



# Anaerobic co-digestion of market waste: an Italian experience

**Paolo Pavan (1), David Bolzonella (2), Franco Cecchi (2)**

*(1) University of Venice, Dept. of Environmental Sciences,  
Dorsoduro 2137, 30123 Venice, Italy*

*(2) University of Verona, Scientific and Technological Dept., Strada  
Le Grazie, Verona, Italy*

*[pavan@unive.it](mailto:pavan@unive.it)*



# Italian laws about wastewater and Municipal Solid Waste

- European Community directive 271/91 lead to D.L.vo 152/99 as nutrient control on WWTP discharge
- European Community directives 91/156, 91/689 and 94/62 lead to D. L.vo 22/97 (decreto Ronchi) lead to different disposal for dry and wet fraction of waste



UNIVERSITÀ  
CA' FOSCARI  
VENEZIA



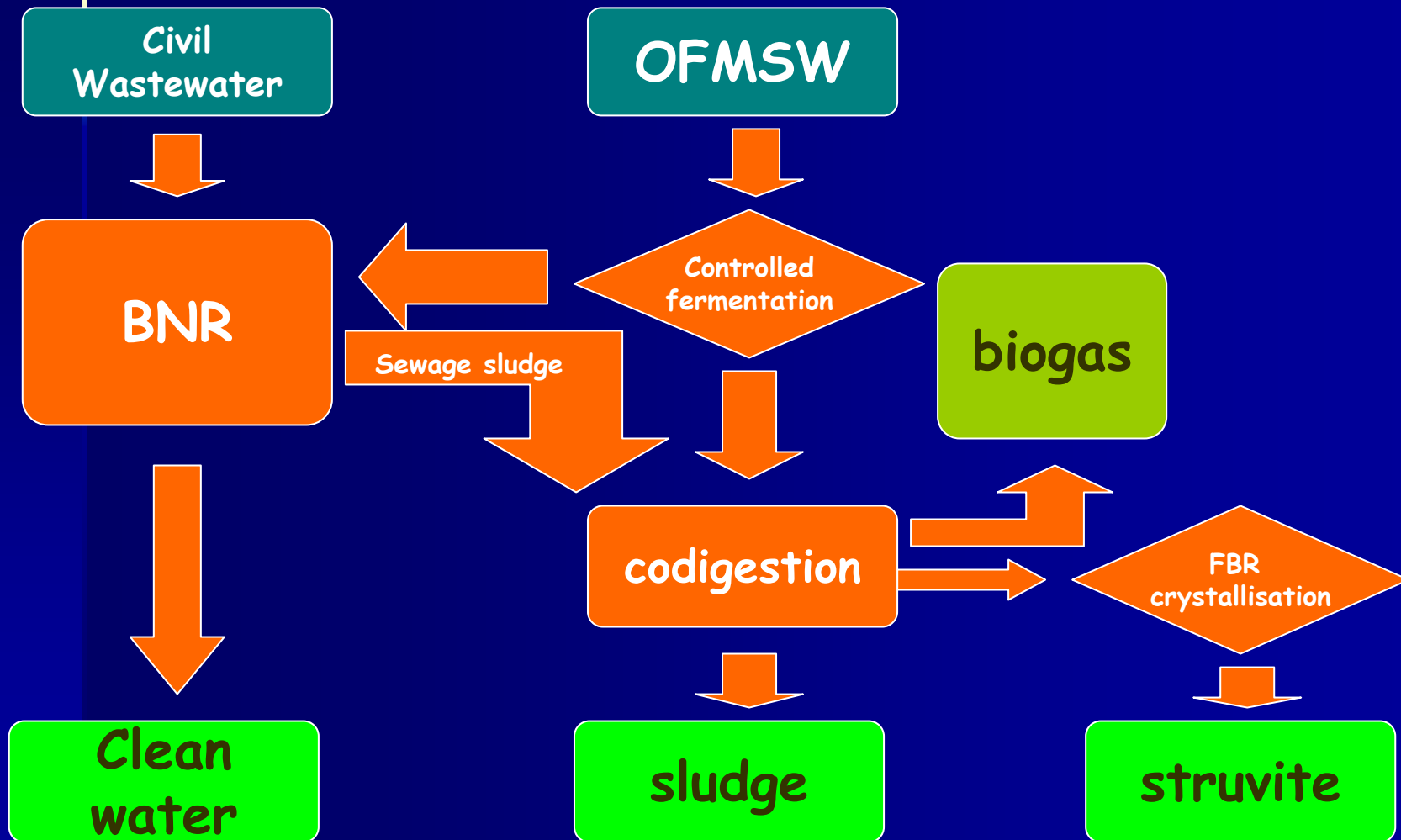


UNIVERSITÀ  
CA' FOSCARI  
VENEZIA



**Ingegneria  
Ambiente  
S.r.l.**

# Integrated process AF-BNR-SCP





UNIVERSITÀ  
CA' FOSCARI  
VENEZIA



**Ingegneria  
Ambiente  
S.r.l.**

# Plant capacity and loads

- Equivalent inhabitants: 50.000+20.000
- waste capacity: up to 20 t/d
- Hydraulic loading: 14.000+9600 m<sup>3</sup>/d
- Organic loading: 3570+1200 KgBOD/d
- Nitrogen loading: 602+241 KgN/d
- Phosphorous loading: 84+34 KgP/d
- F/M (ox): 0.125  
KgBOD/KgMLSS



UNIVERSITÀ  
CA' FOSCARI  
VENEZIA



Ingegneria  
Ambiente  
S.r.l.

# WASTEWATER CHARACTERISTICS

Parameter	Wastewater				Septage				Sewage sludge			
	avg	min	max	S.D.	avg	min	max	S.D.	avg	min	max	S.D.
TSS, mg/l	113	12	644	86	18880	3000	51060	10897				
TVSS, mg/l					13901	1685	41614	7101				
TS, g/kg					20	4	84	14	8.4	3.6	15.1	2.4
TVS, g/kg					14	3	80	13	5.2	2.3	9.8	1.5
Alkalinity, mgCaCO <sub>3</sub> /l	299	225	410	44								
TCOD, mgO <sub>2</sub> /l	107	37	374	40	14423	6000	48113	7946				
BOD, mgO <sub>2</sub> /l	55	18	132	20	4893	6	10500	2213				
SCOD, mgO <sub>2</sub> /l	46	10	167	31	1354	0	5300	1216				
TKN, mgN/l	11.1	1.7	27.1	3.7	394.6	66.0	955.2	212.7				
Total N, gN/kgTS									33.3	11.0	54.6	10.6
NH <sub>3</sub> -N, mgN/l	6.6	1.3	16.0	2.4	172.7	14.0	592.3	116.5	1.8	0.0	14.2	2.7
NO <sub>3</sub> -N, mgN/l	1.5	0.1	5.9	0.8	3.2	0.5	9.7	2.7	1.6	0.0	4.6	1.2
NO <sub>2</sub> -N, mgN/l	0.1	0.0	1.0	0.1					2.9	0.0	7.8	3.0
Total P, mgP/l	2.6	0.3	8.6	1.4	87.0	23.0	388.5	40.0				
Total P, gP/kgTS									14.7	0.54	3.40	0.56
PO <sub>4</sub> -P, mgP/l	1.0	0.1	4.2	0.6	16.0	1.7	64.0	12.3	1.0	0.0	19.5	2.6

# Market waste CHARACTERISTICS (as collected)

Parameter	Average	Std.Dev.	min	max
TCOD, gO <sub>2</sub> /kgTS	2127	281.4	1726	2384
TKN, g/kgTS	30.9	4.9	15.5	26.3
Total P, gP/kgTS	7.1	1.9	4.5	8.5
TS, g/kg	296.4	93.1	201.3	350.2
TVS, %TS	76.3	10.1	65.8	89.1



UNIVERSITÀ  
CA' FOSCARI  
VENEZIA



**Ingegneria  
Ambiente  
S.r.l.**



UNIVERSITÀ  
CA' FOSCARI  
VENEZIA



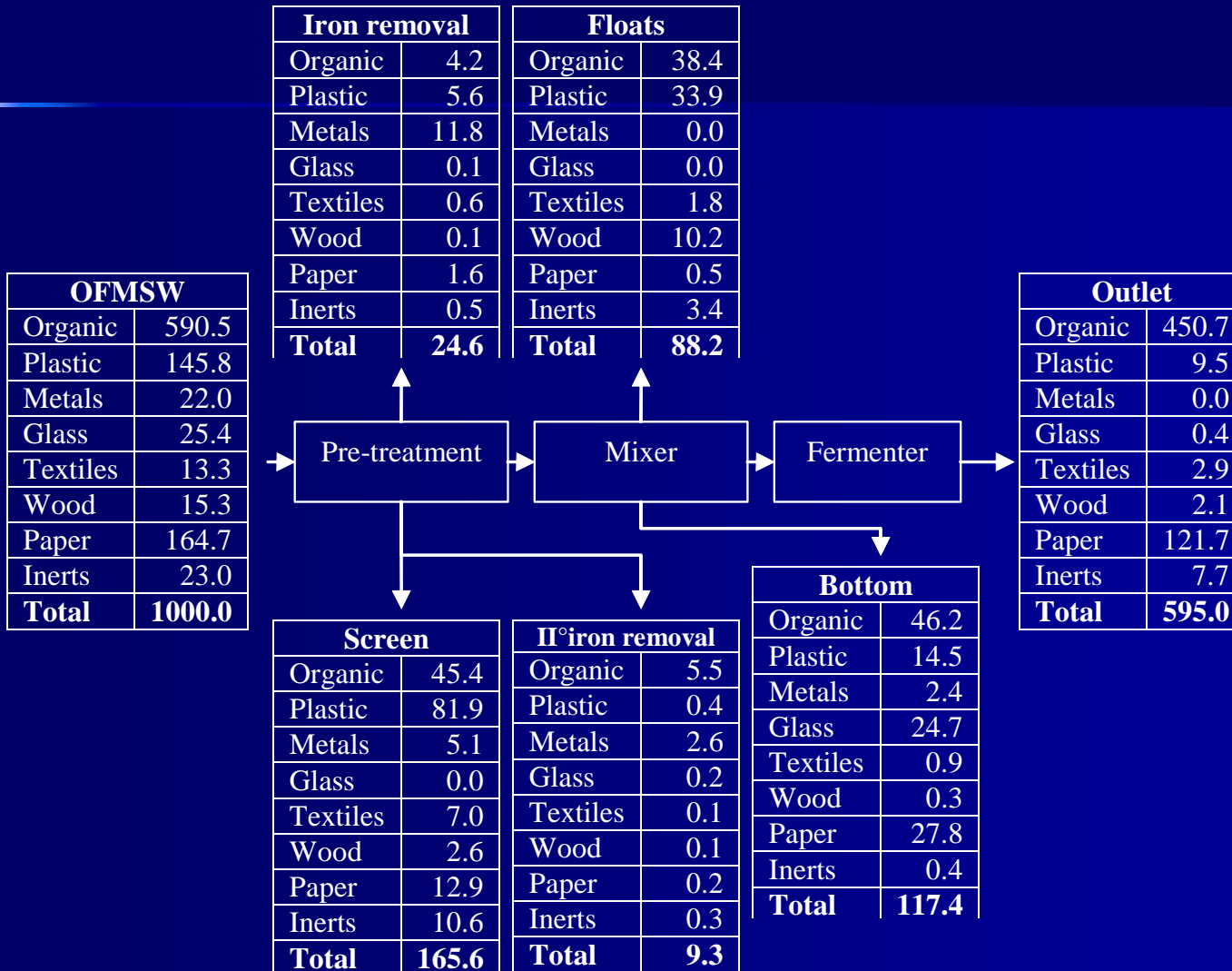
Ingegneria  
Ambiente  
S.r.l.

# TREVISO WWTP





# Mass balance of waste pre-treatment







UNIVERSITÀ  
CA' FOSCARI  
VENEZIA



Ingegneria  
Ambiente  
S.r.l.

# waste characteristics after pre-treatment

Item	Average	Std.Dev.	Max	Min
TCOD, gO <sub>2</sub> /kgTS	2144	422	2744	1800
SCOD, gO <sub>2</sub> /kgTS	222	78	278	111
TKN, gN/kgTS	33	2	38	30
NH <sub>3</sub> -N, gN/l	49.3	8.6	50.4	48.0
TP, gP/l	13	4	19	8
TS, g/kg	<b>90</b>	17	105	51
TVS, %TS	<b>87</b>	4	93	79
VFA, mgCOD/l	1123	314	1485	740

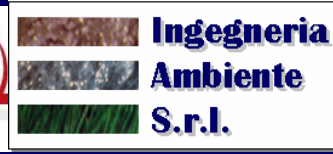
**Which means:**

**99 % metals removal**

**90 % non putrescible fraction removal**



UNIVERSITÀ  
CA' FOSCARI  
VENEZIA



Ingegneria  
Ambiente  
S.r.l.

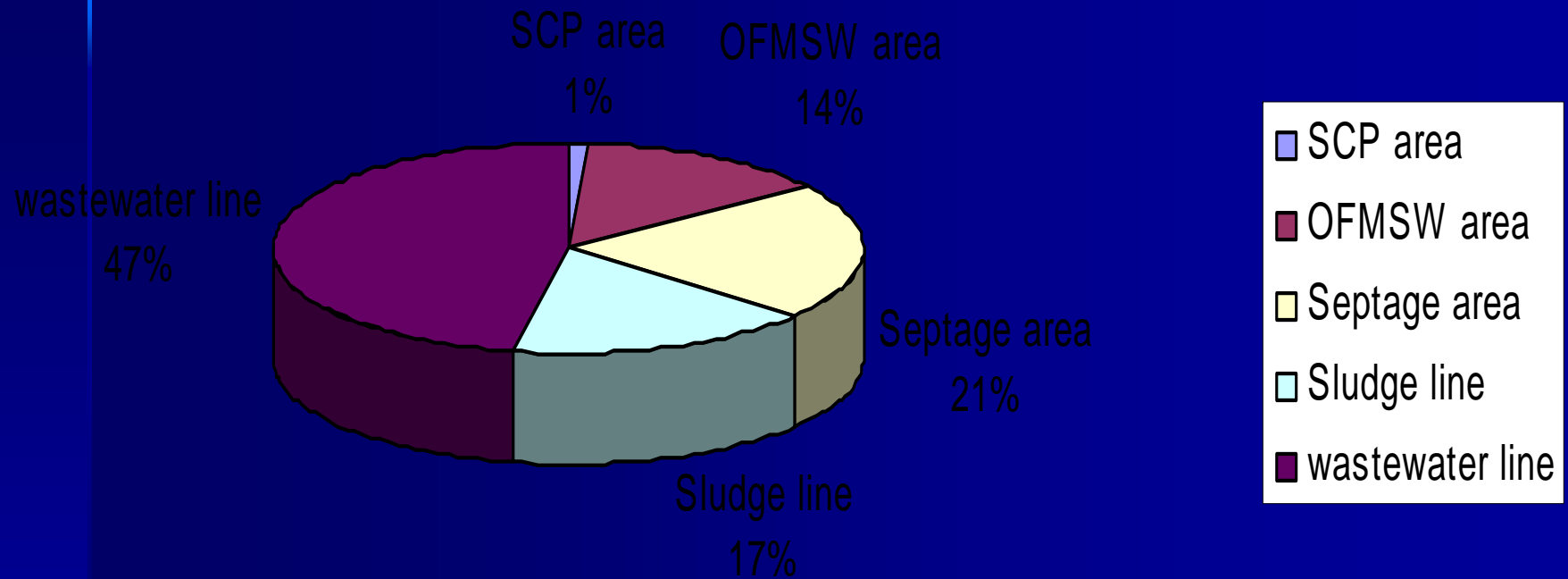
## Comparison between sludge digestion and co— digestion performances

Parameter	Sludge only	Co-digestion
HRT, d	37.2	35.6
OLR, kgTVS/m <sup>3</sup> d	0.53	0.78
TS, g/Kg	36.0	41.0
TVS, %TS	62	67
GPR, m <sup>3</sup> /m <sup>3</sup> d	0.10	0.34
SGP, m <sup>3</sup> /kgTVS	0.13	0.43
pH	6.90	7.2
TA(4), mgCaCO <sub>3</sub> /l	1865	3058

Which means, on a monthly basis, a  
change from 3300 to 20.000  
m<sup>3</sup>/month of biogas produced

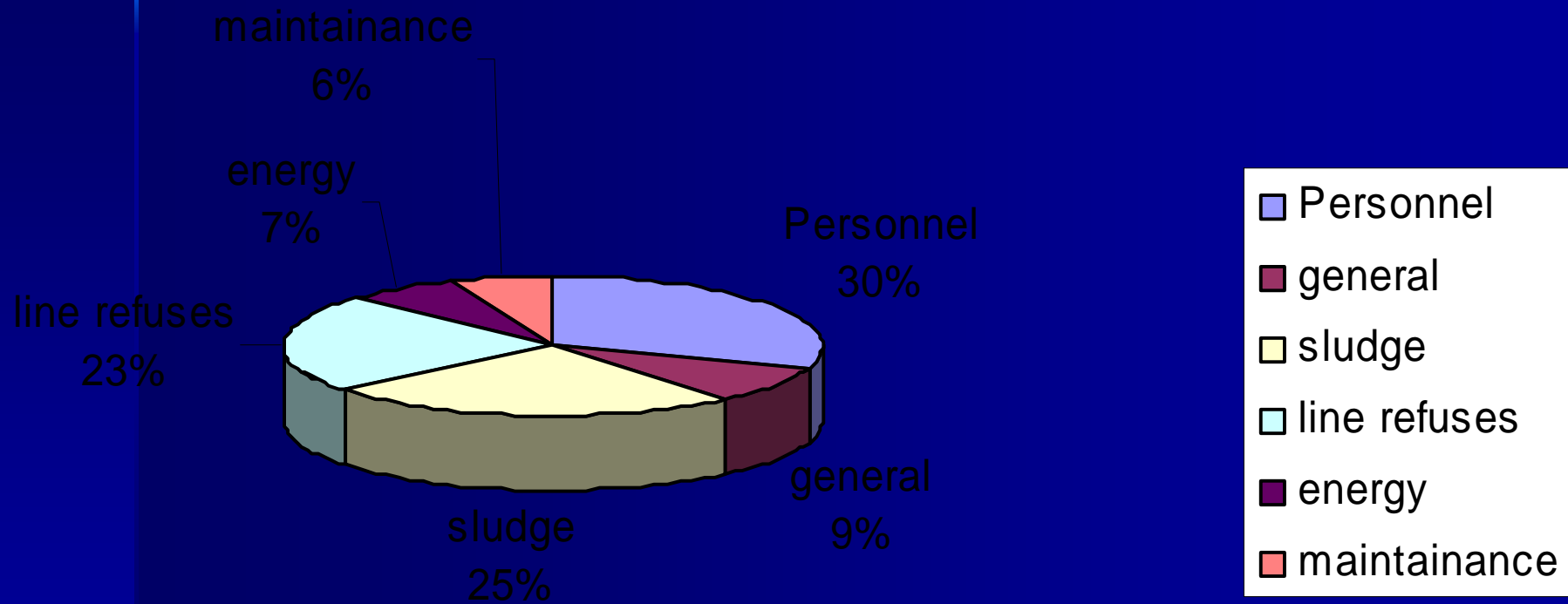


# Cost fractionation in the whole plant








# Cost fractionation for the waste treatment area



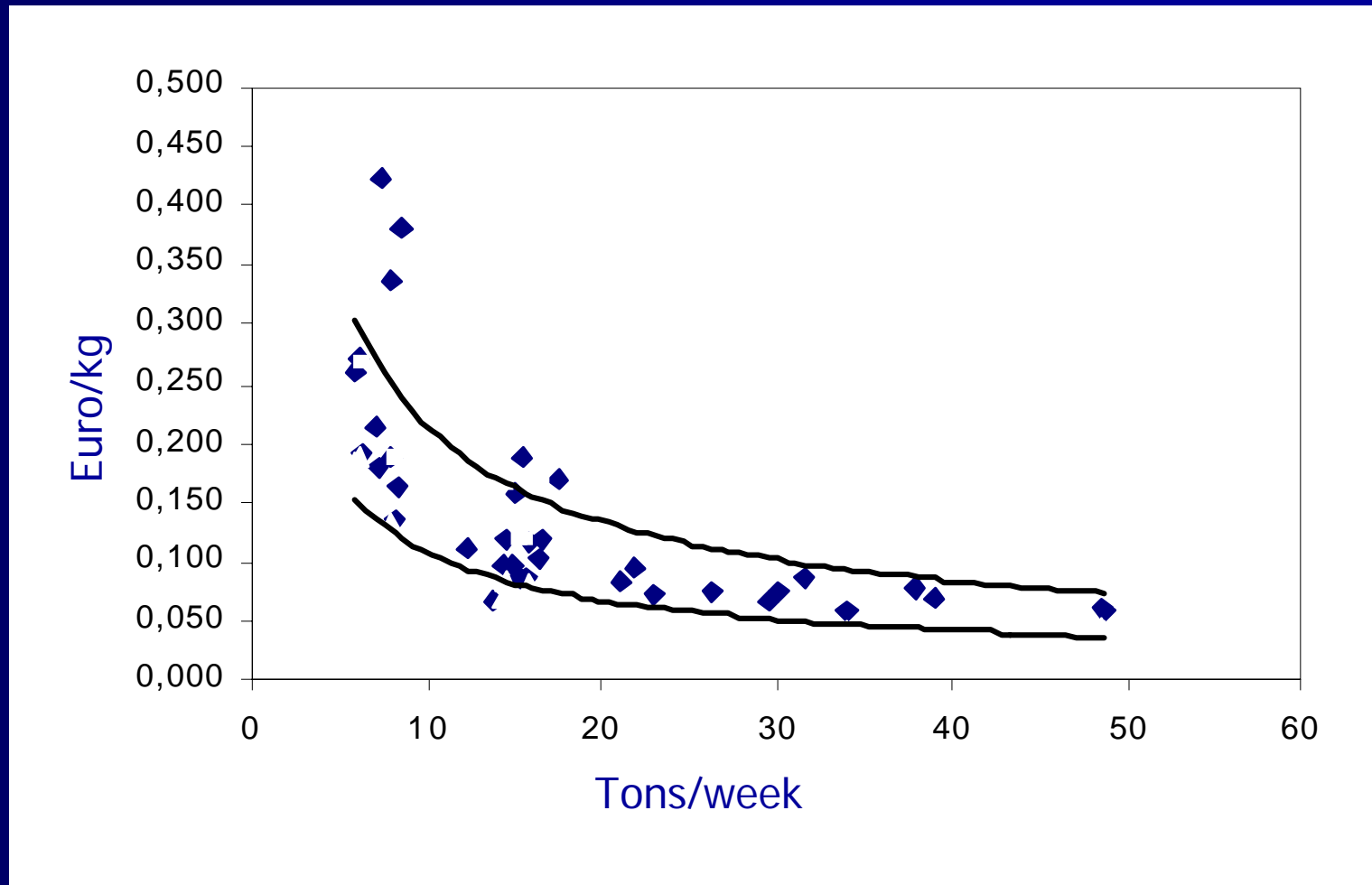


UNIVERSITÀ  
CA' FOSCARI  
VENEZIA



 **Ingegneria**  
 **Ambiente**  
 **S.r.l.**

# Cost x tonn referred to the tons treated per week



# These costs are evaluated without energy incomes!

- In Italy, a 'bonus' income coming from the application of process which use renewable resources for energy production is given in the form of 97.39 Euros/MW
- Considering the actual average value of energy and the yields obtained, an income of about

**80-93 euros x ton can be considered**



UNIVERSITÀ  
CA' FOSCARI  
VENEZIA





UNIVERSITÀ  
CA' FOSCARI  
VENEZIA



Ingegneria  
Ambiente  
S.r.l.

The same approach is foreseen for  
the new WWTP of Viareggio  
(100.000 E.I., centre Italy)





# Sorting line overview



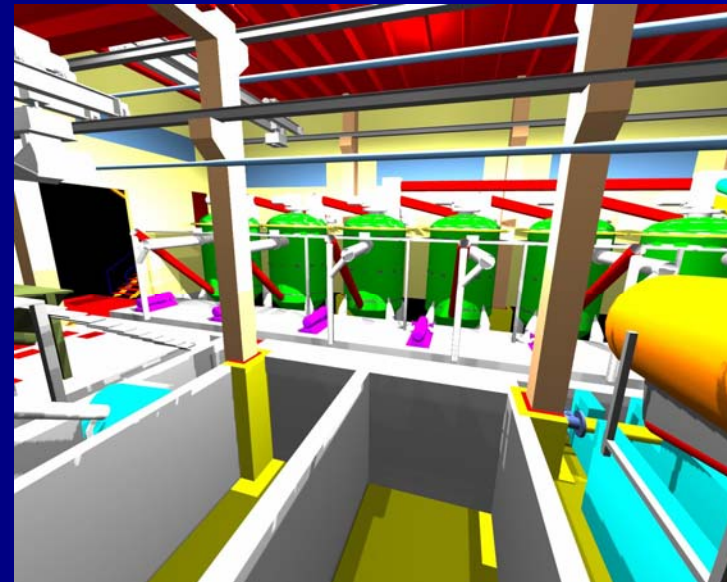
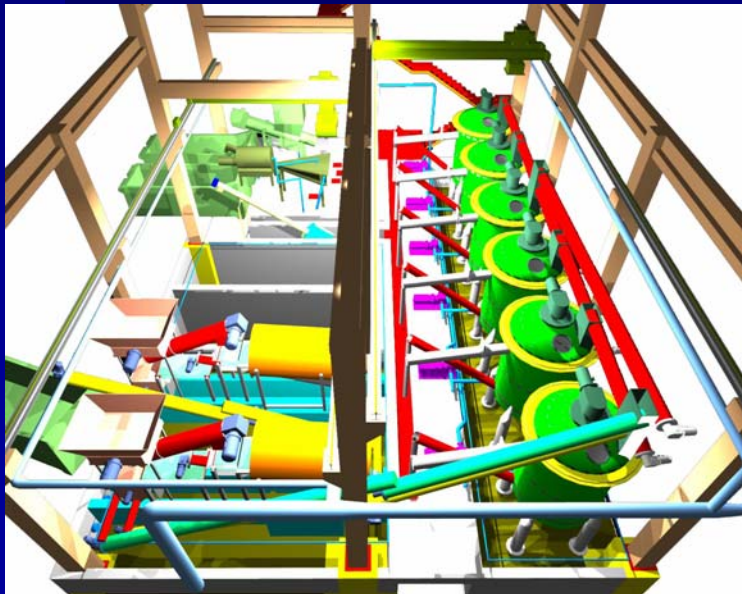
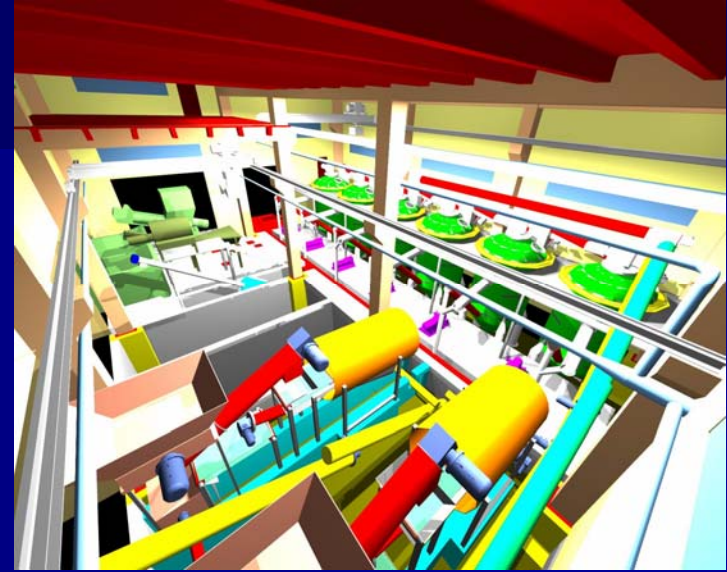




UNIVERSITÀ  
CA' FOSCARI  
VENEZIA



 **Ingegneria**  
 **Ambiente**  
 **S.r.l.**





UNIVERSITÀ  
CA' FOSCARI  
VENEZIA



## Conclusions (1/4)

- The waste pre-treatment proposed allows removal yields of 99% about metals and 90 % about other non putrescible fractions;
- The effluent from the sorting line has optimal characteristics: 90 g/KgTS and nearly 90 % TVS

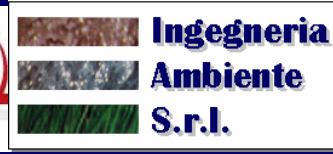


## Conclusions (2/4)

- The biogas production increase from 0.10 to 0.34 m<sup>3</sup>/m<sup>3</sup> d as GPR and from 0.13 to 0.43 m<sup>3</sup>/kgTVS as SGP. This means a change from 3300 to 20.000 m<sup>3</sup> of biogas produced on a monthly basis
- The use of the solid residue of fermented OFMSW allows a double SGP value comparing the sludge alone production (from 0.13 to 0.27 m<sup>3</sup>/kgTVS). This option allows to use the liquid residue to improve denitrification step in water treatment.



UNIVERSITÀ  
CA' FOSCARI  
VENEZIA



## Conclusions (3/4)

- The cost of the waste area management represent only the 14 %;
- The energy cost is only the 7 % of the total management cost for the area: the main costs are given by residue and sludge disposal (48 %);
  - With the actual plant, the cost of waste disposal can be maintained below the 50 euro/ton when a capacity of 50 tons/week is reached, which is lower than the average cost of organic waste disposal



UNIVERSITÀ  
CA' FOSCARI  
VENEZIA



 **Ingegneria  
Ambiente  
S.r.l.**

# Conclusions (4/4)

- An average income of 80-93 euros/ton of waste treated can be considered

# Engineering:



**Scuola di Ingegneria Chimica Ambientale:  
Trattamenti Industriali delle acque**



**Università degli Studi di Venezia - Dipartimento di Scienze  
ambientali – Dorsoduro 2137 – 30123 Venezia**



**Università degli Studi di Verona – Dipartimento Scientifico e  
Tecnologico – Strada Le Grazie – 30174 Verona**



**Università Politecnica delle Marche – Istituto di Idraulica –  
Via Breccie Bianche - 60121 Ancona**



**Ingegneria**



**Ambiente**



**S.r.l.**

**Ingegneria Ambiente S.r.l.**

**Società di Progettazione e Consulenza nel settore ambiente**

**Via del Consorzio, 39 60015 Falconara Marittima (AN) tel.**

**0719162094 fax. 0719189580**

**[www.ingegneriaambiente.it](http://www.ingegneriaambiente.it)**



UNIVERSITÀ  
CA' FOSCARI  
VENEZIA



 **Ingegneria  
Ambiente  
S.r.l.**

**Thank you for your  
attention**

