

Making Fertilizer from Coal

One of the future concepts for converting coal into other fuel forms is to apply biological processes. Certain microbes "feed" on coal, producing liquids and other substances as "waste" products. Although as a source of fuels, the technique is well into the future, it has resulted in an important near-term spinoff. ArcTech, the company that worked with the Department to develop a biological coal conversion process, has now adapted the process to produce an organic, environmentally safe fertilizer made from coal.

Sold under the tradename *Actisol*TM, the fertilizer is now available from lawn care and home improvement stores. It is also being sold worldwide, most notably in Saudi Arabia, where the need for organically rich soil supplements is particularly acute, and in South Korea.