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DCI[™] (Direct Carbon Immobilization)

Technology view

26-3-2025

Problem

Technology

Products we

process

Products we make

Examples

Comparison to other technologies

DCI[™], Three-fold great impact 1:

Energy transition, reducing climate change

- Avoiding CO₂ and methane emissions from waste and biomass combustion, composting or landfilling
- Converting up to 90% of carbon from biomass into either solid carbon or methanol



Problem

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DCI[™], Three-fold great impact 2:

(hydro-)Carbon transition, providing alternative for fossil carbon sources

- Producing the syngas from biomass and waste otherwise combusted, composted or land filled
- By producing methanol from this syngas as precursor for plastics and other polymers
- By producing char, active carbon, carbon black and/or graphitic carbon from biomass to replace fossil carbon sources



Problem

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DCI[™], Three-fold great impact 3:

Metals and minerals raw materials transition

- By freeing metals in E-waste, cables and PCB's from all plastics
- By converting polyesters and epoxies to syngas, keeping glass and carbon fibers as new raw materials
- Separating Ca, P and other minerals in a loose, carbon rich and hydrocarbon-free solid residue



Problem

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Climate change, problem scope

Worldwide

> 50 billion ton of CO₂ emissions per year

Netherlands

> 200 million ton of CO₂ emissions per year



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Climate change, problem scope

Worldwide

2.5 billion ton per year of solid waste incinerated, landfilled or dumped

Netherlands

10 million ton per year of solid waste incinerated or landfilled

6 billion ton of agricultural biomass per year incinerated, uncontrolled burned or composted > 20 million ton of agricultural biomass per year incinerated or composted

Leading to > 10 billion ton or 20% of avoidable CO₂ emissions worldwide Leading to > 30 million ton or 15% of avoidable CO₂ emissions in the Netherlands



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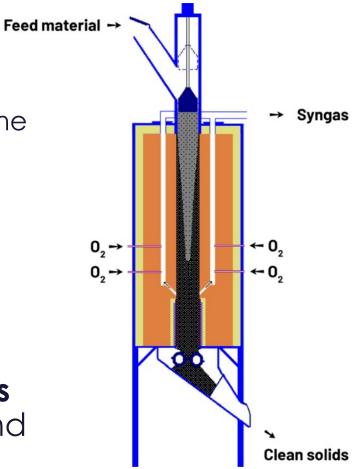
The Solution

DOPS Recycling Technologies developed the

DCI™ Technology

Direct Carbon Immobilization

This is a **high temperature thermolysis** reactor to convert residual waste and biomass into valuable syngas and a solid residue







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DCITM, the reactor

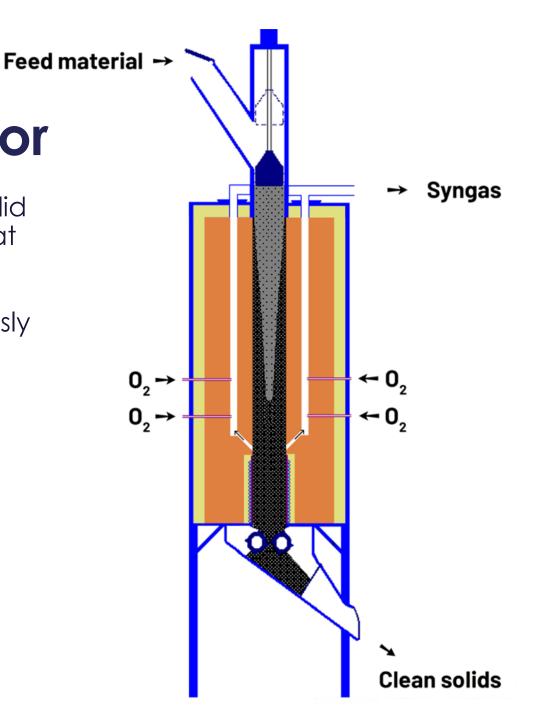
Basis is a shaft reactor where solid materials are continuously fed at the top.

And a solid residue is continuously unloaded at the bottom.

The reactor works at 1000 °C for the solids

at atmospheric pressure

Residence time solids: 2 to 6 hours



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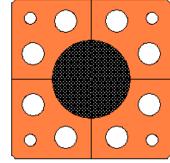
DCITM How it works

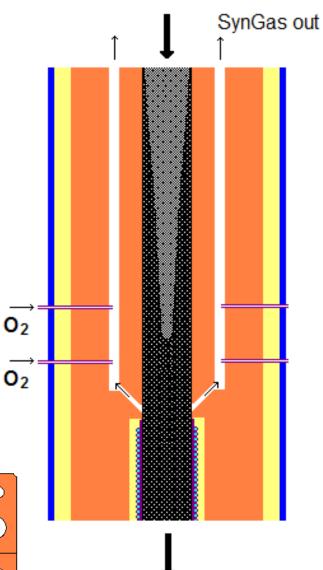
The refractory (fire bricks) that forms the shaft heats the solid feed inside.

The resulting syngas can only escape from the shaft by channels around the main shaft.

Within those channels, a small amount of the syngas is combusted to keep the refractory structure at its high temperature.

Within the bottom section of the shaft, the solid material cools down again.







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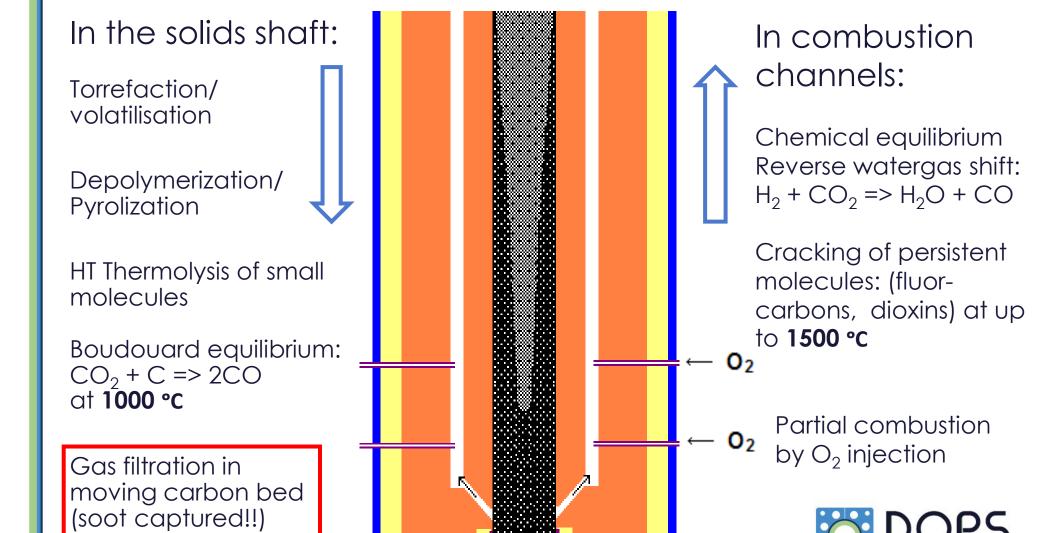
process

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Comparison to other technologies

DCITM, multiple processes in one





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Waste processing hierarchy:

- Mechanical recycling
- Pyrolysis
- HT Thermolysis
- Gasification
- Combustion/ Incineration

Partial cracking of hydrocarbons

Full cracking of hydrocarbons into H₂, CO and solid C

Thermolysis plus partial oxidation of hydrocarbons

Thermolysis plus full oxidation of hydrocarbons



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DCITM, differs from standard gasification technology

- No air or (external) oxygen is admitted to the solid phase within the reactor shaft (therefore, more carbon is retained within the solids)
- Heat is added to the material by radiation from the refractory shaft wall, the high temperature of refractory wall prevents fouling by tars etc.
- The gas phase is internally filtrated by produced char
- Carbon rich solid residue is without slagging



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DCITM, plus of high temperatures

- The high temperatures prevent any tars to remain in the char, resulting in clean, loose solid residues;
- They activate the carbon (in combination with some steam from humidity of feedstock);
- They break down also very persistent hydrocarbons;
- Less CO₂ in syngas (< 4%) (First Boudouard reaction, subsequently reverse Water-gas-shift)
- Faster heat transfer by radiation (4th power of temperature);



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DCITM Target materials

All residual materials containing hydrocarbons:

- Mixed Municipal Waste;
- Low value biomass;
- Paper waste (recycling residues);
- Dried sewage sludge;
- Residues from mechanical recycling, pyrolysis heavy tars;



- (crude) Oil and tank residues, asphalt, roof coverings;
- E-Waste, Printed Circuit Boards, cables, solar panels, PVC;
- Car deconstruction residues, used car tires;
- Fiber reinforced plastics (windmill blades, aircraft components).

Everything currently incinerated, land filled or composted.



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Products DCI™ produces:

Gas phase:

- Syngas (H₂ and CO in tuneable ratio's) to produce:
 - Methanol
 - Olefines (gasoline, SAF, diesel, waxes)

Solid phase:

- Carbon:
 - Char, activated carbon as absorbent or as growth substrate;
 - Amorphous, Carbon Black (clean soot);
 - Graphitic carbon;
- Minerals:
 - CaO (e.g. from paper);
 - Particulates (glass, stone, pottery remains, etc);
 - P and S minerals, salts, sand;
- Metals:
 - Particulate (nuts & bolts, connectors, wires, foils);
 - Molecular bound to carbon.





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Comparison to other technologies

DCITM Use Case 1

Syngas (CO + H₂) from DCI[™] reactor to **replace** natural gas in high temperature furnaces and kilns (brick industry, tiles, ceramics, glass industry)

- Furnaces remain unaltered
- Limited foot-print (m²) for installations
- DCI[™] process is not critical for feedstock
- Independency of fossil gas price



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DCITM Use Case 2

Syngas (CO + H₂) from DCI[™] reactor to produce **methanol** as feedstock chemical industry

- Tuneable relation between H_2 and CO
- Requires far less energy compared to reaction $H_2 + CO_2$
- Green Methanol to
 Green Olefines



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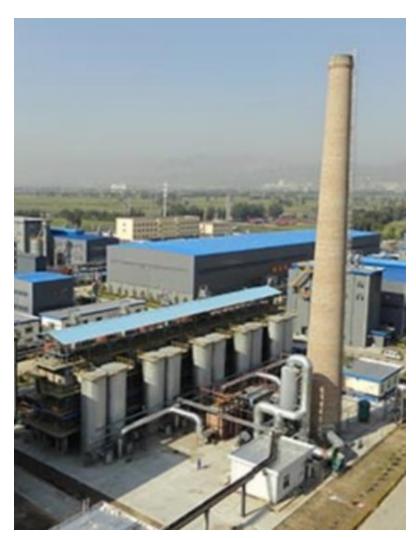
Examples

Comparison to other technologies

DCITM Use Case 3

Producing active carbon from woody biomass

- Char production and activation **in one step**
- Replaces fossil carbon
 made from coal
- Saves 50% energy



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DCITM Example wood pellets



Wood pellets and active char pellets



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Comparison to other technologies

DCITM Use Case 4

Recycling E-waste and PCB's to regain precious metals

- Little pre-processing
- All plastics converted to syngas
- Separation of fibre glass, ceramics and metals
- **No melting**, metals don't mix



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Comparison to other technologies

DCITM Example residue from PCB's



Printed Circuit Boards



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DCITM Other examples, paper





High quality paper produces quicklime



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Comparison to other technologies

DCITM Example, mixed plastic



Mixed plastic waste



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Comparison to other technologies

DCITM Example residues, glass fibre reinforced epoxy



Glass reinforced epoxy





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DCITM Example, copper wire



Copper wire



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DCITM Example, sewage sludge





Dried sewage sludge



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DCITM how we test now:



Our laboratory reactor

Separate solids and gas shaft

Electrical heated (2x three zones)

2-6 kg/hr



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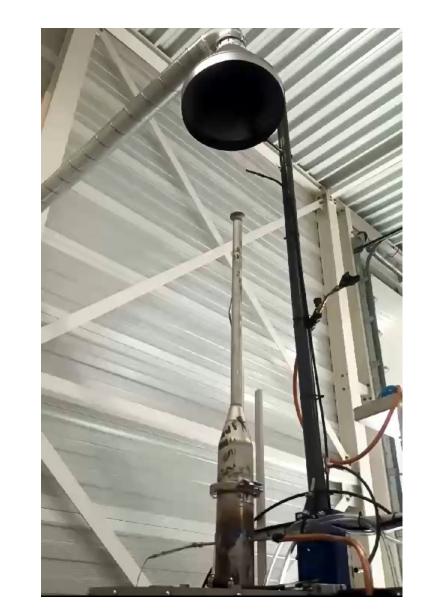
Products we process

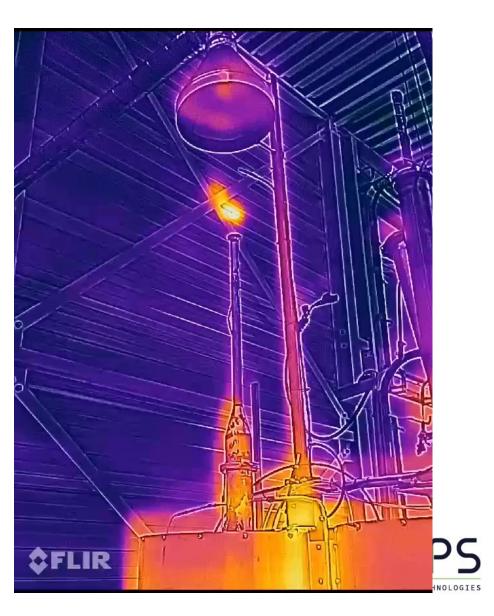
Products we make

Examples

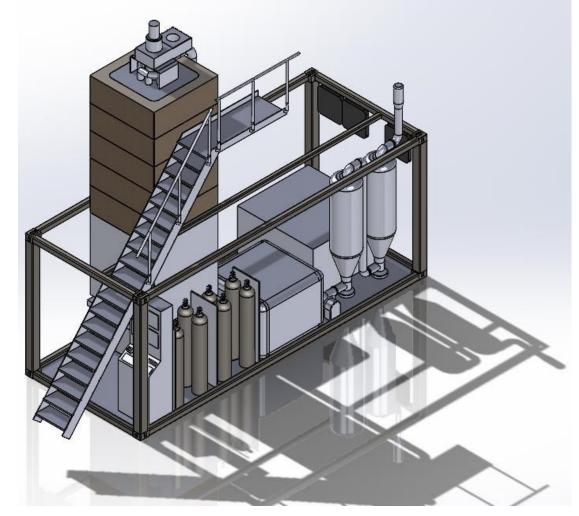
Comparison to other technologies

DCITM Gas produced:





DCITM 50% scale single shaft

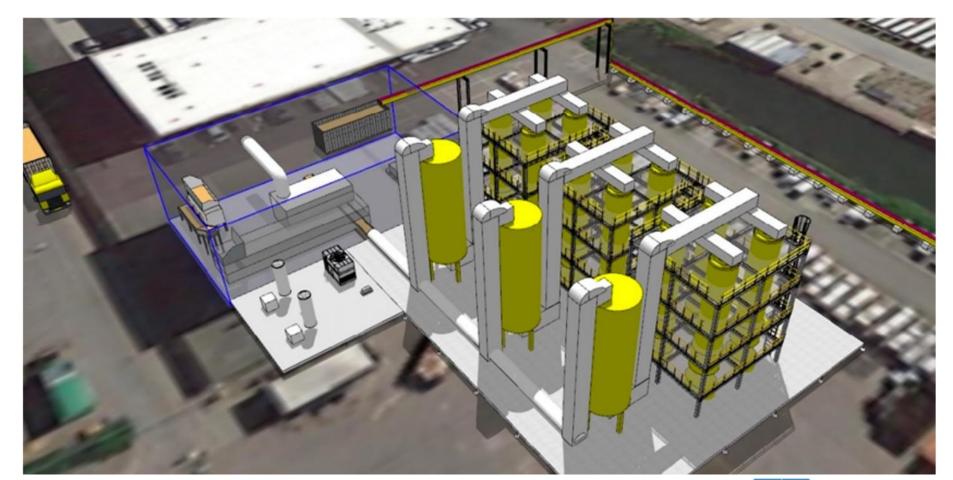


Currently in development:

- 50+ kg/h
- Fully automated
- Operational 2025



DCITM Demo plant 2027-28

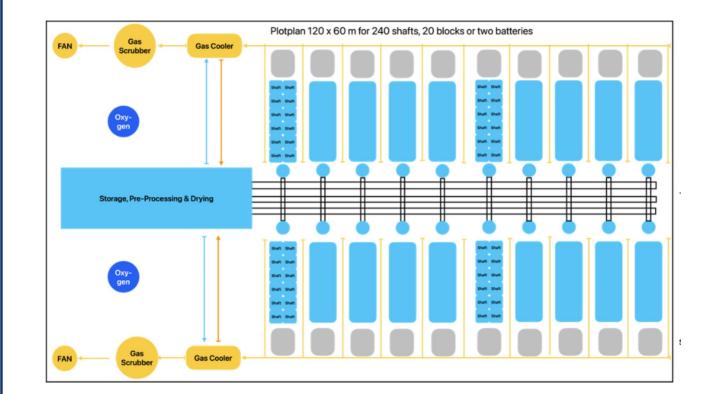


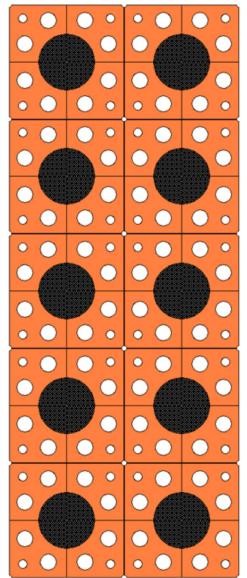
FEL2 started



DCITM Scaling up

350,000 ton/year per soccer field







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DCITM Comparison

	DOPS DCI™ thermolysis	Pyrolysis	Traditional gasification	Plasma thermolysis
Tolerance for feedstock	٧	X	٧	V
No pre-processing for feedstock	v	x	v	v
Energy efficiency	٧	v	٧	x
CO_2 emissions	٧	V	X	x
Value of oil / syngas	٧	v	X	V
Value in solid residues	٧	X	X	x
Breaks down persistent chemicals	v	x	x	v
Low CAPEX intensity	٧	X	٧	X
Mature technology available	X	v	v	V



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DCITM Summary

DCI[™] is one of many recycling / gasification / thermolysis technologies in development.

Highlights of DCI[™] technology are:

- Simplicity of the reactor, very scalable;
- Ease of control of the process;
- Most flexible and forgiving for input materials;
- Produces clean, high value syngas;
- Produces high value solid residues;
- DCI[™] is the most carbon negative conversion technology available with a conversion > 90%





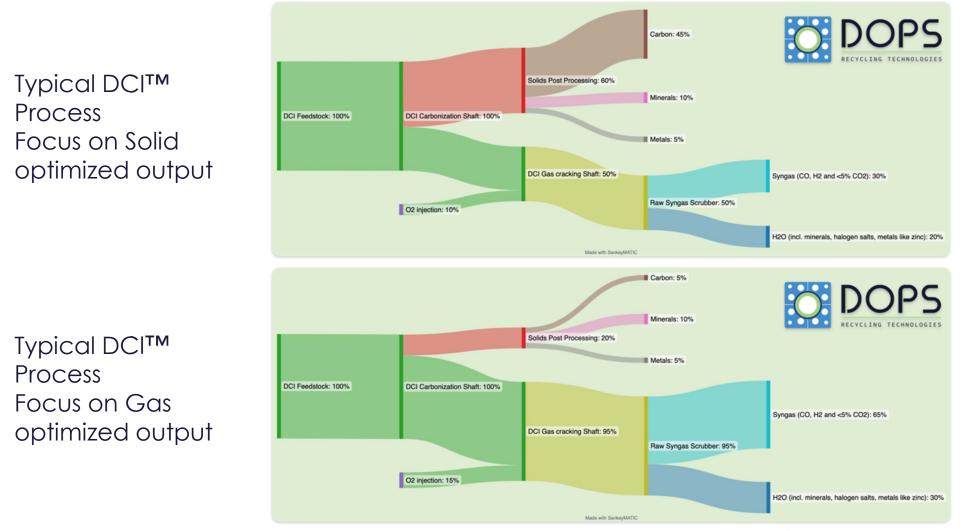
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Turn Waste into Wealth

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DCITM Output flexibility





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