

I am completing a project for my Chemistry class and need an expert opinion to add to my research on the following question. Thanks.

How do the gases created during the decomposition of organic material affect the environment? How do different types of organic materials vary in the amount of gases produced?

Answer:

Decomposition of organic material generates such gases as:

- Carbon dioxide (CO_2) – greenhouse gas contributing climate change;
- Methane (CH_4) - greenhouse gas contributing climate change, explosive and toxic;
- Sulfur dioxide (SO_2) – toxic gas causing acidic precipitation.

Normally animal remains produce more gases (fats, oils and greases (industry lingo: FOGs) and food waste). While plant remains tend to mineralize more.