

Pyrolysis products from anaerobically digested and undigested sewage sludges

Yassir Makkawi

American University of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates

Abstract

This study presents the first comparative assessment of the pyrolysis products from anaerobically digested and undigested sewage sludge in a continuous auger reactor. The samples were extensively analyzed using various methods to establish their characteristics. The product distribution has shown that the undigested sludge produced a higher liquid yield with significantly higher bio-oil content, compared to the counterpart sludge. On the other hand, the digested sludge produced higher non-condensable gas that is richer in hydrogen (21.2% against 9.6% in the undigested sludge). This is attributed to the relatively higher concentrations of Ca, Fe, Mg, Na, and Zn in the digested sludge biochar, which is known to act as catalyst for secondary reactions (e.g., tar cracking and gas reforming). The biochar, from both samples, was also found to be reasonably stable as per the European standards ($O/C < 0.4$). The results of this study demonstrate the potential of sewage sludge pyrolysis in auger reactors and present strong evidence of the critical impact of the sludge treatment process on the pyrolysis yield and products quality.

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Biography

Dr. Makkawi is a chemical engineer with over 25 years of academic and industrial experience. He earned a PhD in Chemical Engineering from Heriot-Watt University (UK). Prior to joining the AUS in August 2015, Dr. Makkawi held various academic positions with leading universities in the UK (Heriot-Watt, Edinburgh, Sheffield and Aston universities). During the early years of his career, he spent some eight years serving the oil/gas industry sectors in the Middle East. His current research interest is focused

on energy recovery from waste, computational fluid dynamic modeling of multiphase systems, hydrogen production, solar thermochemical conversion, and applications of fluidized bed reactors and biofuels from algae and halophytes. Dr. Makkawi is a Fellow of the UK Higher Education Academy (FHEA), a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry (MRSC), a Chartered Engineer (CEng), and a Member of the Institute of Chemical Engineers (MICheM).