

PRODUCTION OF SYNTHETIC TRANSPORTATION FUELS FROM CARBONACEOUS MATERIALS USING SELF-SUSTAINED HYDRO- GASIFICATION

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CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application claims the benefit of Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/355,405, filed February 5, 2002.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

10 FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The field of the invention is the synthesis of transportation fuel from carbonaceous feed stocks.

DESCRIPTION OF RELATED ART

There is a need to identify new sources of chemical energy and
15 methods for its conversion into alternative transportation fuels, driven by many concerns including environmental, health, safety issues, and the inevitable future scarcity of petroleum-based fuel supplies. The number of internal combustion engine fueled vehicles worldwide continues to grow, particularly in the midrange of developing countries. The worldwide vehicle population
20 outside the U.S., which mainly uses diesel fuel, is growing faster than inside the U.S. This situation may change as more fuel-efficient vehicles, using hybrid and/or diesel engine technologies, are introduced to reduce both fuel consumption and overall emissions. Since the resources for the production of petroleum-based fuels are being depleted, dependency on petroleum will
25 become a major problem unless non-petroleum alternative fuels, in particular clean-burning synthetic diesel fuels, are developed. Moreover, normal combustion of petroleum-based fuels in conventional engines can cause

serious environmental pollution unless strict methods of exhaust emission control are used. A clean burning synthetic diesel fuel can help reduce the emissions from diesel engines.

5 The production of clean-burning transportation fuels requires either the reformulation of existing petroleum-based fuels or the discovery of new methods for power production or fuel synthesis from unused materials. There are many sources available, derived from either renewable organic or waste carbonaceous materials. Utilizing carbonaceous waste to produce synthetic fuels is an economically viable method since the input feed stock is already
10 considered of little value, discarded as waste, and disposal is often polluting.

Liquid transportation fuels have inherent advantages over gaseous fuels, having higher energy densities than gaseous fuels at the same pressure and temperature. Liquid fuels can be stored at atmospheric or low pressures whereas to achieve liquid fuel energy densities, a gaseous fuel would have to
15 be stored in a tank on a vehicle at high pressures that can be a safety concern in the case of leaks or sudden rupture. The distribution of liquid fuels is much easier than gaseous fuels, using simple pumps and pipelines. The liquid fueling infrastructure of the existing transportation sector ensures easy integration into the existing market of any production of clean-burning
20 synthetic liquid transportation fuels.

The availability of clean-burning liquid transportation fuels is a national priority. Producing synthesis gases cleanly and efficiently from carbonaceous sources, that can be subjected to a Fischer-Tropsch process to produce clean and valuable synthetic gasoline and diesel fuels, will benefit both the
25 transportation sector and the health of society. Such a process allows for the application of current state-of-art engine exhaust after-treatment methods for NO_x reduction, removal of toxic particulates present in diesel engine exhaust, and the reduction of normal combustion product pollutants, currently accomplished by catalysts that are poisoned quickly by any sulfur present, as
30 is the case in ordinary stocks of petroleum derived diesel fuel, reducing the

catalyst efficiency. Typically, Fischer-Tropsch liquid fuels, produced from biomass derived synthesis gases, are sulfur-free, aromatic free, and in the case of synthetic diesel fuel have an ultrahigh cetane value.

Biomass material is the most commonly processed carbonaceous waste feed stock used to produce renewable fuels. Waste plastic, rubber, manure, crop residues, forestry, tree and grass cuttings and biosolids from waster water (sewage) treatment are also candidate feed stocks for conversion processes. Biomass feed stocks can be converted to produce electricity, heat, valuable chemicals or fuels. California tops the nation in the use and development of several biomass utilization technologies. Each year in California, more than 45 million tons of municipal solid waste is discarded for treatment by waste management facilities. Approximately half this waste ends up in landfills. . For example, in just the Riverside County , California area, it is estimated that about 4000 tons of waste wood are disposed of per day. According to other estimates, over 100,000 tons of biomass per day are dumped into landfills in the Riverside County collection area. This municipal waste comprises about 30% waste paper or cardboard, 40% organic (green and food) waste, and 30% combinations of wood, paper, plastic and metal waste. The carbonaceous components of this waste material have chemical energy that could be used to reduce the need for other energy sources if it can be converted into a clean-burning fuel. These waste sources of carbonaceous material are not the only sources available. While many existing carbonaceous waste materials, such as paper, can be sorted, reused and recycled, for other materials, the waste producer would not need to pay a tipping fee, if the waste were to be delivered directly to a conversion facility. A tipping fee, presently at \$30-\$35 per ton, is usually charged by the waste management agency to offset disposal costs. Consequently not only can disposal costs be reduced by transporting the waste to a waste-to-synthetic fuels processing plant, but additional waste would be made available because of the lowered cost of disposal.

The burning of wood in a wood stove is an example of using biomass to produce heat energy. Unfortunately, the open burning the biomass waste to obtain energy and heat is not a clean and efficient method to utilize the calorific value. Today, many new ways of utilizing carbonaceous waste are
5 being discovered. For example, one way is to produce synthetic liquid transportation fuels, and another way is to produce energetic gases for conversion into electricity.

Using fuels from renewable biomass sources can actually decrease the net accumulation of greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide, while
10 providing clean, efficient energy for transportation. One of the principal benefits of co-production of synthetic liquid fuels from biomass sources is that it can provide a storable transportation fuel while reducing the effects of greenhouse gases contributing to global warming. In the future, these co-production processes could provide clean-burning fuels for a renewable
15 fuel economy that could be sustained continuously.

A number of processes exist to convert coal and other carbonaceous materials to clean-burning transportation fuels, but they tend to be too expensive to compete on the market with petroleum-based fuels, or they produce volatile fuels, such as methanol and ethanol that have vapor
20 pressure values too high for use in high pollution areas, such as the Southern California air-basin, without legislative exemption from clean air regulations. An example of the latter process is the Hynol Methanol Process, which uses hydro-gasification and steam reformer reactors to synthesize methanol using a co-feed of solid carbonaceous materials and natural gas, and which has a
25 demonstrated carbon conversion efficiency of >85% in bench-scale demonstrations.

The need to identify new resources and methods for the production of transportation fuels requires not only investigating improvements in ways to produce current petroleum-based fuels but also research into new methods
30 for the synthesis of functionally equivalent alternative fuels obtained using

resources and methods that are not in use today. The production of synthetic liquid fuels from carbonaceous materials such as waste organic materials is one way to solve these problems. The utilization of carbonaceous waste materials to produce synthetic fuels can be considered a feasible method of obtaining new resources for fuel production since the material feed stock is already considered a waste, without value and often it's disposal creates additional sources of environmental pollution.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention makes use of steam pyrolysis, hydro-gasification and steam reformer reactors to produce a synthesis gas that can be converted into a synthetic paraffinic fuel, preferably a diesel fuel, although synthetic gasolines and jet propulsion fuels can also be made, using a Fischer-Tropsch paraffin fuel synthesis reactor. Alternatively, the synthesis gas may be used in a co-generated power conversion and process heat system. The present invention provides comprehensive equilibrium thermochemical analyses for a general class of co-production processes for the synthesis of clean-burning liquid transportation fuels, thermal process energy and electric power generation from feeds of coal, or other carbonaceous materials, and liquid water. It enables a unique design, efficiency of operation and comprehensive analysis of coal, or any other carbonaceous feed materials to co-produced fuel, power and heat systems.

The invention provides a process and apparatus for producing a synthesis gas for use as a gaseous fuel or as feed into a Fischer-Tropsch reactor to produce a liquid paraffinic fuel, recycled water and sensible heat, in a substantially self-sustaining process. A slurry of particles of carbonaceous material suspended in liquid water, and hydrogen from an internal source, are fed into a steam generator for pyrolysis and hydro-gasification reactor under conditions whereby super-heated steam, methane, carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide are generated and fed into a steam reformer under conditions whereby synthesis gas comprising primarily of hydrogen and carbon

monoxide are generated. Using a hydrogen separation filter for purification, a portion of the hydrogen generated by the steam reformer is fed into the hydro-gasification reactor as the hydrogen from an internal source. The remaining synthesis gas generated by the steam reformer is either used as fuel for a

5 gaseous fueled engine or gas turbine to produce electricity and process heat, or is fed into a Fischer-Tropsch fuel synthesis reactor under conditions to produce a liquid fuel, and recycled water. The correct stoichiometric ratio of hydrogen to carbon monoxide molecules fed into the Fischer-Tropsch fuel synthesis reactor, is controlled by the water to carbon ratio in the feed stocks.

10 Molten salt loops are used to transfer heat from the exothermic hydro-gasification reactor (and from the exothermic Fischer-Tropsch reactor if liquid fuel is produced) to the endothermic steam generator for pyrolysis and the steam reformer reactor vessels.

In particular, the present invention provides the following features.

- 15 1) A general purpose solid carbonaceous material feed system that can accept arbitrary combinations of coal, urban and agricultural biomass, and municipal solid waste for hydro-gasification.
- 2) A first stage, steam generator for pyrolysis and hydro-gasification unit.
- 20 3) A steam reformer as a second stage reactor to produce hydrogen rich synthesis gas from the output of the first stage steam generator for pyrolysis and hydro-gasification unit. The molal steam to carbon ratio is maintained as necessary to bring the chemical reactions close to equilibrium;
- 25 4) Either (a) a Fischer-Tropsch (synthesis gas-to-liquid) fuel synthesizer as a third and final stage reactor to convert the synthesis gas from the steam reformer into a sulfur-free clean-burning liquid transportation fuel, and recycled water or (b) use of generated synthesis gas as fuel for process heat and/or in a fuel engine or gas turbine that can generate electricity;

5) Three thermo-chemical process reactors are operated to produce nearly pure paraffinic hydrocarbon liquids (similar to petroleum derived diesel fuels) and wax-like compounds (similar to petroleum derived USP paraffinic jellies, which can be further refined into more diesel-like fuels using conventional methods) from carbonaceous feed stocks (such as waste wood) in a continuous self-sustainable fashion without the need for additional fuels or external energy sources. The reactor configurations can also be optimized for the production of other synthetic fuels, such as dimethyl ether (a fuel similar to propane, that can be used as a transportation fuel in diesel engines and gas turbines) and gaseous fuel grade hydrogen (a fuel that can be used in engines and turbines, and if purified to remove carbon monoxide, as an electrochemical fuel in a fuel cell), as well as energetic synthesis gases for combined cycle power conversion and electric power production.

The fundamental advantages of this invention, over what was achievable with the prior art, are: (a) energy efficient (>85%) methane production from the available carbon in the carbonaceous feed stock using steam pyrolysis to activate the carbon and hydrogen gas as the sole initiating reactant, in contradistinction to partial oxidative gasification usually requiring an additional energy intensive air separation system to provide the necessary oxygen; (b) chemically self-sustained operation of the first stage hydro-gasification reactor by feeding-back surplus hydrogen gas produced in the second stage methane steam reformer reactor; (c) energy efficient synthesis of clean-burning transportation fuels using the effluent gases from the steam reformer, such as: (i) paraffinic compounds using a third stage Fischer-Tropsch fuel synthesis reactor, (ii) dimethyl ether synthesis using a third stage synthesis reactor, and (iii) hydrogen production using a hydrogen separation and/or purification filter without the need for a third stage fuel synthesis reactor; (d) thermally self-sustained operation of all reactors by effective management of thermal and chemical energy using combinations of molten salt or water/steam heat transfer fluids, combustion of product energetic gases to start and maintain process temperatures, recovered process heat for

the generation of electric power, without the need for additional fuels and external energy sources; (e) significantly reduced airborne emissions from all enclosed processes reactors and/or synthesis gas combustors when compared to direct naturally aspirated combustion (usually known as open incineration) of the carbonaceous feed materials; and f) the ability to capture all gaseous carbon dioxide effluent from process reactors or intra-process synthesis gas combustors for sequestration and/or chemical conversion into condensed phase compounds using conventional technologies.

These novel configurations of the process reactors have the capability to improve the overall efficiency of energy utilization for carbonaceous material conversion in a co-production plant for synthetic fuels, chemicals and energy.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 is a flow diagram showing the overall modeling of the present invention;

Figure 2 is a graph showing a plot of carbon conversion vs. H_2/C and H_2O/C ratios at $800^\circ C$ and 30 atm. in HPR;

Figure 3 is a graph showing a plot of CH_4/C feed ratio vs. H_2/C and H_2O/C ratios at $800^\circ C$ and 30 atm. in HPR;

Figure 4 is a graph showing a plot of CO_2/C feed ratio vs. H_2/C and H_2O/C ratio sat $800^\circ C$ and 30 atm. in HPR;

Figure 5 is a graph showing a plot of CO/C feed ratio vs. H_2/C and H_2O/C ratios at $800^\circ C$ and 30 atm. in HPR;

Figure 6 is a graph showing the effects of Temperature and Pressure conditions on CO_2/H ration the hydro-gasifier reactor (HGR) at fixed feed of 2.629 moles of H_2 and 0.0657 moles of H_2O per mole of C;

Figure 7 is a graph showing the effect of Temperature and Pressure conditions on CH_4/H ratio in the HGR at fixed feed of 2.629 moles of H_2 and 0.0657 moles of H_2O per mole of C;

5 Figure 8 is a graph showing the effect of Temperature and Pressure conditions on H_2/C ratio in the HGR at fixed feed of 2.629 moles of H_2 and 0.0657 moles of H_2O per mole of C;

Figure 9 is a graph showing the effect of Temperature and Pressure conditions on CO/H in the HGR at fixed feed of 2.629 moles of H_2 and 0.0657 moles of H_2O per mole of C;

10 Figure 10 is a graph showing the effect of input $\text{H}_2\text{O}/\text{C}$ ratio on steam reformer (SPR) performance measure by the net H_2/CO ratio after H_2 recycling for the HGR at 1000°C and 30 atm;

Figure 11 is a graph showing the effect of changing the input $\text{H}_2\text{O}/\text{C}$ ratio on SPR products, CO , CO_2 and CH_4 in the SPR at 1000°C and 30 atm;

15 Figure 12 is a graph showing the effect of Temperature and Pressure conditions on H_2/CO ratio in the SPR (2.76 moles of $\text{H}_2\text{O}/\text{mole}$ of C added to the SPR);

Figure 13 is a graph showing the effect of Temperature and Pressure conditions on CH_4/C ratio in the SPR (2.76 moles of $\text{H}_2\text{O}/\text{mole}$ of C added to the SPR);

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Figure 14 is a diagram showing the Mass Flow Schematic of Biomass Hydro-gasification for production of Fischer-Tropsch paraffin fuels;

Figure 15 is a diagram showing the Molal Flow Schematic of Biomass Hydro-gasification for production of Fischer-Tropsch paraffin fuels;

25 Figure 16 is a diagram showing the Thermal Energy Management Schematic of Biomass Hydro-gasification for production of Fischer-Tropsch paraffin fuels;

Figure 17 is a diagram showing the Water/Steam Flow Schematic of Biomass Hydro-gasification for production of Fischer-Tropsch paraffin fuels;

Figure 18 is a diagram showing Molten Salt Flow Schematic of Biomass Hydro-gasification for production of Fischer-Tropsch paraffin fuels;

5 Figure 19 is a diagram showing Mass Flow Schematic of Biomass Hydro-gasification for production of dimethyl ether;

Figure 20 is a diagram showing Mole Flow Schematic of Biomass Hydro-gasification for production of dimethyl ether;

10 Figure 21 is a diagram showing Thermal Energy Management Schematic of Biomass Hydro-gasification for production of dimethyl ether;

Figure 22 is a diagram showing Water/Steam Flow Schematic of Biomass Hydro-gasification for production of dimethyl ether;

Figure 23 is a diagram showing Molten Salt Flow Schematic of Biomass Hydro-gasification for production of dimethyl ether;

15 Figure 24 is a diagram showing Mass Flow Schematic of Biomass Hydro-gasification for production of gaseous hydrogen fuel;

Figure 25 is a diagram showing Mole Flow Schematic of Biomass Hydro-gasification for production of gaseous hydrogen fuel;

20 Figure 26 is a diagram showing Thermal Energy Management Schematic of Biomass Hydro-gasification for production of gaseous hydrogen fuel;

Figure 27 is a diagram showing Water/Steam Flow Schematic of Biomass Hydro-gasification for production of gaseous hydrogen fuel;

25 Figure 28 is a diagram showing Molten Salt Flow Schematic of Biomass Hydro-gasification for production of gaseous hydrogen fuel;

Figure 29 is a diagram showing Mass Flow Schematic of Biomass Hydro-gasification for production of electricity;

Figure 30 is a diagram showing Mole Flow Schematic of Biomass Hydro-gasification for production of electricity;

5 Figure 31 is a diagram showing Thermal energy Management Schematic of Biomass Hydro-gasification for production of electricity;

Figure 32 is a diagram showing Water/Steam Flow Schematic of Biomass Hydro-gasification for production of electricity;

10 Figure 33 is a diagram showing Molten Salt Flow Schematic of Biomass Hydro-gasification for production of electricity;

Figure 34 is a mass flow schematic of biomass hydro-gasification for Fischer-Tropsch paraffin fuel production using an adiabatic HGR and a 9:1 water feed;

15 Figure 35 is a molal flow schematic of biomass hydro-gasification for Fischer-Tropsch paraffin fuel production using an adiabatic HGR and a 9:1 water feed;

Figure 36 is a thermal energy management schematic of biomass hydro-gasification for Fischer-Tropsch paraffin fuel production using an adiabatic HGR and a 9:1 water feed;

20 Figure 37 is a water/steam flow schematic of biomass hydro-gasification for Fischer-Tropsch paraffin fuel production using an adiabatic HGR and a 9:1 water feed;

Figure 38 is a molten salt flow schematic of biomass hydro-gasification for Fischer-Tropsch paraffin fuel production using an adiabatic HGR and a 9:1 water feed.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

A steam generator for pyrolysis, hydro-gasification reactor (HGR) and steam pyrolytic reformer (SPR) (also called a steam pyrolytic reactor, steam reformer or steam reactor) such as used in a Hynol process, may be utilized
5 to produce the synthesis gas (syngas) through steam pyrolysis of the feed stock, hydro-gasification and steam reforming reactions. The reactions start in the HGR to convert carbon in the carbonaceous matter into a methane rich producer gas and continue through the SPR to produce synthesis gas with the correct hydrogen and carbon monoxide stiochiometry for efficient operation of
10 the Fischer-Tropsch process. With the Fischer-Tropsch process as the final step in processing, products such as synthetic gasoline, synthetic diesel fuel and recycled water can be produced.

The feedstock requirement is highly flexible. Many feeds that consist of different carbonaceous materials can be wet milled to form a water slurry
15 that can be fed at high pressure into a steam pyrolyzer, hydro-gasifier and steam reformer reactors for synthesis gas production. The feed to water mass ratio can even vary during the running of the process, with a knowledge of the chemical content of the feed, to maintain the carbon-hydrogen stiochiometry required for an optimized fuel synthesis process. Appropriate
20 carbonaceous materials include biomass, natural gas, oil, petroleum coke, coal, petrochemical and refinery by-products and wastes, plastics, tires, sewage sludge and other organic wastes. For example, wood is an example of waste biomass material that is readily available in Riverside County, California. This particular waste stream could be augmented with other
25 carbonaceous materials, such as green waste and biosolids from water treatment that are available in Riverside County, and would otherwise go to landfill.

When used to make a transportation fuel, such as diesel fuel, the process is designed so that the feedstock makes the maximum amount of
30 Fischer-Tropsch paraffinic product required. The desired output consists of a

liquid hydrocarbon, such as cetane, $C_{16}H_{34}$, within the carbon number range, 12 to 20, suitable as a diesel fuel. Excess synthesis gas output from the SPR, i.e., "leftover" chemical energy from the Fischer Tropsch synthetic fuel producing process, can be used as an energetic fuel to run a gas turbine for electricity production. The synthesis gas output after recycling enough hydrogen to sustain the hydro-gasifier, may be used for this purpose also, depending on the needs of the user. The following provides a method for maximizing the economic potential from the present invention in the conversion of carbonaceous materials to a usable transportation fuels and inclusive of the possibility for direct electric power production through a gas turbine combined cycle.

- 1) Find approximate data on available carbonaceous wastes, their chemical composition and perform further analysis on the practical need for the process.
- 2) Model the important reactions within the process consisting of the steam generator for pyrolysis, hydro-gasifier, steam reformer, and the Fischer-Tropsch (or other fuel synthesis) reactor on a continuous flow-through basis. This may be done by optimizing the Fischer-Tropsch (or other fuel synthesizer) feedstock for the optimum stoichiometric hydrogen to carbon monoxide mole ratio for fuel to be synthesized.
- 3) Perform an economic analysis on the costs to obtain and prepare the input material required, capital costs, operating and maintenance, and product yield and costs.

Specific implementations are given below in conjunction with flow charts provided in the Figures, demonstrating the conversion of waste wood, as the candidate carbonaceous material, to a liquid diesel transportation fuel, recycled water and an alternative power source, via a Fischer-Tropsch process linked to a gas turbine combined cycle.

The thermo-chemical conversion of carbonaceous materials occurs by two main processes: hydro-gasification and steam reformation, with steam pyrolysis of the feedstock occurring within the steam generator to pre-treat feedstock and activate the carbon contained therein. The hydro-gasifier
5 requires an input of the pyrolyzed carbonaceous waste, hydrogen, steam, reacting in a vessel at high temperature and pressure, which in a specific implementation is approximately 30 atmospheres and 1000 degrees Celsius. Steam reforming of the methane rich effluent gas from the HGR also requires an approximate pressure of 30 atmospheres and 1000 degrees Celsius.
10 More generally, each process can be conducted over a temperature range of about 700 to 1200 degrees Celsius and a pressure of about 20 to 50 atmospheres. Lower temperatures and pressures can produce useful reaction rates with the use of appropriate reaction catalysts.

Referring to Figure 1, which is an overall flow diagram, the order of
15 general processes that carry out these main reaction processes is shown (specific amounts for a particular embodiment are in the flow diagrams shown in Figures 14 through 38). Piping is used to convey the materials through the process. The feed 11 is chopped, milled or ground in a grinder 10 into small particles, mixed with the recycled water 12 and placed in a receptacle or tank
20 14 as a liquid, suspension slurry 16 that is transportable as a compressed fluid by a pump 18 to a steam generator 20 where the slurry 16 is superheated and pyrolyzed, followed by either separation of the steam in a steam separator 22 so that steam goes through piping 24 that is separate from piping that delivers the pumped, dense slurry paste 26, or a direct steam
25 pyrolysis feed through piping 27.

The dense slurry paste feed 26, or the direct steam pyrolysis feed 27, enters the HGR 28. Hydrogen from an internal source (from the steam reformer via a hydrogen separation filter described below) and a fraction of the previously produced steam flow into the HGR 28 for the desired output.
30 The output gases consists largely of methane, hydrogen, carbon monoxide, and super-heated steam. The gases produced by the HGR 28 leaves the

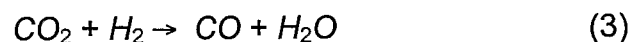
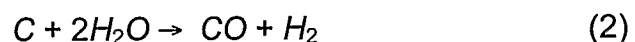
chamber and is pumped over to the SPR 30. The un-reacted residue (or ash) from the HGR, is periodically removed from the bottom of the reactor vessel using a double buffered lock-hopper arrangement, that is commonly used in comparable high pressure gasification systems. The ash is expected to be comprised of sand, SiO_2 , and alumina, Al_2O_3 , with trace amounts of metals. The input to the SPR 30 is delivered from either the steam separator 22 by piping 32 through a heater 34 and further piping 36, or via the HGR 28 output piping, to provide greater-than-theoretical steam to carbon ratio into the SPR 30, to mitigate coking in the reactor. The output is a higher amount of hydrogen, and CO, with the appropriate stoichiometry for the desired hydrocarbon fuel synthesis process described below.

The output of the SPR 30 is directed via piping 38 through heat exchangers 40 and 42. Condensed water 44 is separated and removed from the SPR output, via a heat exchanger and liquid water expander 47. The non-condensable gaseous output of SPR 30 is then conveyed to a hydrogen separation filter 46. A portion of the hydrogen from the SPR output, about one-half in this embodiment, is carried from the filter 46, passed through the heat exchanger 40 with a resultant rise in its temperature (in the embodiment from 220 degrees centigrade to 970 degrees Centigrade) and delivered to the HGR 28 as its hydrogen input. The hot effluent from the SPR output is cooled by passing through heat exchangers 40 and 42, used to heat the recycled hydrogen, and make steam respectively. The condensed water 44 leaving the heat exchanger 47 is recycled back to make the water supply 12 for the slurry feed. By such means, a self-sustaining process is obtained.

The fuel synthesis gas is then used for one of two options. Based on the calorific value, the synthesis gas may go through a gas turbine combined cycle for direct energy production or through a fuel synthesis reactor (in this embodiment, a Fischer-Tropsch process to produce a clean diesel fuel and recycled water). In accordance with a specific embodiment of the invention, the synthesis gas is directed through an expansion turbine 48, to recover mechanical energy by lowering the pressure of the gaseous feed into the

Fischer-Tropsch reactor 50. The mechanical power produced by the liquid state turbine, the Brayton and Rankine cycle turbines can be used to provide power for internal slurry, water feed pumps, air compressor, with the surplus exported via electricity generation, see Tables 1 through 7.

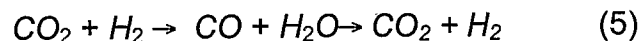
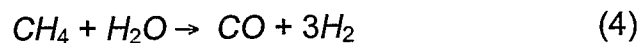
5 Efficiency may be maximized by adjusting input and process parameters. The biomass/ coal varying-mixture feed is synthesized into a slurry by adding water whereby after steam separation the carbon to hydrogen ratio will be appropriate for the process. A slurry feed needs enough water to run the hydro-gasifier, the steam reformer, and to keep the
10 feed in a viable slurry after steam separation. Prior art attempts at biomass conversion using solid dry feed had many mechanical problems of feeding a solid into the high pressure, and high temperature HGR reaction chamber. This method of slurry feed has already been demonstrated and studied, according to the results for the "Hydrothermal Treatment of Municipal Solid
15 Waste to Form High Solids Slurries in a Pilot Scale System", by C. B. Thorsness et al., UCRL-ID 119685, published by Lawrence Livermore Nation Laboratory, Livermore, CA in 1995. In addition, there is related art published on the making and operating of coal water slurry feeds. For example, see Z. Aktas et al., Fuel Processing Technology 62 2000 1–15. The principle
20 reactions of the two main processes, hydro-gasification and steam reforming, are shown here. The HGR independent reactions can be expressed as:



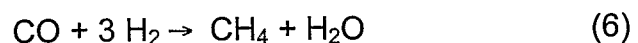
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Reactions 2 and 3 are endothermic. Reaction 1 is sufficiently exothermic to provide the heat of reaction for reactions 2 and 3. Some preheating of the HGR will be needed to bring the reactor up to its operating temperature. Thus, the HGR is intended to be self-sustaining once the
30 reactions have started and achieve steady state.

The main purpose of the HGR process is to maximize the carbon conversion from the feed stock into the energetic gases CH_4 and CO . After this process, hydrogen is produced by reacting superheated steam with CH_4 and CO within the SPR. In the SPR, half the hydrogen is obtained from the superheated steam and the remainder from the CH_4 . The principle reactions in the SPR are considered to be:



The steam reforming reactions (4 and 5) are often run with steam concentrations higher than required for the stiochiometry shown above. This is done to avoid coke formation and to improve conversion efficiency. The required steam concentration is usually specified in the form of the steam-to-carbon mole ratio (S:C), the ratio of water steam molecules per carbon atom in the HGR feed. The preferred (S:C) ratio for the SPR operation is greater than 3. This steam rich condition favors the water-gas shift reaction. This reaction is only slightly exothermic ($\Delta H^\circ = -41$ kJ/mole CO); however, it produces additional hydrogen gas and converts carbon monoxide into carbon dioxide. Unfortunately, an additional unwanted secondary reaction can occur, the methanation reaction, which consumes hydrogen:



The resulting effluent after the two main reactors is a synthesis of gases rich in hydrogen, carbon monoxide, and steam. Approximately half the hydrogen produced in the SPR is recycled back to the HGR. Consequently, no outside source of hydrogen is needed to maintain steady state operation. The HGR and SPR processes, therefore, may be considered to be chemically self-sustaining. The remaining synthesis gas is then available for the production of fuels and process heat.

The present invention using the Fischer-Tropsch process can produce a zero-sulfur, ultrahigh cetane value diesel-like fuel and valuable paraffin wax products. The absence of sulfur enables low pollutant and particle emitting diesel fuels to be realized.

5 The present invention also provides a source of by-products. One useful by-product is purified water, which can be re-cycled to create the slurry feed into the process. In a report by Rentech titled "Fischer-Tropsch technology" dated 1998 see Rentech web publications at <http://www.rentechinc.com>. Rentech states that the Fischer-Tropsch process
10 with an iron catalyst makes about 7/10ths of a barrel of water per barrel of Fischer-Tropsch products. A cobalt catalyzed Fischer-Tropsch process makes about 1.1 to 1.3 barrels of water for each barrel of Fischer-Tropsch products, a greater amount than iron. Part of the water may be recycled to make steam in the steam reformer unit and for cooling in both the synthesis
15 gas and Fischer-Tropsch step of the overall process.

 The Fischer-Tropsch reactions also produce tail gas that contains hydrogen, CO, CO₂, and some light hydrocarbon gases. Hydrogen can be stripped out of the tail gas and recycled either to the HGR or the Fischer-Tropsch reactor. Any small amounts of other gases such as CO and CO₂
20 may be flared off.

 Two main products of Fischer-Tropsch may be characterized as synthetic oil and petroleum wax. According to Rentech, in the above report for their particular implementation of the Fischer-Tropsch process, the mix of solid wax to liquid ratio is about 50/50. Fischer-Tropsch products are totally
25 free of sulfur, nitrogen, nickel, vanadium, asphaltenes, and aromatics that are typically found in crude oil. The products are almost exclusively paraffins and olefins with very few, or no, complex cyclic hydrocarbons or oxygenates that would otherwise require further separation and/or processing in order to be usable end-products. The absence of sulfur, nitrogen, and aromatics
30 substantially reduces harmful emissions.

California's Air Resources Board (CARB) specifications for diesel fuel require a minimum cetane value of 48 and reduced sulfur content. The above Rentech study with Shell diesel fuel produced from a Fischer-Tropsch process has a cetane value of 76. The CARB standard for sulfur in diesel fuel placed in the vehicle tank is 500 ppm by weight, and Shell's Fischer-Tropsch process diesel fuel has no detectable amount in the ppm range. The CARB standard for aromatic content is no more than 10% by volume (20% for small refineries). The Shell Fischer-Tropsch process diesel fuel had no detectable aromatics.

10 Rentech further affirmed through studies that the diesel fuel may need no further processing because of the purity and olefin products that may even be advantageous over crude oil diesel. The Fischer-Tropsch diesel process is clean and the product is cleaner, has a higher cetane value, and most likely does not need further processing, when compared to a crude oil diesel.

15 A gas turbine combined cycle for electric power production is an option. If the Fischer-Tropsch product is unexpectedly too costly, the use of the synthesis gas heating value can be a viable option, based on an overall efficiency of 65% of the synthesis gas energy converting to electric energy. This number is reasonable since the synthesis gas starts at a high
20 temperature as opposed to taking natural gas in from a pipeline.

Process modeling can be used to reasonably produce a synthesis gas maximized for a yield high in CO and stoichiometric hydrogen. First, the unit operation reactions of the hydro-gasifier, steam reformer, and Fischer-Tropsch reactors are modeled. This may be accomplished by using Stanjan, a DOS-based computer program that uses equilibrium modeling. By
25 varying the parameters of temperature, pressure, original feedstock and gas flows, a parameterization study was carried out based on costs and output benefit. The hydro-gasifier variables were modified for the maximum practical carbon conversion efficiency. The steam reformer variables were modified for
30 maximum practical CO output, enough hydrogen for recycling output, and

minimum CO₂ production. The study looked at the various parameters whereby two different values varied for one constant, resulting in 3-D parameterization studies. The following discusses the results from the computer modeling of the main reactions using Stanjan programming.

5 Referring to Figure 2, the effect of varying the water or steam and hydrogen ratios on the conversion efficiency of carbon in feedstock in the HGR is shown at 800°C and 30 atm. As the hydrogen and water input to the HGR increases, the conversion efficiency of carbon in feedstock increases until it reaches 100%. The condition that falls in the area of 100% conversion
10 efficiency achieves one of the modeling objectives, and these conditions were used. In order to avoid the cost of recycling of H₂, the minimum amount of H₂ recycled to the HGR must be chosen. Figure 3 shows the effect of H₂ and H₂O on CH₄ in the HGR at 800°C and 30 atm. Figure 4 shows the effect of H₂ and H₂O on CO₂ in the HGR at 800°C and 30 atm. At a high amount of H₂
15 and low amount of H₂O input, the amount of CO₂ is low. Although the objective is to minimize the amount of CO₂ in the synthesis gas, it is not necessary to minimize CO₂ in the HGR because CO₂ is gauged in the SPR reactions through the water-gas-shift reaction to obtain a proper ratio of H₂ and CO for a maximum Fischer-Tropsch diesel fraction. Figure 5 shows the
20 effect of H₂ and H₂O on CO in the HGR at 800°C and 30 atm.

Figures 6, 7, 8 and 9 show the effects of varying temperature and pressure on the chemical composition of the effluent gases from the HGR at feed of 2.76 mol H₂ and 0.066 mol H₂O per mole C in the feed stock. At these conditions of H₂ and H₂O input to the HGR, the carbon conversion efficiency
25 is estimated to close to 100% in a temperature range of 800 to 1000°C and a pressure range of 30 atm. to 50 atm, for equilibrium chemistry.

Figure 10 shows the ratio of H₂ and CO available for feed into the Fischer-Tropsch fuel synthesis reactor, against the steam content added to the SPR at 800°C and 30atm. This ratio increases with the increasing amount
30 of steam added to the SPR and reaches 2.1 at about 3.94 mol steam (or

water) added per mol C in feedstock. With this amount of steam added, the system will achieve chemical and thermal self-sustainability and provide a proper ratio of H₂ and CO for Fischer-Tropsch synthesis of cetane. Figure 11 shows the effect of H₂O added to the SPR at 800°C and 30atm. Figures 12 and 13 show the effect of temperature and pressure on the H₂ and CO ratio and the conversion of CH₄ in the SPR. At higher temperature and lower pressure, this ratio is higher. In a similar trend with the H₂ and CO ratio, the conversion of CH₄ increases with increasing temperature and with decreasing pressure. It is thus high temperature and low pressure favored in the SPR.

The products of Fischer-Tropsch paraffinic liquid fuels are in a wide range of carbon number. According to the above Rentech report, about half of the products are diesel fuel. Also about half of the products come in the form of wax, with minor amounts of gases such as un-reacted reactants and hydrocarbon gases (methane, ethane, propane and so forth). To exemplify the present invention, cetane, which is in middle position of diesel range (C₁₁ to C₂₀), was chosen as diesel fuel.

The results of thermo-chemical and thermodynamic modeling of the hydro-gasified conversion of waste wood (biomass), as a prototypical carbonaceous feed material, were used to examine the details and illustrate the features of this invention. These simulations of the novel sequence of process reactors were undertaken to discover the thermo-chemical conditions needed to achieve the production of synthetic fuels. For example, in the production of synthetic diesel fuel, the objectives were to attain self-sustained operation of the first stage hydro-gasifier. In a particular embodiment, this is accomplished at an equilibrium temperature of 1000°C (738°C when adiabatic) and 30 atmospheres pressure with a total hydrogen to carbon feed mole ratio of at least 3.48:1 (1.67:1 when adiabatic), and water to carbon feed ratio of at least 0.07:1 (0.43 when adiabatic), a water steam to carbon feed mole ratio of at least 3.91:1 (1.67:1 when adiabatic) into the second stage steam reforming reactor also operating at an equilibrium temperature of 1000°C (900°C when adiabatic) and 30 atmospheres pressure, to obtain

conditions for simultaneous optimal quantities of product hydrogen for self-sustained operation of the first stage hydro-gasification reactor and an adequate hydrogen to carbon mole ratio of at least 2.1:1 in the residual synthesis gas stream to feed the third stage Fischer-Tropsch reactor, operating at 200⁰C and 10 atmospheres pressure, and adiabatic self-sustained operation of a special HGR and SPR combination reactor, followed by a conventionally operated SPR and Fischer-Tropsch reactors, with full thermal and chemical potential energy management.

Tables 1 through 5 show the overall energy transfer rates into and out from each heat exchanger and power conversion component for each operating mode of the conversion process. The mass flow, molal flow, thermal energy management, water/steam and molten salt schematic diagrams for each of the five operating modes of the conversion process are also shown as Figs 14-18, 19-23, 24-28, 29-33 and 34-38 respectively. Tables 6 and 7 summarize the results of the performance studies and process configuration parameters for each of the five operating modes of the conversion process.

The carbonaceous material feed process initially described above uses a water slurry suspension feed technology, originally developed by Texaco for use in its partial-oxidation gasifiers, that can accept a wide variety of carbonaceous materials, and can be metered by controlled pumping into the first stage hydrogen gasification reactor (HGR) to produce a methane rich gas with high conversion efficiency (measured to have at least 85% carbon feed chemical utilization efficiency). Enough heat is available to be able to generate super-heated steam from the biomass-water slurry feed to supply and operate the second stage steam-methane reformer. The reformer product gas is fed into a hydrogen membrane filter that allows almost pure hydrogen to pass back into the first stage reactor to sustain the hydro-gasification of the biomass. The remaining second stage product gas, not passing through the hydrogen filter, is cooled to condense and re-cycle any water vapor present back into the slurry carbonaceous feed system. The unfiltered gas is fed into the fuel synthesis reactors, which comprise a Fischer-Tropsch paraffin hydro-

carbon synthesis reactor, which operates at 200°C and 10 atmospheres pressure. Process modeling reveals that the hydrogen/carbon molecular feed ratio must be at least 2.1:1 to optimize production of chemically pure and clean-burning [sulfur-free] diesel-like liquid fuels and high value chemically pure paraffin-like waxes, without additional fuel or energy. (Figs. 14-18 and Tables 1, 6 and 7 or Figs. 34-38 and Tables 5, 6 and 7 for adiabatic first stage reactor operation), or a dimethyl ether synthesis reactor, which operates at 200°C and 70 atmospheres pressure. This reactor produces approximately 92.4% DME and 7.1% methanol. The methanol is combusted to co-generate about 30 MW of electricity and 20MW of process heat for exchange with the molten salt and water/steam heat transfer loops (see Figs. 19-23 and Tables 2, 6 and 7), hydrogen gaseous fuel synthesis (see Figs. 24-28 and Tables 3, 6 and 7), and all electric power production without fuel synthesis (see Figs. 29-33 and Table 4, 6 and 7).

Net export of electric power is possible in all five modes of operation of the simulated biomass hydro-gasification process plant. The results of these simulations are summarized in Table 6 and 7. The overall energy utilization goes from 50.7% (71.2% when adiabatic) for Fischer-Tropsch synthesis to 67.2% for hydrogen production. Optimized electric power production utilizes about 38.2% of the chemical potential energy in the biomass feed stock for clean-burning power conversion. In general the process modes could be switched using an appropriate proportional valve to distribute the synthesis gas production after separation of enough pure hydrogen gas for the first stage hydro-gasification reactor.

The results of the overall modeling shown in Figure 1 are summarized as follows.

1. Optimum conditions of the HGR: Operating at 1000°C and 30atm; 2.76 mol H₂ per mol C in feedstock to maintain self-sustainability; 0.066 mol H₂O per mol C in feedstock.

2. Optimum conditions of the SPR: Operating at 1000°C and 30atm; 4.022 mol H₂O per mol C in feedstock.

3. Fischer-Tropsch products: 0.199 ton wax per ton of feedstock; 68.3 gallons of cetane (C₁₆H₃₄) diesel per ton of feedstock.

5 Although the present invention and its advantages have been described in detail, it should be understood that various changes, substitutions and alterations can be made herein without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as defined by the appended claims. Moreover, the scope of the present application is not intended to be limited to
10 the particular embodiments of the process and apparatus described in the specification. As one of ordinary skill in the art will readily appreciate from the disclosure of the present invention, processes and apparatuses, presently existing or later to be developed that perform substantially the same function or achieve substantially the same result as the corresponding embodiments
15 described herein may be utilized according to the present invention. Accordingly, the appended claims are intended to include within their scope such processes and apparatuses.

Table 1 Biomass conversion optimized for production of Fischer-Tropsch Paraffins

Component	Energy rate in (MW)			Energy rate out (MW)		
	PCE	Heat	Work	PCE	Heat	Work
Heat Exchangers						
HX 1		53.4			53.4	
HX 2						
Portion 1					78.8	
Portion 2					212.9	
HX 3						
Portion 1		2.2			2.2	
Portion 2					112.0	
HX 4 (HGR)		50.2				
HX 5 (SPR)		93.3				
HX 6						
Portion 1					46.6	
Portion 2					8.7	
HX 7		216.3				
HX 8		43.3				
Portion 1 of HX 2		78.8				
HX 9 (FTR)					45.9	
HX 10					11.8	
HX G1					165.0	
HX G2					21.8	
HX G3					68.4	
Hydraulic Power						
Slurry Pump			0.3			
Liquid State Water Turbine						0.2
Brayton Cycle						
Turbine 1						7.9
Turbine 2						75.0
Turbine 3						0.0
Air Compressor			43.4			
Rankine Cycle						
Heat		290.0				
Mechanical Power			0.5			103.5
Waste Heat From Steam Cycle					186.9	
Chemical Conversion Process						
synthetic paraffins produced				137		
synthetic diesel fuel produced*				116		
Input into Conversion Process						
Biomass (waste wood) input PCE	473.0					
Overall Energy Balances						
Total Energy	473.0	827.3	44.1	137	1014.2	186.6
Net Waste Heat Rejected					186.9	
Net Input Energy Required		0.0				
Power Conversion Process						
Net Electricity Production						123.8
Total Electricity Available for Export						123.8
Overall Thermodynamic Conversion Efficiency						50.7%

notes

* synthetic paraffins produced are considered to be 50% cetane and 50% wax
wax can be conventionally processed to produce cetane with 70% efficiency

Table 2 Biomass conversion optimized for production of dimethyl ether (DME)

Component	Energy rate in (MW)			Energy rate out (MW)		
	PCE	Heat	Work	PCE	Heat	Work
Heat Exchangers						
HX 1		53.4			53.4	
HX 2						
Portion 1					54.5	
Portion 2					160.0	
HX 3					3.8	
HX 4 (HGR)		50.2				
HX 5 (SPR)		91.3				
HX 6					36.6	
HX 7		152.8				
HX 8		29.9				
Portion 1 of HX 2		54.5				
HX 9 (DME-R)					32.3	
HX 10					0.7	
HX 11					1.6	
HX 12					3.2	
HX G1					150.2	
HX G2					21.3	
HX G3					66.8	
HX G4						
Portion 1 (to HX 7)					49.4	
Portion 2 (to HX 2)					64.5	
Hydraulic Power						
Slurry Pump			0.2			
Liquid State Water Turbine						0.1
Brayton Cycles						
Turbine 2						3.4
Turbine 3						4.0
Turbine 4						70.7
Compressor			5.2			
Air Compressor			39.8			
Rankine Cycle						
Heat (HX 3, 9, 10, 11, 12 & G4)		266.1				
Mechanical Power			0.4			95.0
Waste Heat From Steam Cycle					171.5	
Chemical Conversion Process						
dimethyl ether (DME) production				160.6		
Input into Conversion Process						
Biomass (waste wood) input PCE	473.0					
Overall Energy Balances						
Total Energy	473.0	698.2	45.6	160.6	869.8	173.2
Net Waste Heat Rejected					171.5	
Net Input Energy Required		0.0				
Power Conversion Process						
Net Electricity Production						110.3
Electricity Available for Export						110.3
Overall Thermodynamic Conversion Efficiency						57.3%

Table 3 Biomass conversion optimized for production of gaseous hydrogen fuel

Component	Energy rate in (MW)			Energy rate out (MW)		
	PCE	Heat	Work	PCE	Heat	Work
Heat Exchangers						
HX 1		53.4			53.4	
HX 2						
Portion 1					54.5	
Portion 2					160.0	
HX 3					105.4	
HX 4 (HGR)		50.2				
HX 5 (SPR)		91.3				
HX 6					36.6	
HX 7		152.8				
HX 8		29.9				
Portion 1 of HX 2		54.5				
HX G1					151.0	
HX G2					20.5	
HX G3						
Portion 1 (to HX 7)					10.7	
Portion 2 (to HX 2)					53.6	
Hydraulic Power						
Slurry Pump			0.2			
Liquid State Water Turbine						0.1
Brayton Cycle						
Turbine 1						6.7
Turbine 2						57.3
Air Compressor			29.4			
Rankine Cycle						
Heat		213.6				
Mechanical Power			0.4			76.3
Waste Heat From Steam Cycle					137.7	
Chemical Conversion Process						
Gaseous H ₂ fuel production				221.4		
Input into Conversion Process						
Biomass (waste wood) input PCE	473.0					
Overall Energy Balances						
Total Energy	473.0	645.8	29.9	221.4	783.5	140.4
Net Waste Heat Rejected					137.7	
Net Input Energy Required		0.0				
Power Conversion Process						
Net Electricity Production						96.4
Total Electricity Available for Export						96.4
Overall Thermodynamic Conversion Efficiency						67.2%

Table 4 Biomass conversion optimized for production of electric power

Component	Energy rate in (MW)			Energy rate out (MW)		
	PCE	Heat	Work	PCE	Heat	Work
Heat Exchangers						
HX 1		53.4			53.4	
HX 2						
Portion 1					78.8	
Portion 2					212.9	
HX 4 (HGR)		50.2				
HX 5 (SPR)		93.3				
HX 6					55.2	
HX 7		216.3				
HX 8		43.3				
Portion 1 of HX 2		78.8				
HX G1					243.2	
HX G2						
Portion 1					73.0	
Portion 2 (for Steam Turbine 2)					70.3	
HX G3						
Portion 1 (to HX 2)					77.1	
Portion 2 (to HX 7)					88.0	
HX G4 (from cold side of HX G1)		56.4			56.4	
Hydraulic Power						
Liquid Pump			0.3			
Liquid State Turbine						0.2
Rankine Cycle #1						
HX 2 (portion 2)		212.9				
HX G3		77.1				
Mechanical Power			0.5			103.5
Waste Heat From Steam Cycle					186.9	
CPE of synthesis gas fuel				596.8		
Brayton Cycle #1						
Turbine 1						7.9
Air Compressor			64.6			
Combined Cycles						
Gas Cycle						
Turbine 2						109.3
Steam Cycle 2						
HX G2		70.3				
HX G4		56.4				
Mechanical Power			0.2			45.3
Waste Heat From Steam Cycle					81.7	
Input into Conversion Process						
Biomass (waste wood) input PCE	473.0					
Overall Energy Balances						
Total Energy	473.0	1008.3	65.5	596.8	1276.9	266.2
Net Waste Heat Rejected					268.6	
Net Input Energy Required		0.0				
Power Conversion Process						
Net Electricity Production						180.6
Total Electricity Available for Export						180.6
Overall Thermodynamic Conversion Efficiency						38.2%

Table 5 Biomass conversion optimized for production of Fischer-Tropsch Paraffins with increased input water:biomass ratio =9:1 and adiabatic HGR (AHGR)

Component	Energy rate in (MW)			Energy rate out (MW)		
	PCE	Heat	Work	PCE	Heat	Work
Heat Exchangers						
HX 1		22.8			22.8	
HX 2						
Portion 1					49.0	
Portion 2					151.1	
HX 3						
Portion 1					56.4	
Portion 2					24.8	
HX 4		23.6			23.6	
HX 5 (SPR)		129.8				
HX 6		32.8			32.8	
HX 7		603.4			481.8	
HX 8		15.9				
Portion 1 of HX 2		49.0				
HX 9 (FTR)					37.4	
					37.3	
HX 10					17.3	
HX G1					122.0	
HX G2					23.7	
HX G3						
Portion 1		18.8			18.8	
Portion 2					8.0	
Hydraulic Power						
Liquid Pump			0.6			
Turbine 1						7.3
Turbine 2						54.9
Turbine 3						0.0
Brayton Cycle						
Turbine 4		20.5				20.5
Turbine 5		103.5				103.5
Turbine 6		1.0				1.0
Compressor			2.8			
Air Compressor			31.2			
Condenser						
Heat		85.8				
Turbine 7 & 8			0.1			23.6
Waste Heat From Steam Cycle					62.2	
Chemical Conversion Process						
synthetic paraffins produced				214.9		
synthetic diesel fuel produced*						
Input into Conversion Process						
Biomass (waste wood) input PCE	473.0					
Overall Energy Balances						
Total Energy	473.0	1106.9	34.7	214.9	1169.2	210.8
Net Waste Heat Rejected					62.2	
Net Input Energy Required		0.0				
Power Conversion Process						
Net Electricity Production						155.1
Total Electricity Available for Export						
Overall Thermodynamic Conversion Efficiency						

notes

* synthetic paraffins produced are considered to be 50% cetane and 50% wax
wax can be conventionally processed to produce cetane with 70% efficiency

Table 6 Summary of Optimized Performance Studies for Biomass Conversion Options *

Feed stock	feed rate kg/hr	MT/day	water/ biomass ratio	useful production per day	CPE rate MW ch	percent CPE input		
Dry waste wood	83775	2011			473.0	100.0%		
Conversion Options								
1 Fischer-Tropsch Liquids (FTL)				bbl/day			bbl/ton	MW h/ton
water fed used	264670	6352	3.2				1.11	
synthetic diesel fuel	11526	277		2231	116.0	24.5%		1.48
electricity exported					123.8	26.2%		
process water recovered	295523	7093						
excess water available	30853	740						
Air supply for combustion	456047	10945						
CO ₂ produced	122356	2937						
rejected waste heat					187.0	39.5%		
overall energy utilization						50.7%		
2 Dimethyl ether (DME)				bbl/day #			bbl/ton	MW h/ton
water fed needed	184387	4425	2.2				2.25	
dimethyl ether produced	20045	481		4530	160.6	33.9%		1.32
electricity exported					110.3	23.3%		
process water recovered	207334	4976						
excess water produced	22947	551						
Air supply for combustion	410739	9858						
CO ₂ produced	119899	2878						
rejected waste heat					171.5	36.3%		
overall energy utilization						57.3%		
3 Gaseous Hydrogen (GH₂)				cu m/day+			cu m/ton	MW h/ton
water fed needed	184387	4425	2.2				0.94	
gaseous hydrogen (GH ₂)	5618	135		1899	221.4	46.8%		1.15
electricity exported					96.4	20.4%		
water produced	180601	4334						
excess water produced	-3785	-91						
Air supply for combustion	429682	10312						
CO ₂ produced	158173	3796						
rejected waste heat					137.7	29.1%		
overall energy utilization						67.2%		
4 All Electric Power (AEP)				MW eh/day			MW h/ton	
water fed needed	260393	6249	3.1				2.16	
electricity exported				4335	180.6	38.2%		
water produced	311110	7467						
excess water produced	50717	1217						
Air supply for combustion	678774	16291						
CO ₂ produced	158144	3795						
rejected waste heat					230.0	48.6%		
overall energy utilization						38.2%		
5 FTL with water:biomass at 9:1 and adaibatic HGR (AHGR)				bbl/day			bbl/ton	MW h/ton
water fed used	753975	18095	9.0				1.75	
synthetic diesel fuel	18147	436		3512	182.7	38.6%		1.85
electricity exported					155.1	32.8%		
process water recovered	775890	18621						
excess water available	21915	526						
Air supply for combustion	456047	10945						
CO ₂ produced	122356	2937						
rejected waste heat					62.2	13.2%		
overall energy utilization						71.4%		

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Notes

No additional energy or energetic feedstock is required for all conversion options

All rejected waste heat is at a temperature below 40C and is not considered recoverable

DME stored as a compressed liquid at 20C, 5.1 atm. pressure, density 668 g/L and LHV 28.4 MJ/kg

Table 7 Summary of Optimized Performance Parameters for Biomass Conversion Options *

Feed stock	feed rate kg/hr	MT/day	water/ biomass ratio	useful production per day	CPE rate MW ch	percent CPE input
Dry waste wood	83775	2011			473.0	100.0%
Conversion Options						
1 Fischer-Tropsch Liquids (FTL)	bbl/day					
water fed used	264670	6352	3.2			
synthetic diesel fuel	11526	277		2231	116.0	24.5%
electricity exported					123.8	26.2%
process water recovered	295523	7093				
Input conditions:	T deg.C	P atm.	H ₂ /C	H ₂ O/C	CO/H ₂	CH ₄ /CO
HGR	1000	30	3.48	0.07		
SPR	1000	30	2.47	4.15	0.21	0.93
synthesis reactor	200	10	1.4		0.47	0.03
overall energy utilization						50.7%
2 Dimethyl ether (DME)	bbl/day #					
water fed needed	184387	4425	2.2			
dimethyl ether produced	20045	481		4530	160.6	33.9%
electricity exported					110.3	23.3%
process water recovered	207334	4976				
Input conditions:	T deg.C	P atm.	H ₂ /C	H ₂ O/C	CO/H ₂	CH ₄ /CO
HGR	1000	30	3.48	0.07		
SPR	1000	30	2.47	2.91	0.21	0.93
synthesis reactor	260	70	1.2		0.58	0.05
overall energy utilization						57.3%
3 Gaseous Hydrogen (GH₂)	cu m/day+					
water fed needed	184387	4425	2.2			
gaseous hydrogen (GH ₂)	5618	135		1899	221.4	46.8%
electricity exported					96.4	20.4%
water produced	180601	4334				
Input conditions:	T deg.C	P atm.	H ₂ /C	H ₂ O/C	CO/H ₂	CH ₄ /CO
HGR	1000	30	3.48	0.07		
SPR	1000	30	2.47	2.91	0.21	0.93
overall energy utilization						67.2%
4 All Electric Power (AEP)	MWeh/day					
water fed needed	260393	6249	3.1			
electricity exported				4335	180.6	38.2%
water produced	311110	7467				
Input conditions:	T deg.C	P atm.	H ₂ /C	H ₂ O/C	CO/H ₂	CH ₄ /CO
HGR	1000	30	3.48	0.07		
SPR	1000	30	2.47	4.15	0.21	0.93
overall energy utilization						38.2%
5 FTL with water:biomass at 9:1 and adiabatic HGR (AHGR)	bbl/day					
water fed used	753975	18095	9.0			
synthetic diesel fuel	18147	436		3512	182.7	38.6%
electricity exported					155.1	32.8%
process water recovered	775890	18621				
Input conditions:	T deg.C	P atm.	H ₂ /C	H ₂ O/C	CO/H ₂	CH ₄ /CO
adiabatic HGR	738	30	1.67	0.43		
SPR	900	30	0.84	3.08	0.18	4.47
synthesis reactor	200	10	1.38		0.47	0.17
overall energy utilization						71.4%

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Notes

- No additional energy or energetic feedstock is required for all conversion options
- All rejected waste heat is at a temperature below 40C and is not considered recoverable
- # DME stored as a compressed liquid at 20C, 5.1 atm. pressure, density 668 g/L and LHV 28.4 MJ/kg
- 1 bbl of compressed liquid DME has a mass of 106.2 kg and LHV CPE of 3.02 GJ
- + Cubic meters of liquified hydrogen (at 20 deg K) per day at 1 atm. pressure
- Approximately 3.7 MJ/kg is needed to cool and liquify hydrogen having an HHV of 144 MJ/kg
- * All thermochemical and thermodynamic simulation data as of 10/1/2001

the claims

What is claimed is:

1. A process for producing a synthesis gas for use as a gaseous fuel or as feed into Fischer-Tropsch reactor to produce a liquid fuel, the improvement comprising:
- 5 feeding carbonaceous material, hydrogen from an internal source, and water, into a hydro-gasification reactor under conditions whereby methane rich producer gases are generated;
- 10 feeding the methane rich producer gases from the hydro-gasification reactor into a steam pyrolytic reformer under conditions whereby synthesis gas comprising hydrogen and carbon monoxide are generated;
- 15 feeding a portion of the hydrogen generated by the steam pyrolytic reformer into the hydro-gasification reactor as said hydrogen from an internal source; and
- 20 either utilizing said synthesis gas generated by the steam pyrolytic reformer for process heat or as fuel for an engine to produce electricity, or feeding said synthesis gas into the Fischer-Tropsch reactor under conditions whereby a liquid fuel is produced.
2. The process of claim 1 wherein said portion of the hydrogen generated by the steam pyrolytic reformer is obtained through a hydrogen purification filter.
- 25 3. The process of claim 1 wherein said conditions and the relative amounts of said carbonaceous material, hydrogen and water in the hydro-gasification reactor are such that said methane rich producer gases are produced exothermally.
- 30 4. The process of claim 3 in which the conditions whereby methane rich producer gases are generated include a super-

atmospheric pressure.

5 5. The process of claim 1 in which the carbonaceous material is fed into the hydro-gasification reactor as a slurry of carbonaceous particles in water.

6. The process of claim 5 in which said slurry is formed by grinding said carbonaceous material in water.

10 7. The process of claim 5 in which said slurry of carbonaceous material is heated with superheated steam from a steam generator prior to being fed into the hydro-gasification reactor.

15 8. The process of claim 7 in which the superheated steam is separated from the slurry, prior to feeding the slurry into the hydro-gasification reactor, and is fed into the steam pyrolytic reformer to react with the methane rich producer gases from the hydro-gasification reactor.

20 9. The process of claim 7 in which the slurry, together with the superheated steam, is fed into the hydro-gasification reactor.

25 10. The process of claim 9 in which synthesis gas generated by the steam pyrolytic reformer is fed into a Fischer-Tropsch reactor under conditions whereby a liquid fuel is produced.

30 11. The process of claim 10 wherein said conditions and the relative amounts of hydrogen and carbon monoxide in the Fischer-Tropsch reactor are such that said liquid fuel is produced exothermally.

12. The process of claim 11 comprising transferring exothermic heat from one or both of the hydro-gasification reactor and Fischer-Tropsch

reactor to one or both of the steam generator and the steam pyrolytic reformer.

5 13. The process of claim 11 comprising transferring exothermic heat from the hydro-gasification reactor and Fischer-Tropsch reactor to the steam generator and the steam pyrolytic reformer.

10 14. The process of claim 13 in which molten salt loops are used to transfer said exothermic heat.

15 15. The process of claim 1 in which said carbonaceous material comprises biomass.

16 16. The process of claim 15 in which said biomass comprises municipal solid waste.

20 17. The process of claim 10 in which the relative amounts of hydrogen and carbon monoxide in the synthesis gas fed into the Fischer-Tropsch reactor are such that said liquid fuel is substantially cetane.

18. A substantially self-sustaining process for producing a liquid fuel from carbonaceous feed, comprising:

25 grinding said carbonaceous material in water to form a slurry of carbonaceous particles;

heating the slurry with superheated steam from a steam generator;

30 feeding hydrogen from an internal source, the slurry, and the superheated steam into a hydro-gasification reactor in amounts and under conditions whereby methane rich producer gases are generated exothermally under super-atmospheric pressure;

feeding the methane rich producer gases from the hydro-

gasification reactor and said superheated steam into a steam pyrolytic reformer under conditions whereby synthesis gas comprising hydrogen and carbon monoxide are generated;

5 feeding a portion of the hydrogen generated by the steam pyrolytic reformer, obtained through a hydrogen purification filter, into the hydro-gasification reactor, the hydrogen therefrom constituting said hydrogen from an internal source;

10 feeding the remainder of the synthesis gas generated by the steam pyrolytic reformer into the Fischer-Tropsch reactor under conditions whereby a liquid fuel is produced exothermally; and

transferring exothermic heat from the hydro-gasification reactor and Fischer-Tropsch reactor to the steam generator and the steam pyrolytic reformer, whereby said process is substantially self-sustaining.

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19. The process of claim 18 in which molten salt loops are used to transfer said exothermic heat.

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20. The process of claim 18 in which said carbonaceous material comprises biomass.

21. The process of claim 18 in which said biomass comprises municipal solid waste.

25

22. Apparatus for producing a synthesis gas for use as a gaseous fuel or as feed into Fischer-Tropsch reactor to produce a liquid fuel, comprising:

30

a source of carbonaceous material and water;
a hydro-gasification reactor; and
a steam pyrolytic reformer;
piping connecting said source of carbonaceous material and water to the hydro-gasification reactor for feeding carbonaceous

material and water thereto to generate methane and carbon monoxide;

5 piping connecting the hydro-gasification reactor to the steam
pyrolytic reformer for feeding methane rich producer gases generated
in the hydro-gasification reactor to the steam pyrolytic reformer to
generate synthesis gas comprising hydrogen and carbon monoxide;
and

 piping connecting the steam pyrolytic reformer to the hydro-
gasification reactor for feeding a portion of the hydrogen generated by
the steam pyrolytic reformer into the hydro-gasification reactor.

10

23. The apparatus of claim 22 including a hydrogen purification filter
through which said portion of hydrogen generated by the steam
pyrolytic reformer is obtained.

15

24. The apparatus of claim 22 including a grinder forming particles
of the carbonaceous material, a receptacle for the particles and water
to form a slurry of the carbonaceous particles, and piping connecting
the receptacle to the hydro-gasification reactor for feeding the slurry
thereto.

20

25. The apparatus of claim 24 including a steam generator to heat
the slurry of carbonaceous material with superheated steam, a steam
separator for separating the superheated steam from the slurry prior to
the slurry being fed into the hydro-gasification reactor, and piping for
25 feeding the separated steam into the steam pyrolytic reformer to react
with the methane rich producer gases from the hydro-gasification
reactor.

30

26. The apparatus of claim 24 including a steam generator to heat
the slurry of carbonaceous material with superheated steam whereby
the slurry and superheated steam can be fed into the hydro-gasification

reactor.

5 27. The apparatus of claim 26 including a Fischer-Tropsch reactor and piping connecting the steam pyrolytic reformer to the Fischer-Tropsch reactor for feeding the remainder of the synthesis gas generated by the steam pyrolytic reformer into the Fischer-Tropsch reactor to produce a liquid fuel.

10 28. The apparatus of claim 27 including molten salt loops to transfer heat from one or both of the hydro-gasification reactor and Fischer-Tropsch reactor to one or both of the steam generator and the steam pyrolytic reformer.

15 29. The apparatus of claim 27 including molten salt loops to transfer heat from the hydro-gasification reactor and Fischer-Tropsch reactor to the steam generator and the steam pyrolytic reformer.

20 30. Apparatus for producing a liquid fuel in a substantially self-sustaining process, comprising:
 a source of carbonaceous material and water;
 a hydro-gasification reactor;
 a steam pyrolytic reformer;
 a hydrogen purification filter;
 a Fischer-Tropsch reactor;
25 a grinder forming particles of the carbonaceous material;
 a receptacle for the particles and water to form a slurry of the carbonaceous particles;
 a steam generator to heat the slurry and activate the carbon by pyrolysis with superheated steam;
30 piping connecting the steam separator to the hydro-gasification reactor for feeding the slurry and superheated steam thereto to generate methane and carbon monoxide;

piping connecting the hydro-gasification reactor to the steam pyrolytic reformer for feeding methane rich producer gases generated in the hydro-gasification reactor to the steam pyrolytic reformer to form a synthesis gas comprising hydrogen and carbon monoxide;

5 piping connecting the steam pyrolytic reformer to the hydro-gasification reactor through the hydrogen purification filter for feeding a portion of hydrogen generated by the steam pyrolytic reformer into the hydro-gasification reactor; and

10 piping connecting the steam pyrolytic reformer to the Fischer-Tropsch reactor for feeding the remainder of the synthesis gas generated by the steam pyrolytic reformer into the Fischer-Tropsch reactor to produce a liquid fuel.

15 31. The apparatus of claim 30 including molten salt loops to transfer heat from one or both of the hydro-gasification reactor and Fischer-Tropsch reactor to one or both of the steam generator and the steam pyrolytic reformer.

20 32. The apparatus of claim 30 including molten salt loops to transfer heat from the hydro-gasification reactor and Fischer-Tropsch reactor to the steam generator and the steam pyrolytic reformer.