (26)$$

Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} 1 \text{ tonne of MSW with } 61.17\% \text{ biomass} \\ \rightarrow 0.03785 \text{ tonnes of CH}_4. \end{aligned} \quad (27\text{a})$$

Thus in Lagos,

$$\begin{aligned} 1 \text{ tonne of MSW with } 60\% \text{ biomass} \\ \rightarrow 0.03126 \text{ tonnes of CH}_4 \end{aligned} \quad (27\text{b})$$

$$\therefore 9261 \text{ tonnes of MSW of } 60\% \text{ biomass} \rightarrow 289.5 \text{ tonnes of CH}_4. \quad (28)$$

Therefore, in a year in Lagos,

$$3,380,000 \text{ tonnes of MSW} \rightarrow 105,667.5 \text{ tonnes of CH}_4 \quad (29)$$

From (26), in Malaysia (in 2010),

$$310,220 \text{ tonnes CH}_4 \rightarrow 1.9 \text{ million MWh} \quad (30)$$

i.e. in a day,

$$849.92 \text{ tonnes CH}_4 \rightarrow 5205.5 \text{ MWh of } E \quad (31)$$

$$849.92 \text{ tonnes CH}_4 \rightarrow 216.9 \text{ MW of } P \quad (32)$$

$$\therefore 1 \text{ tonne CH}_4 \rightarrow 0.255 \text{ MW of } P. \quad (33\text{a})$$

Similarly, from (28) and (33a), daily in Lagos

$$289.5 \text{ tonnes CH}_4 \rightarrow 73.82 \text{ MW of } P. \quad (33\text{b})$$

Note that the electrical power in (33a) is actual and based on an internal combustion engine of about 30 % efficiency. Thus,

$$289.5 \text{ tonnes CH}_4 \rightarrow 246.07 \text{ of } P_{\text{gp}} \rightarrow 73.82 \text{ MW of } P. \quad (33\text{c})$$

Breakdown:

$$\text{Olusosun} = 39.86 \text{ MW}$$

$$\text{Soluos 2} = 12.55 \text{ MW}$$

$$\text{Soluos 3} = 13.29 \text{ MW}$$

$$\text{Ewu-Elepe} = 5.17 \text{ MW}$$

From (33c),

In one day,

$$289.5 \text{ tonnes CH}_4 \rightarrow 73.82 \text{ MW of electrical power.} \quad (34)$$

Therefore in one year,

$$105,667.5 \text{ tonnes CH}_4 \rightarrow 26,944.3 \text{ MW of electrical power} \quad (35)$$

Recall: Energy = power × time.

Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} 26,944.3 \text{ MW of electrical power} \\ \rightarrow 646,663.2 \text{ MWh of electrical energy}. \end{aligned} \quad (36)$$

From (30),

In Malaysia (2010),

$$\begin{aligned} 8,196,000 \text{ MSW} \rightarrow 310,220 \text{ tonnes CH}_4 \\ \rightarrow 1.9 \text{ million MWh}. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the estimated Electricity for Lagos in 2013 through LFG is:

$$\begin{aligned} 3,380,000 \text{ tonnes MSW} \rightarrow 105,667.5 \text{ tonnes CH}_4 \\ \rightarrow 0.6466632 \text{ million MWh}. \end{aligned}$$

Estimated derivable revenue

(i) Electricity revenue:

Given: In Malaysia 1.9 million MWh was worth US\$190,000,000



$$1 \text{ KWh} = \text{US \$0.1} \quad (37)$$

Assuming US\\$1 → N156,

$$1 \text{ KWh} \rightarrow \text{N15.60}. \quad (38)$$

At year 2013 tariff, for domestic electricity,

$$1 \text{ KWh} \rightarrow \text{N11.37} \quad (39)$$

[The price regime in (39) is the lowest of the commercial tariffs in Nigeria; therefore (38) will be employed for computations].

From (36),

Cumulatively, in a year in Lagos,

$$\begin{aligned} 26,944.3 \text{ MW of electrical power} \\ \rightarrow 646,663.2 \text{ MWh of electrical energy} \\ \rightarrow 646,663,200 \text{ KWh}. \end{aligned} \quad (40)$$

Combining (38) and (40),

$$\begin{aligned} 646,663,200 \text{ KWh} \rightarrow \text{N10.09 billion} \\ \rightarrow \text{US\$64.68 million} \end{aligned} \quad (41)$$

However, combining (39) and (40),

$$\begin{aligned} 646,663,200 \text{ KWh} \rightarrow \text{N7.48 billion} \rightarrow \text{US\$47.95 million}. \end{aligned} \quad (42)$$

(ii) Carbon credit (from certified emission reduction CER).

From (29),

$$3,380,000 \text{ tonnes of MSW} \rightarrow 105,667.5 \text{ tonnes of CH}_4.$$

The greenhouse warming potential (GWP) of CH₄ is 23 times that of CO₂ (IPCC, Third Assessment Report TAR, 2001). Thus,

$$105,667.5 \text{ tonnes of CH}_4 \rightarrow 2,430,352.5 \text{ tonnes of CO}_2 \quad (43)$$

[Note that from (43), the carbon equivalent can also be computed given that C = 12 and O₂ = 16 × 2 = 32. Molar weight (MW) of CO₂ = 44 g. Hence, fraction of carbon in CO₂ = 12/44]. Consequently,

$$\begin{aligned} 105,667.5 \text{ tonnes CH}_4 \rightarrow 2,430,352.5 \text{ tonnes CO}_2 \\ \rightarrow 662,823.41 \text{ tonnes C} \end{aligned} \quad (44a)$$

$$1 \text{ tonne CH}_4 \rightarrow 23 \text{ tonnes CO}_2 \rightarrow 6.27 \text{ tonnes C}. \quad (44b)$$

Given:

Malaysia (2010): a reduction of 6,514,620 tonnes of CO₂ was estimated to generate a carbon credit of US\$85,000,000 (approximately US\$13.0476/tonne of CO₂)

$$6,514,620 \text{ tonnes of CO}_2 \rightarrow \text{N13,260,000,000} \quad (45a)$$

$$1 \text{ tonne of CO}_2 \rightarrow \text{N2035.42 of carbon credit}. \quad (45b)$$

Inputting (43) into (45b),

$$\begin{aligned} 2,430,352.5 \text{ tonnes CO}_2 \rightarrow \text{N4 : 95 billion} \\ = \text{US\$31 : 73 million} \end{aligned} \quad (46)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Estimated derivable revenue (total): adding (41) and} \\ (46) \\ = \text{N15 : 04 billion} = \text{US\$96 : 41 million}. \end{aligned} \quad (47)$$

Model 4b: IPCC equation derived

In this Zero-Order Model, biogas generated from landfills is considered fairly steady against time. On this basis, waste age and waste type has no effect on gas production. Several studies have been done to estimate methane production out of municipal landfills. These are mostly based on Monod first-order decay equations which are called first-order decay models. First-order models have a linear relation with maximum potential of methane production per weight unit of waste as well as an exponential relation with decay rate and time. A few models are classified as zero-order models in which methane production is assumed to be fairly constant against time [18].

Based on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change methodology [19], methane emission from landfill was estimated using the following equation:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{CH}_4 \text{ emissions (tonne/s)} &= \text{MSW}_T \times \text{MSW}_F \times \text{MCF} \\ &\times \text{DOC} \times \text{DOC}_F \times F \\ &\times 16/12, \end{aligned} \quad (48)$$

where MSW_T total MSW generated (tonnes), MSW_F fraction of MSW disposed of to landfills, MCF methane correction factor, DOC fraction of degradable organic carbon, DOC_F fraction of total DOC that actually degrades, F fraction of methane in LFG.

The default values (0.4–1.0) for MCF are dependent on the types of MSW landfill practices. If most of the landfills under consideration are unmanaged, a value of about 0.6 can be used.

According to IPCC, DOC ranges from 0.08 to 0.21 and is estimated from

$$\text{DOC} = 0.4 P + 0.15 K + 0.3 W, \quad (49)$$

where P fraction of papers in MSW, K fraction of kitchen garbage in MSW, W fraction of woods/leaves in MSW.

Furthermore, the DOC_F should be considered because the biodegradation of DOC does not occur totally over a long period; therefore, a default value of 0.77 can be used.

Using this to compute for Lagos,

$$\text{MSW}_T = 3,380,000 \text{ (tonnes)}$$

$$\text{MSW}_F = 0.7 \text{ (i.e. 70 \% of MSW is disposed to landfills)}$$



$MCF = 0.6$ (adopted from the Malaysian calculations given the similarities in conditions of the landfills).

$DOC = 0.18$ (from waste characterization by weight, P , K , and $V = 6, 4$, and 50 % respectively)

$DOC_F = 0.77$ (default)

$F = 0.5$

Substituting:

$$\text{CH}_4 \text{ emissions (tonnes)} = 130,843 \text{ tonnes per year} \quad (50)$$

$$= 358.47 \text{ tonnes per day} \quad (51)$$

From (34),

289.5 tonnes $\text{CH}_4 \rightarrow 73.82 \text{ MW}$ of electrical power

$$1 \text{ tonne } \text{CH}_4 \rightarrow 0.255 \text{ MW of electrical power} \quad (52)$$

$$\therefore 358.47 \text{ tonne } \text{CH}_4 \rightarrow 91.41 \text{ MW of electrical power} \quad (53)$$

(Note that this is the estimated electrical power that can be generated from a gas engine of 30 % efficiency.

$$\therefore P_{gp} = 304.7 \text{ MW} \quad (54)$$

Breakdown:

Olusosun = 49.36 MW

Soluos 2 = 15.54 MW

Soluos 3 = 16.45 MW

Ewu-Elepe = 6.40 MW.

Model 5: (IEA 2008 turning liability into asset [20])

Correlations with estimations from actual methane production sites in Asia with the Lagos scenario gave the following results:

(a) In South Korea, small clean development mechanism (CDM) projects that generate electricity produce around 1–2 MW of electricity, while the largest handling 19,000 tonnes of MSW per day generates up to 50 MW. This can be represented as

$$19,000 \text{ tonnes of MSW} \rightarrow 50 \text{ MW} \quad (55)$$

$$\therefore \text{Lagos } 13,230 \text{ tonnes MSW} \rightarrow 34.82 \text{ MW.} \quad (56)$$

Breakdown:

Olusosun = 18.8 MW

Soluos 25.9 MW

Soluos 3 = 6.3 MW

Ewu-Elepe = 2.4 MW.

(b) In China, the biggest LFG CDM project is in Guangzhou. It is estimated to process 6800 tonnes of MSW a day and produce up to 19 MW of electricity capacity, avoiding almost one million tonnes of CO_2 eq per year. This can be represented as

$$6800 \text{ tonnes of MSW} \rightarrow 19 \text{ MW} \quad (57)$$

$$\therefore \text{in Lagos, } 13,230 \text{ tonnes MSW} \rightarrow 36.97 \text{ MW.} \quad (58)$$

Breakdown:

Olusosun = 20 MW

Soluos 2 = 6.3 MW

Soluos 3 = 6.7 MW

Ewu-Elepe = 2.6 MW.

Model 5b (clean development mechanism (CDM) projects in Brazil [21])

The Bandeirantes and Sao Joao Landfills are two CDM projects in Sao Paulo, Brazil. These landfill projects were approved as United Nations Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects, making Sao Paulo one of the cities to benefit from the carbon finance concept, normally reserved for the national level [22].

The Bandeirantes Landfill located along Bandeirantes Road km 26, in Perus, (Sao Paulo, Brazil) operated for 28 years, from 1979 to 2007 (currently used only for methane capture). With an area of 150 hectares/Maximum height: 100 m, it has a waste storage of 5 million tonnes. It was estimated that about 7500 tonnes of MSW yielded close to 20 MW of electricity. Thus,

$$7500 \text{ tonnes of MSW} \rightarrow 20 \text{ MW} \quad (59)$$

$$\therefore \text{Lagos : } 13,230 \text{ tonnes MSW} \rightarrow 35.33 \text{ MW.} \quad (60)$$

Breakdown:

Olusosun = 19.1 MW

Soluos 2 = 6.0 MW

Soluos 3 = 6.4 MW

Ewu-Elepe = 2.5 MW.

(b) The Sao Joao Landfill located along Sapopemba Road km 33, Sao Mateus was used as a landfill from 1992 to 2009. It has an area of 80 hectares and a maximum height of garbage of 150 m and a waste storage of 26 million tonnes. It was estimated that about 5479 tonnes of MSW generated almost 20 MW of electricity. Thus,

$$5479 \text{ tonnes of MSW} \rightarrow 20 \text{ MW} \quad (61)$$

$$\therefore \text{Lagos : } 13,230 \text{ tonnes MSW} \rightarrow 48.36 \text{ MW.} \quad (62)$$

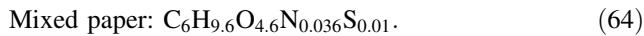
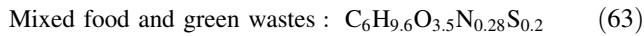


Breakdown:

Olusosun = 26.1 MW
 Soluos 2 = 8.2 MW
 Soluos 3 = 8.7 MW
 Ewu-Elepe = 3.4 MW.

Model 6: stoichiometry

The composite molecular formulae of the biodegradable component of the Lagos MSW can be given as



Excluding nitrogen and sulphur, from (63) and (64) gives cellulose:



Furthermore, the exclusion of the minor elements from (65) gives

Adipic acid:



Fundamentally, the production of LFG follows the order:

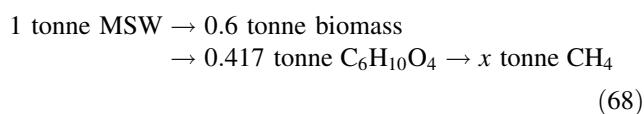


adipic acid (waste).

Given:

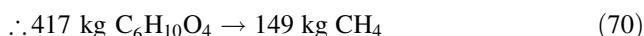
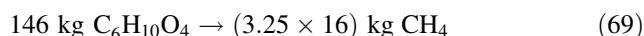
417 kg of adipic acid (a dicarboxylic acid (CH_2COOH)₂ also called hexane-1,6, dioic acid) comes from 1 tonne of MSW.

Thus, in the Lagos landfills,

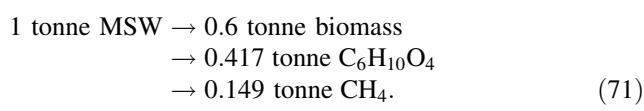


[from (68), about 69.5 % of the biomass is adipic acid].

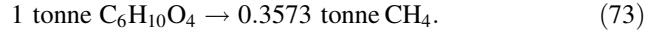
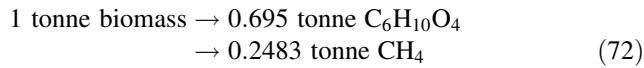
From (67),



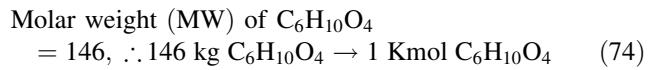
Equation (68) can be re-written as



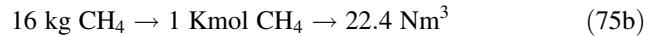
Similarly,



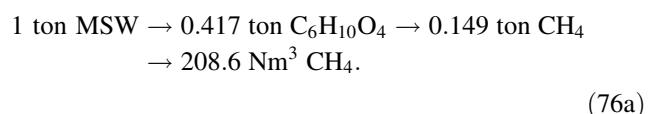
Note that,



From Gas laws, 1 kmol of any chemical substance occupies 22.4 Nm³ at STP.



Equation (71) can be modified to give



Corollary, the following were also considered:

(a) In 2006, Themelis and Ulloa [23] gave the following theoretical estimation for methane generation from MSW in USA:



Thus



(b) Yip [24] in Malaysia estimated that



(c₁) However in practice, Themelis and Ulloa [23] observed in many of the US landfills that

1 tonne MSW → 100 Nm³ CH₄ [i.e. about 48 % of theoretical 208.6 in (75e) and (76a)]

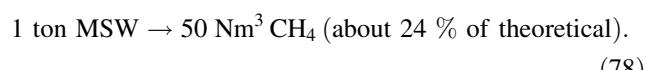
(c₂) Similarly, Surroop and Mohee [16] estimated that

1 tonne MSW → 122 m³ CH₄ where methane is 50 % LFG [about 58.6 % of theoretical (76a), if same as normal condition]

(d) Using US EPA LandGEM Ecuador [25]

1 tonne MSW → 84 Nm³ CH₄ (about 40 % of theoretical)

Thus, Themelis and Ulloa [23] proposed the conservative estimate below



The methane generation capacity of MSW of the world per year can thus be estimated:



Population of the world → 7,000,000,000

Generation per capita GPC → 0.214 ton/year (i.e. about 0.586 kg/day).

Global MSW per year → 1.498 billion tonnes

Global methane generation from MSW/year
→ 74.9 billion Nm³ CH₄ (79)

It may be noted that only about 10 % of (79) is currently being captured.

Using (78), in Lagos,

9261 tonnes MSW → 463,050 Nm³/day CH₄ (80)

9261 tonnes MSW → 19,293.8 Nm³/h CH₄. (81)

Recall from (22–25a): 1,132,056 m³/day CH₄ → 47,169 m³/h CH₄ → 72.53 MW.

Thus from (80–81), the most conservative electricity from stoichiometry is:

463,050 m³CH₄ → 19,293.8 m³/h CH₄ → 29.7 MW (82)

(Since, this is only about 24 % of the theoretical (from stoichiometry), it means that assuming a 100 % utilisation as depicted by the chemical equation, the derivable electricity from a similar combustion engine of 30 % efficiency would be about 123.75 MW).

Model 7: US EPA LandGEM Ecuador [25]—based on first order decay equation

Most available global models which predict biogas from landfills are among the ones developed based on first order decay models. These models consider quality of waste (i.e. moisture content, carbon content, age of waste and ability of waste to be digested), waste quantity and condition of landfill (i.e. climate, temperature, precipitation) implicitly. In the order words, the effect of depletion of carbon in the waste through time is accounted for in a first-order model [26]. In this work, the USEPA developed software: Ecuador Landfill Gas Model Version 1.0 (2009) was used. The results are shown in Fig. 5. It is hinged on the formula given below:

$$Q\text{CH}_4 = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=0.1}^1 kL_o \left[\frac{M_i}{10} \right] e^{-kt_{ij}}, \quad (83)$$

where QCH₄ annual methane generation for a specific year t (m³ CH₄/year), i 1 year time increment, n year of the calculation or initial year of waste acceptance), j the deci-year time increment (i.e. 0.1 year time increment), k 1st order decay rate constant (1/year) (also known as methane generation rate), L_o total methane generation potential

(m³ CH₄/ton of waste), M_i the annual burial rate (wet tons) (i.e. mass of waste accepted in the j th year in tonne.), t_{ij} time after initial waste placement (year) (also known as the age of the j th section of the waste mass M_i accepted in the j th year (decimal years, e.g. 3.2 years).

Estimations of the landfill gas potentials using various practical data and scholarly postulations for the Lagos area with a human population of about 21,000,000; showed some level of disparities and ambiguities amongst the various theoretical derivations. This is understandable in that different factors were used in their derivations. From stoichiometry, the derivable electricity from the Lagos MSW is estimated at about 123.75 MW. By comparing with the evaluations made using different models and equations by some authors in other parts of the world, a mean electricity value of 99.33 MW was projected.

In a general context, it is known that discharge of greenhouse gases (GHGs) and the management of municipal solid waste (MSW) continue to be a major challenge particularly in growing economies. However, these are resources which can be converted to green energy [27]. Landfill gas is continuously generated due to the anaerobic degradation of the organic fraction of solid waste. Therefore, in a landfill in which an extracting system is not installed, there will be an over-pressure that will force the biogas to be released into the atmosphere [16]. The outbreak of fire in the Lagos landfills is a recurring decimal.

Methane has 23 times the globe warming potential of carbon dioxide [28]. An estimated 12 % of methane emissions are caused by landfilling of wastes [2]. This is quite significant given that about 1.5 billion tonnes of methane is produced from landfills across the world annually, with only about 10 % of this being captured [1]. Therefore, a study of this nature which seeks to accurately estimate the green energy potential of Lagos in tandem with practicality is quite important (Fig. 6).

Conclusion

Apart from the Epe landfill, all the landfills in Lagos are underlain by attenuative and compacted soils which can serve as seals and prevent further migration of landfill gases thereby enhancing their beneficiation potentials upon proper capping.

One area where LFG capture estimation for electricity is critical is in terms of its economics. This explains why a number of veritable options were used in this work to aid in this estimation. Model 1 presents a simplistic outlook which considers just the mass and the calorific value of MSW. Therefore, the resultant estimation of 121.83 MW



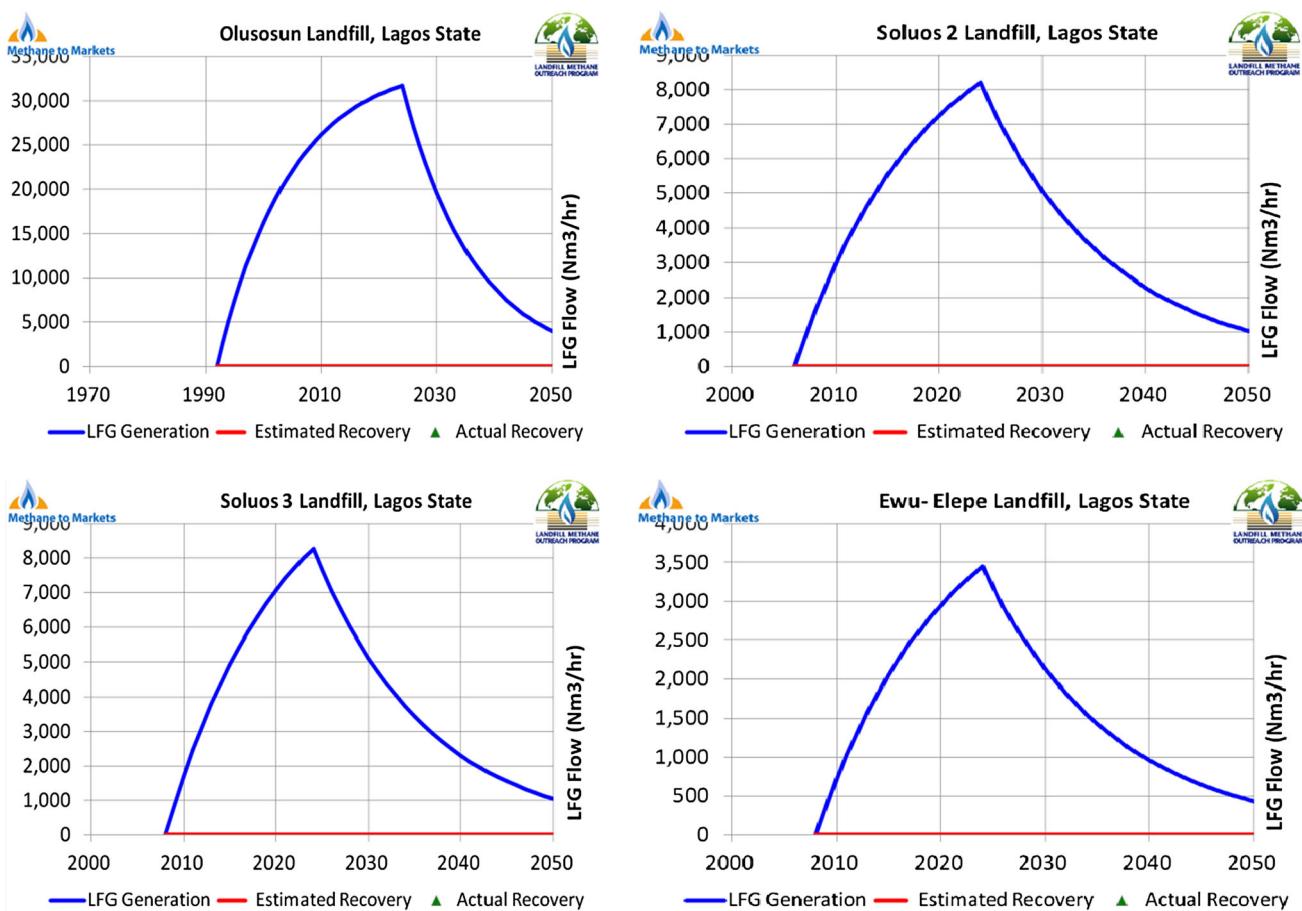
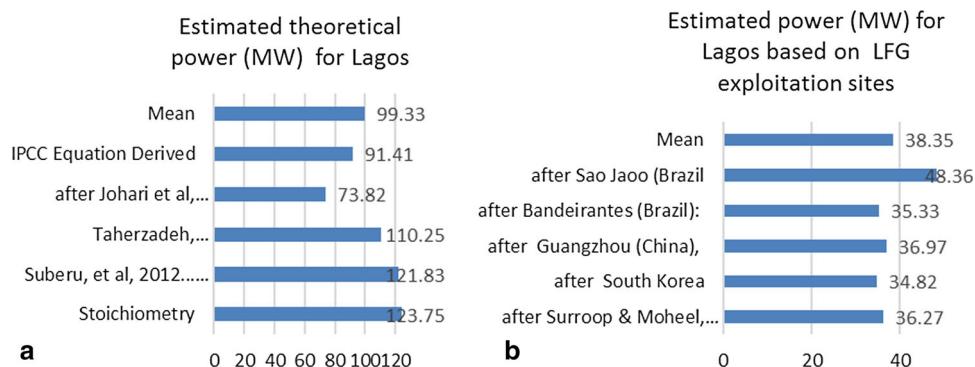


Fig. 5 Methane generation potential of the various landfills in Lagos

Fig. 6 Estimation of LFG electricity (a based on comparison with various theories; b based on comparison with field data)



presents a rough guide. Model 2's value of 110.25 MW stems also from a rough estimate of what is achievable using just anaerobic degradation. The result of 36,265 MW in Model 3 ensues from correlation with field data in Mauritius. This model applies gas laws and the properties of methane such as its density and lower heating value. It also considers the gas flow rate and engine efficiency of the capture facility. It is perhaps the closest

approximation in reality. Model 4a's estimate of 73.82 MW is hinged on stoichiometry and this considers the biomass which is the power house for anaerobic LFG generation. By using Model 4b, attention was drawn to what could be derivable using a number of hypothetical values as default values. Amongst other things, this model does not consider waste age or type. Therefore, it is understandable why its derived value of 91.4 MW only



provides a clue in evaluation. Correlations with The International Energy Agency (Model 5) values (from field data in South Korea, China and Bandeirantes in Brazil) hover between 34.82–36.97 MW with a mean of 35.54 MW. This value of 35.54 MW approximates closely with the figure of 36.265 MW deduced by comparison with field data in Mauritius and proves the efficacy of the proper use of actual data. Nonetheless, theoretical data cannot be dismissed for show of disparity in values. For instance, from stoichiometry, it is reported in this work that the maximum derivable electricity from LFG in the Lagos area (from current data) is about 123.75 MW. This means that any value beyond this figure is theoretically impossible. It also means that only a fraction of this value can be obtained. For one, it is often not possible for all the theoretically possible methane to be formed within the landfill. Also, it is not guaranteed that all the available methane can be harnessed by the LFG capture facility. These limitations are proven by existing field data.

Using the lower limits of conservative empirical observations in some LFG capture sites in the US, South Korea, Brazil, Mauritius and China; an estimated mean electrical power of 38.35 MW—capable of providing electricity to over 230,000 inhabitants was deduced. This represents about 31 % of values obtained theoretically via stoichiometry and indicates that only about a third of the theoretical landfill electricity potential is achievable with existing technology. This conservative evaluation based on actuality, may aid to eradicate spurious estimations for practical purposes and is critical in terms of global LFG capture economics. The concomitant benefits upon exploitation are expected to be exponentially higher in terms of reduction of greenhouse gases and mitigation of environmental hazards.

Authors' Contribution IIM conceptualized the problem, plausible pathways for resolution and drafted the manuscript. CAN supervised and approved the draft. Both authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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Conflict of interest The authors declare that there is no competing interest.

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