



## **Conversion Technology E-Newsletter**

03/06/2008

### **EVENTS**

The next Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee meeting will be taking place on March 10, 2008. The Agenda is available for download on our [website](#)

### **UPDATES**

#### **LA County awaits first conversion technology proposals**

The County of Los Angeles has sent an official Request for Offers (RFO) to the finalist technology suppliers and material recovery facilities (MRFs), setting the stage for the first commercial-scale conversion technology facility in the United States.

The RFO comes at the end of a two-year-long search for the most proven and effective conversion technologies. The Phase II Conversion Technology Evaluation Report was adopted in October 2007. The RFO goes one step further by asking shortlisted companies to partner with MRFs in developing concrete proposals for a demonstration facility in Southern California. The County will be evaluating each proposal on economic viability, diversion potential and other considerations. This summer, the County will announce which project(s) will receive facilitative support.

To view the final Request for Offers, please visit [www.socalconversion.org](http://www.socalconversion.org).

#### **Significant strides made in furthering public understanding of CT**

This time last year, few stakeholders had heard of conversion technologies or had really begun to fully consider the consequences of how we dispose of waste in Southern California. Since February of 2007, the County of Los Angeles has actively engaged key environmental and community leaders, yielding very promising results and opening dialogues between project proponents and stakeholders. In addition to direct outreach, the County has also launched a new Web site and newsletter to educate interested parties. Conversion technology education efforts will continue in 2008 and beyond.

### **NEWS**

#### **Time Warner Cable highlights conversion**

LA Countys conversion technology program was recently profiled by Time Warner Cable. Project Manager Coby Skye was interviewed and provided insights on why conversion is so badly needed and the benefits it can offer to Southern California. To view the clip, visit [socalconversion.org](http://socalconversion.org).

### **Leading waste trade comes out strong for conversion**

The editor of solid waste trade journal MSW Management wrote a lengthy endorsement of conversion technologies in the magazines January/February issue. John Trotti discussed the current regulatory environment and advocated for common-sense changes that allow for a reasonable and equal footing for proven conversion technologies.

### **Promising plasma gasification technologies profiled**

Biomass discussed several up-and-coming companies seeking to convert solid waste into clean energy through the use of plasma gasification. Geoplasma LLC has plans to build a commercial facility in St. Lucie County, Florida, while PlascoEnergy Group recently opened a plant in Ottawa, Canada processing 85 tons per day of municipal solid waste.

### **What happens to Americas e-waste?**

As part of the greening of America, new focus has been placed on recycling electronic devices. But where does your old desktop computer go? National Geographic magazine explores this question in an in-depth investigation of e-waste recycling in Ghana, the destination of many of Americas discarded televisions and computers.

Questions or comments? Please email us at [staff@socalconversion.org](mailto:staff@socalconversion.org).



**July Conversion Technology Newsletter**  
07/24/2008

**EVENTS**

The Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee will not be meeting during the month of July. Previous agendas are available for download at our [website](#).

**National Latino Congreso Spotlights Conversion Technologies**

The 2008 National Latino Congreso held its annual congress July 18-19, 2008 at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel in Los Angeles, CA. As part of a town hall panel dedicated to energy, climate change, public health, and jobs, conversion technologies were a featured topic of discussion. In 2006, the Congreso adopted a comprehensive policy supporting conversion technologies. More information on the Congreso can be found at their [website](#)

**UPDATES**

The County is developing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the next facilitation contract, set for release later this year. Future e-newsletters will continue to keep you posted as to the status of this project.

**Cities Support Conversion Technologies**

Various cities throughout the County recognize conversion technologies not only for their inherent environmental benefits, but as a positive step towards reducing their dependence on landfilling and enhancing local diversion efforts. Resolutions of support for the development of conversion technology facilities in the County of Los Angeles can be found [here](#).

**Ethanol facility receives approval**

Alternative fuels pioneer BlueFire Ethanol has received approval from the Los Angeles County Regional Planning Commission to construct a \$30 million facility at the Lancaster landfill. The BlueFire plant will produce millions of gallons of ethanol from wood and green wastes through an advanced acid hydrolysis technology. To view an article that appeared in the Daily News, visit our news [website](#).

## **Press Enterprise Puts Focus on Short-Listed Conversion Technology**

International Environmental Solutions (IES), one of the four conversion technology vendors chosen by the County of Los Angeles to possibly construct a CT facility in Southern California, was highlighted in Riverside Countys Press Enterprise. IES utilizes a pyrolysis system to convert solid waste in order generate electricity. You may view the article and accompanying video [here](#).

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## **August Conversion Technology Newsletter**

08/19/2008

### **EVENTS**

The Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee will be meeting on August 21, 2008. This agenda, and previous minutes are available for download at our [website](#).

### **UPDATES**

County of Los Angeles Receives Offers for Conversion Technology Demonstration Project

The County of Los Angeles has received five offers for its conversion technology demonstration project. The County will be evaluating each offer over the next six months and developing a recommendation for consideration by the Board of Supervisors by the First Quarter of 2009.

### **LEGISLATION**

SB 1252 (Padilla) is anticipated to be amended this week to include, among other things, proposed language that would significantly hinder the development of conversion technologies. The proposed amendments would define "lignocellulosic ethanol processing" to include only acid and enzymatic technologies. Waste streams processed by acid and enzymatic technologies will qualify for diversion credit, and those that are processed by thermochemical technologies will not.

Visit the Task Force's legislative [correspondence page](#) for updates regarding this issue. Please contact your [legislators](#) and urge them to support legislation that promotes the development of clean conversion technologies in California.

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## **Conversion Technology Newsletter - November 2008**

11/25/2008

### **UPDATES**

#### **NOTE: County of Los Angeles Releases Phase III/IV RFP for Conversion Technology Project**

As part of Los Angeles County's conversion technology efforts, a request for proposals (RFP) for environmental consulting services has been issued. The RFP covers Phase III, the development of a demonstration facility, and Phase IV, the siting of commercial facilities in Los Angeles County. Responses are due January 15, and a pre-proposal conference will be held on December 15 in Alhambra. The full RFP is available [here](#).

### **News**

#### **Waste-to-energy plans get EU's nod of approval**

On October 20, 2008, the European Union revised its waste management hierarchy to include all forms of CTs and highly efficient incinerators as "recovery" rather than disposal; California should take a cue from the EU and follow suit. Read more about this new development [here](#).

#### **Schwarzenegger orders faster push for renewable energy**

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed an executive order calling on utilities to provide one-third of their power from renewable resources by 2020. You may read the story [here](#).

#### **What Obama presidency means for clean tech**

With the incoming administration and Congress, renewable energy advocates and environmentalists said they anticipate a comprehensive national energy plan focused on fostering clean-energy technologies. You may read the story in its entirety [here](#).

#### **Alabama partners to study MSW-to-diesel conversion**

The city of Bay Minette, Ala., has been awarded \$195,000 to work with Auburn University in Auburn, Ala., and Cello Energy in Bay Minette, Ala., to explore the feasibility of converting the city's municipal solid waste into a synthetic fuel that is similar to No. 2 diesel fuel oil. You may read the story [here](#).

Visit the Task Force's legislative [correspondence page](#) for updates regarding this issue. Please contact your [legislators](#) and urge them to support legislation that promotes the development of clean conversion technologies in California.

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**December Conversion Technology Newsletter**  
12/24/2008

Happy holidays from Los Angeles County

**News**

**Canada establishes GHG Protocol for Non-Incineration Thermal Waste Conversion**

The report confirms the benefits from converting waste through non-incineration thermal waste conversion technologies. You may read the report in its entirety [here](#).

**California's Renewable Energy Disconnect - Article in MSW Management**

A critical linchpin in reaching California's green power, greenhouse-gas-reduction, and petroleum-reduction goals is maximizing use of the state's abundant biomass resources from the forestry, agricultural, and urban sectors. To read this article, please click [here](#).

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