

Microbiology - The science dealing with microorganisms

Anaerobic Digestion - A series of biological processes in which microorganisms break down biodegradable material in the absence of oxygen

Methanogenesis - An anaerobic respiration process that generates methane as the final product of metabolism

Metabolism - The means in which a microbe obtains the energy and nutrients (e.g. carbon) it needs to live and reproduce

Decomposition - The chemical and physical processes during which organic matter is broken down and reduced to its original elements

Biogas - Is a type of biofuel that is naturally produced from the decomposition of organic waste, usually a mixture of carbon dioxide and methane gas

Greenhouse Gas - Gases that trap heat in the atmosphere

Effluent - Liquid waste byproduct of anaerobic digestion

Digester Seed - Partially decomposed liquid containing microbes pulled from a digester

Composting- Aerobic decomposition of organic materials to make nutrient rich soil materials that can be used as fertilizer or soil enhancer

Landfill- An engineered and managed facility for the disposal of solid waste

Incineration- Destroying waste materials by burning them using fire

Climate Change- The changes to climate over a long period of time

Anaerobic- Without the presence of oxygen

Aerobic- With the presence of oxygen

Manure- Solid wastes from animals (dung)

Organic material- All living or once-living things or items produced by living things. These carbon-based items include food waste, yard scraps, plant material, sugar, animal wastes, human wastes, and animals and people themselves. Also called 'organics.'

Waste- A material that is not wanted

Pollution- The presence or entry of a substance into an environment that can cause harmful effects to a part of the environment

Environment- The living and nonliving factors in an area that affect the living organisms in the area

Resource Recovery- Using waste materials as the input material to then create valuable products from the materials as the outputs

By-products- The products made in the manufacturing or process of something else

Sustainability- The ability to maintain something at a certain level or rate

Recycling- The remanufacturing of materials after they have been initially used

Humus- The organic component of soil that formed by the decomposition of leaves and other organic matter by the microorganisms in the soil