

Anaerobic co-digestion of craft brewery waste using hops and yeast

> Students : Dhanashree Rawalgaonkar, Yan Zhang, Selina Walker Advisors : Dr Sarina Ergas, Dr Paul Kirchman , Dr Qiong Zhang

# Craft Breweries in Florida



Craft breweries are defined as breweries producing less than 6 million barrels of beer annually



# The brewing process





Acetic Acid  $\rightarrow CH_4 + CO_2$ 

# Motivation

- ➢ High strength waste
  - High organic matter
- ➤ Waste surcharges
  - 16 to 22% of net utility expenses
- Research Gaps
  - Effects of hop antimicrobial properties on anaerobic digestion process
  - Costs and benefits for craft brewers

## **Project Activities**



#### Craft brewery waste management



#### Resource Recovery potential



#### Economic analysis



Cross campus collaborations



Education and outreach

# Methodology



#### Bench scale ASBR digesters



#### Cost/benefit analysis

# Biomethane potential (BMP) assays



# Effect of hop dosage at high substrate to inoculum ratio



# Effect of hop dosage at low substrate to inoculum ratio

20 % hops Methane (ml) Yeast (control) 40 % hops Days

**Cumulative Methane Production and Gompertz Model Fit** 

## Cumulative methane yields

Literature values for methane yield of brewery waste are reported between 0.1 - 0.3

 $\frac{ml \ CH_4}{mg \ COD}$ 



#### **Methane yields obtained from BMPs**

## Anaerobic Sequencing Batch Reactors (ASBR)

Organic Loading Rate =  $1000 \frac{mg COD}{L Day}$ 

Hydraulic Retention time = 30 days

Solids Retention Time > 30 days





# COD Degradation in ASBR of yeast waste

**COD** Degradation in ASBR Reactors



# Methane percentage from ASBR of yeast waste



# **Economic analysis**

Cost/benefit analysis of different waste management scenarios based on the brewery size.





# Economic analysis



# Payback period vs. brewery size

**Comparion of Payback Periods** 



**Economically feasible for medium to larger sized breweries** 

### Conclusions

>At low dosage, hops enhance methane

production while at high dosage it is an inhibitor

> For medium sized craft breweries, use of AD to

produce natural gas coupled with CO<sub>2</sub> recovery

would require a payback period of about 16 years

# Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the USF Trailblazers Scholarship and Interdisciplinary Research Grant programs

This material is based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation under Grant No. 1930451. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.

# References

43,561 Pathway Icon Images, Stock Photos & Vectors. (n.d.). Shutterstock. Retrieved March 30, 2023, from https://www.shutterstock.com/search/pathway-icon

Brewery, craft beer pub - small business graphics - street vending cart. Brewery, craft beer pub -small business graphics - | CanStock. (n.d.). Www.canstockphoto.com. Retrieved March 30, 2023, from https://www.canstockphoto.com/brewery-craft-beer-pub-small-business-74930860.html

Decision free icons designed by iconixar. (n.d.). Flaticon. Retrieved March 30, 2023, from https://www.flaticon.com/free-icon/decision\_4599818

Florida Brewery map. (n.d.). Beer in Florida. Retrieved March 30, 2023, from https://beerinflorida.com/florida-brewery-map-list-beer/

Shao, X., Peng, D., Teng, Z., & Ju, X. (2008). Treatment of brewery wastewater using anaerobic sequencing batch reactor (ASBR). *Bioresource Technology*, *99*(8), 3182–3186. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biortech.2007.05.050

State Craft Beer Sales & Production Statistics, 2018. (n.d.). Brewers Association. https://www.brewersassociation.org/statistics-and-data/state-craft-beer-stats/