

Mr. Helmut W. Schulz
Dynecolgy Incorporated
611 Harrison Avenue
Harrison, NY 10528

Dear Mr. Schulz:

Thank you for your letter of February 28, 2001 in which you describe your patented alternative energy technology, Bioplex. In your letter, you point out that the Bioplex system employs a virtually free fuel consisting of a briquetted mixture of refuse derived fuel, sewage sludge solids and bituminous coal fines. While I agree that alternative energy technologies play an important role in the way we manage our wastes, I also think that we must strive to seek alternatives to disposal, be they recycling or producing less waste in the first place.

In 1989, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published an AAagenda for Action@ that proposed a hierarchy of preferred waste management options. In this hierarchy, waste prevention is first, followed by recycling and then waste disposal, including landfills and waste combustors with energy recovery. This plan also recognized the importance of integrated solid waste management - that communities must come up with solutions and waste management methods that make the most sense in their particular situation. Integrated solid waste management is practiced across the country - in 1998, out of 220 million tons generated, 28 percent was recycled, 55 percent was disposed in landfills and 17 percent was burned in waste-to-energy facilities.

From the background materials included with your letter, it appears that recycling of aluminum, iron, steel and glass is one of the steps in the briquette production process. Recycling of these materials can yield additional energy savings and environmental benefits. Our research into the greenhouse gas savings of recycling and source reduction has shown that in nearly every case, the upstream benefits of recycling and source reduction produce greater greenhouse gas savings than the energy recovery from waste-to-energy facilities or landfill gas-to-energy projects. Additionally, source reduction and recycling reduce the need to extract raw materials; thus giving an

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added environmental benefit. This research, and additional educational materials on the link between climate change and waste, is available on our website at <www.epa.gov/mswclimate>.

You noted in your letter an interest in licensing your waste-to-energy technology to competent waste management firms. My office does not engage in discussions involving licensing agreements between companies. However, we are interested in better understanding new technologies which may impact integrated solid waste management, particularly when there is a demonstrated linkage to energy savings and reduction of greenhouse gases. If you are visiting Washington, DC and would like to meet with my technical staff to discuss your Bioplex technology, please contact Eugene Lee, of my staff at 703-308-7270, <lee.eugene@epa.gov>.

Thank you again for your interest and concern about our environment.

Sincerely yours,

Elizabeth A. Cotsworth, Director
Office of Solid Waste

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