

***NAWTEC14 Speaker Abstract  
Waste-To-Energy Has Its Time Finally Come (Again)?***

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This paper reports on the results of the most periodic survey of WTE facilities completed in 2005 by GAA, Inc. Survey results found that as of 2004, there were the fewest number of operating municipal waste combustion facilities, 88, since 1984. The paper asks the question why and whether the MWC industry is poised to turn around and expand or disappear as a waste disposal/energy generation option. The figure below illustrates the trend in the number of WTE projects over the last fifteen years.

The paper concludes that there is potential of modest growth of WTE over the next five years due to expansion of capacity of existing projects and the development of a few new projects. This growth is the result of five major factors: 1) the rising prices of landfill disposal; 2) the diminished landfill capacity in some regions; 3) the passage of the deadlines included in the U.S. EPA regulations of MWCs to meet air pollution control standards and other operational guidelines; 4) the rising prices of energy; both natural gas and fossil fuels and renewed attention to alternative fuels that rising prices may bring; 5) the adaption of WTE plants to competitive operating environments.