



Conversion Technology E-Newsletter - January 2010

01/15/2010

ACTION ITEMS

Assembly Bill 222

Assembly Bill 222 (AB 222) is a critical piece of legislation that would help create a regulatory pathway for the development of conversion technologies in California. Thus far, AB 222 has received bipartisan support, passing the State Assembly and the Senate Energy, Utilities and Commerce Committee. AB 222 is currently a two year bill slated to be taken up in the Senate Environmental Quality Committee this coming January.

While the bill has received unprecedented support from over 80 [organizations and individuals](#), we encourage stakeholders to continue to contact members of the [Senate Environmental Quality Committee](#) by phone or e-mail and urge them to pass AB 222 when it comes before them in January.

A sample letter to the Senate Environmental Quality Committee can be found [here](#).

EVENTS

Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee

The Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee will be meeting on:

Thursday, January 21, 2010, 10:00 a.m.

Department of Public Works

900 South Fremont Ave. Conference Room C

Alhambra, CA 91803

The agenda and previous approved minutes are available for download at our [website](#).

VerdeXchange 2010: Green Marketmakers Conference

This conference will be taking place on:

January 24-25, 2010

Marriott Los Angeles

333 S. Figueroa Street

Los Angeles, CA 90071

For more information visit the [website](#).

Project Notice

County of Sacramento Releases RFP for Potential MRF-Conversion Technology Facility

The County of Sacramento, Municipal Services Agency, Department of Waste Management & Recycling is soliciting responses to the Request for Proposals (RFP) for a business opportunity at the County's South Area Transfer Station (SATS) located at 8550 Fruitridge Road.

Proposers must be willing to enter into a lease agreement with the County for a term of at least 5 years. While the County will consider proposals for any allowed use, the County will give preference to proposals for waste conversion technologies that can take advantage of the County's Solid Waste Facility Permit (SWFP). Permit documents are available on their [website](#).

Questions submittal deadline - 3:00pm, Thursday, December 31, 2009.

Proposal submittal deadline - 4:00pm, Friday, January 22, 2010.

Any questions specific to the RFP must be directed to Mr. Doug Kobold.

Mr. Kobold can be contacted at (916) 875-7087.

News

Another View: S.F. Mayor Newsom was off-base on gasification

Click [here](#) to read the response to Mayor Newsom's editorial below. This article challenges that landfills are bad not because they prevent recycling, as was stated by the Mayor, but rather because of the huge greenhouse gas emissions impact landfills have on the environment. Every ton of landfilled trash emits 23 tons of CO₂ or its equivalent.

Biobutanol Firm Aims to Compete With Ethanol in 4 Years

Having launched its first pilot facility yesterday with Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger looking on, California startup Cobalt Technologies is the latest in a growing number of biofuel ventures banking on biobutanol as an attractive ethanol alternative. To read the entire article, click [here](#)

Biomass seen fueling California economic revival

California could tap the energy stored in wood, garbage, plants and animal waste to fuel a job creation engine that could pull the state out of its economic doldrums, biomass energy advocates said Tuesday. To read the entire article, click [here](#)

Columbia researchers explore new process to create greener fuels

According to a new study, peanut shells and other materials, such as tree bark and grass, can be turned from biomass renewable energy derived from a recently living source into fuel. To read the entire article, click [here](#)

Honeywell's UOP Awarded U.S. Department of Energy Grant For Conversion of Waste Biomass to Green Transportation Fuels

Honeywell announced today it has been selected for negotiation of a \$25 million award from the U.S. Department of Energy to build a demonstration unit in Hawaii to convert cellulosic biomass into green transportation fuels. To read the entire article, click [here](#)

Producing Green Natural Gas in Canada?

The natural gas giant Spectra Energy has been quietly investigating an alternative approach to carbon capture, one that can produce clean electricity and won't involve pumping more fossil fuel to the surface. To read the entire article, click [here](#)

Viewpoints: Don't talk trash compost, recycle, create jobs instead

According to Mayor Newsom and Mr. Morales, there are some tempting new technologies that reduce the amount sent to landfills, but in doing so they expend vast amounts of energy and other resources. On balance, reuse, recycling and composting make the most of our resources and create good, green jobs along the way. To read entire article ,click [here](#)



Conversion Technology E-Newsletter - February 2010
02/17/2010

ACTION ITEMS

Update on Assembly Bill 222

Due to ongoing budget discussions, a hearing on Assembly Bill 222 (AB 222) in the Senate Environmental Quality Committee has not yet been set. It is expected that the Bill will be considered later this Summer.

AB 222 is California legislation designed to expedite the introduction of conversion technologies that will produce advanced biofuels and/or green power from carbon-based wastes. With Republican and Democrat co-authors, this legislation has gained bipartisan support amongst the business, environmental, labor, and government sectors. The legislation removes from statute a scientifically inaccurate definition of gasification, establishes a new regulatory category for a "biorefinery" and confirms that the biogenic portion of the municipal waste stream qualifies as a feedstock for renewable electricity under the Renewable Portfolio Standard.

Last Year, AB 222 passed the California State Assembly by a vote of 54-13, after having been approved by a unanimous bipartisan vote of 11-0 in the Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee. In July, it was approved in the Senate Utilities, Energy and Communications Committee. The Governor has endorsed the legislation, enabling the California Energy Commission to testify on its behalf, and there is significant support for the bill in the State Senate.

Events

Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee

The Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee will be meeting on:

Thursday, February 18, 2010, 10:00 a.m.
Department of Public Works
900 South Fremont Ave. Conference Room C
Alhambra, CA 91803

The agenda and previous approved minutes are available for download at our [website](#).

BioCycle West Coast Conference: Composting, Organics Recycling & Renewable Energy

This conference will be taking place on:
April 12-15, 2010
Town & Country Resort
San Diego, California
For more information visit the [website](#).

Project Notice

The County of San Bernardino has released a Request for Proposals and Request for Qualifications for waste conversion technologies and renewable energy projects.

For additional information go to: <http://www.sbcounty.gov/dpw/solidwaste/rfp.asp>

News

Biofuel industry reacts to Obamas address

Alternative fuel supporters listening eagerly to President Barack Obamas 2010 State of the Union Address heard the word they were listening for: biofuels. Obama laid out four things the U.S. needs to do to move ahead, including serious financial reform, technology innovation, exporting more domestic goods and investing in the skills and education of our people. I do not accept second place for the United States of America, he said. As hard as it may be, as uncomfortable and contentious as the debates may be, its time to get serious about fixing the problems that are hampering our growth. To read the entire article, click [here](#).

Ventura County Regional Sanitation District explores turning trash into energy

The district is looking into two companies that take different approaches to the same idea of making waste useful without burning the trash. The district deals with enough trash that it could in theory build 10 such facilities, which could provide energy for about 18 percent of the homes in the county. The superheating would reduce trash to 10 percent of its previous bulk, making a landfill last 10 times as long. The units could pay for themselves in 10 years. To read the entire article, click [here](#).

British Airways plans Europe's first biojet fuel plant

The plant will produce aviation fuel from plasma gasification of biomass into BioSynGas which is then converted by Fischer Tropsch into biojet fuel. The facility will process all types of biomass and residue feedstock which will mainly be sourced from local waste management facilities. To read the entire article, click [here](#).

Cleveland signs agreement to build small power plant fueled by municipal waste

The plant, the first of its type in the country, would cost about \$200 million and employ about 100 people. It could supply about 6 percent of Cleveland Public Power's 350 megawatt peak load. To read the entire article, click [here](#).

Enterprise Rent-A-Car commits to biodiesel

Enterprise Holdings, owner of the Alamo Rent-A-Car, Enterprise Rent-A-Car and National Car Rental brand names, made a big announcement in support of biodiesel during day two at the National Biodiesel Conference & Expo in Grapevine, Texas. The company announced its commitment to move its entire fleet of more than 600 shuttle buses to biodiesel within the next 5 years. To read the entire article, click [here](#).

Hawaii aims to obtain 70% of its total energy needs from clean sources within 20 years.

Hawaiian officials have concluded their state has little choice. This tropical paradise is an energy beggar that depends almost solely on oil to fuel its vehicles and stoke its power plants. That's left the state, which doesn't produce a drop of crude, vulnerable to spills, price swings and geopolitics. Hawaii residents already pay the highest pump prices and electricity rates in the country. The state imports around 51 million barrels of oil, costing billions annually, according to government figures. To read the entire article, click [here](#).

New project energizes dairy waste treatment

Officials from the California Department of Agriculture, the Merced Irrigation District, a West Sacramento-based environmental engineering company and representatives of three dairies met February 9, 2010 at the World Ag Expo in Tulare to sign an agreement to pursue digester pilot projects at each of the dairies. To read the entire article, click [here](#).

Waste Management, Inc, announces investment in Harvest Power

Harvest Power builds and operates large-scale organics recycling facilities as well as markets compost products. It owns and operates food and yard waste composting facility in North America, located in Richmond, British Columbia, the company is also developing high solids aerobic and anaerobic digestion and composting technologies. To read the entire article, click [here](#).



Conversion Technology E-Newsletter - March 2010
03/17/2010

ACTION ITEMS

Update on Assembly Bill 222

It is anticipated that Assembly Bill 222 (AB 222) will be heard in the Senate Environmental Quality Committee later this Summer, following budget negotiations.

AB 222 is California legislation designed to expedite the introduction of conversion technologies that will produce advanced biofuels and/or green power from carbon-based wastes. With Republican and Democrat co-authors, this legislation has gained bipartisan support amongst the business, environmental, labor, and government sectors. The legislation removes from statute a scientifically inaccurate definition of gasification, establishes a new regulatory category for a "biorefinery" and confirms that the biogenic portion of the municipal waste stream qualifies as a feedstock for renewable electricity under the Renewable Portfolio Standard.

Last Year, AB 222 passed the California State Assembly by a vote of 54-13, after having been approved by a unanimous bipartisan vote of 11-0 in the Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee. In July, it was approved in the Senate Utilities, Energy and Communications Committee. The Governor has endorsed the legislation, enabling the California Energy Commission to testify on its behalf, and there is significant support for the bill in the State Senate.

Events

Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee

The Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee will be meeting on:

Thursday, March 18, 2010, 10:00 a.m.
Department of Public Works
900 South Fremont Ave. Conference Room C
Alhambra, CA 91803

The agenda and previous approved minutes are available for download at our [website](#).

BioCycle West Coast Conference: Composting, Organics Recycling & Renewable Energy

This conference will be taking place on:
April 12-15, 2010
Town & Country Resort
San Diego, California
For more information visit the [website](#).

2010 Waste to Fuel Conference & Trade Show

This conference will be taking place on:
April 18-20, 2010
Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront
Jacksonville, Florida
For more information visit the [website](#).

SWANA Western Regional Symposium

This conference will be taking place on:
April 19-22, 2010
Embassy Suites
San Luis Obispo, California
For more information visit the [website](#).

Project Notices

Glenn County, CA has released a Request for Qualifications for waste conversion technologies. Responses are due on 4/13/10. Direct your Questions to:

John Linhart
Phone: (530) 934-6451
E-mail: jlinhart@countyofglenn.net

For additional information go to:

http://www.countyofglenn.net/govt/project_service_bids/documents/RFQWTE3-4-10.pdf

San Bernardino County, CA has also released a Request for Proposals and Request for Qualifications for waste conversion technologies and renewable energy projects. For additional information go to: <http://www.sbcounty.gov/dpw/solidwaste/rfp.asp>

News

Anaerobic Digestion of MSW Expands in Europe

In their February 2010 issue, Biocycle Magazine looks at the growing trend in Europe to use anaerobic digestion as a means of managing mixed municipal solid waste. This article points out that by the end of 2010, 17 European countries will have over 200 anaerobic

digestion plants with a combined processing capacity of 6 million tons per year. For the full article click [here](#).

Cooperation, Not Conflict: Municipal Solid Waste Management in the 21st Century

In this editorial, Rick Brandes, former chief of the Energy Recovery and Waste Disposal Branch, Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery, of the EPA, describes two schools of thought in the solid waste sector as the "zero wasters" and the "energy recoverers". He urges these groups to stop arguing and start cooperating towards a compromise on how to handle MSW in the 21st century. For the full article click [here](#).

Engineering changes help Mother Earth

Whether it's in the air, on the ground or even underground, one of the worst things you can do with waste is to leave it lying around. A number of enterprising Professional Engineers are putting their ingenuity to the test, trying to alleviate the problems of waste and its negative impact on the environment, and hoping to help maintain a balanced ecosystem. For the full article click [here](#).

Honeywell's UOP Awarded Funding for Carbon Dioxide Capture and Reuse Through Algae Growth and Biofuel Production

UOP, a Honeywell company, an international technology supplier to the petroleum industry, announced they have been awarded a \$1.5 million cooperative agreement from the U.S. Department of Energy for a project to demonstrate technology to capture carbon dioxide and produce algae for use in biofuel and energy production. For the full article click [here](#).

Enerkem announced a financial partnership with U.S. Based Waste Management

Based in Canada, Enerkem is one of the worlds leading developers and producers of advanced fuels and green chemicals. Announced a large financial partnership with U.S.-based Waste Management to ramp up Enerkem's production of biofuels from sorted municipal waste. Waste Management, Inc. is the leading provider of comprehensive waste and environmental services in North America. To read more articles on this partnership click on the links below:

<http://solveclimate.com/blog/20100304/trash-based-biofuels-could-alleviate-land-use-emissions-issues>

<http://www.thestar.com/business/article/772328--firm-turns-recycling-leftovers-into-green-fuels>

<http://www.dailytech.com/Why+Let+it+go+to+Waste++Enerkem+Leaps+Ahead+With+TrashtoGas+Plans/article17817.htm>



Conversion Technology E-Newsletter - May 2010
05/19/2010

ACTION ITEMS

Assembly Bill 222 Moving Towards a Vote

Assembly Bill 222 (AB 222) will be heard in the Senate Environmental Quality Committee as soon as next month. As a result, it is important for supporters to send (and re-send) letters of support addressed to Senator Simitian, Chair of the Senate Environmental Quality Committee, as this recent [article in Biomass Magazine](#) explains. The Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force recently sent a letter to each [City Mayor](#) urging their support for the bill, including a [sample letter](#).

AB 222 is California legislation designed to expedite the introduction of conversion technologies that will produce advanced biofuels and/or green power from carbon-based wastes. With Republican and Democrat co-authors, this legislation has gained bipartisan support amongst the business, environmental, labor, and government sectors. The legislation removes from statute a scientifically inaccurate definition of gasification, establishes a new regulatory category for a "biorefinery" and confirms that the biogenic portion of the municipal waste stream qualifies as a feedstock for renewable electricity under the Renewable Portfolio Standard.

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Events

Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee

The Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee will be meeting on:

Thursday, May 27, 2010, 10:00 a.m.
Department of Public Works
900 South Fremont Ave., Conference Room B
Alhambra, CA 91803

The agenda and previous approved minutes are available for download at our [website](#).

Waste to Energy Finance and Investment Summit

July 19-21, 2010

Hilton Del Mar Hotel

15575 Jimmy Durante Blvd.

Del Mar, CA 92014

For more information visit the EVENTS/Info/Summary.aspx?i=0343eb80-a16c-44ac-8234-4509fd5c5f9a>website:

WASTECON 2010

August 15-17

Boston Convention & Exhibition Center

415 Summer Street

Boston, Massachusetts, 02210

For more information visit the [website](#):

Projects

Los Angeles County Moves Forward with Phase III/IV of Southern California Conversion Technology Project

On April 20, 2010, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved recommendations from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works to initiate Phases III and IV of the Southern California Conversion Technology Project. Additionally, Supervisor Yaroslavsky introduced a motion that will expedite the Countys efforts to identify locations in Los Angeles County for Phase IV of the project. Please click [here](#) to view the Board Agenda item.

Glendale Forms Committee to Research Conversion Technologies

The Glendale City Council unanimously approved an action item on April 20, 2010, authorizing the city manager to assemble a project team to research, analyze, report and recommend a waste conversion project for the City of Glendale. Please click [here](#) to view the Agenda item.

News

Supervisors Approve New Conversion Technology Project

The Board of Supervisors has been at the forefront of efforts to evaluate and promote the development of conversion technologies as environmentally friendly alternatives to landfill disposal. About 135,000 tons of trash is sent to California landfills every day. Conversion projects have the potential to reduce the amount of waste being sent to landfills, create local green jobs, produce renewable energy and turn trash into a resource. To read more click [here](#).

Exploring new options for landfill

The City of Glendale approved and allocated \$200,000 to fund research on emerging technologies that city officials say could help meet long-term waste reduction goals, while also adding to the city's energy sources. To read more click [here](#).

Benefits for Municipal Waste management with plasma gasification

Plasma Gasification Plant projects are being developed by at least five gas plasma technology companies, and there are real benefits to be obtained from this technology for the destruction of Municipal Solid Waste. The consensus seems to be largely in acceptance now that the technology is largely proven and inherently cleaner than incineration. To read more click [here](#).

Clear Fuels Signs Cooperative Agreement for \$7.7 Million First Round of DOE Biorefinery Funding

ClearFuels Technology, Inc. announced that it has signed a Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to receive its first \$7.7 million of a \$22.6 million grant award to construct its biomass gasifier at Rentech's Energy Technology Center. To read more and relating news visit the websites at:
http://www.marketwatch.com/story/clearfuels-signs-cooperative-agreement-for-77-million-first-round-of-doe-biorefinery-funding-2010-04-15?reflink=MW_news_stmp
<http://www.favstocks.com/clearfuels-signs-cooperative-agreement-for-7-7m-first-round-of-doe-biorefinery-funding/158519/>



Conversion Technology E-Newsletter - July 2010
07/29/2010

ACTION ITEMS

Assembly Bill 222 Letters Needed to Correct Latest Revisions

AB 222 was gutted and amended by the Senate Environmental Quality Committee on July 15, 2010. As amended the bill would include all conversion technologies as "transformation" facilities, subjecting them to unnecessary permitting barriers, and eliminate provisions for Renewable Portfolio Standard and AB 939/SB 1016 diversion, including the credits currently provided to gasification facilities. Since landfill gas to energy and biomass combustion facilities receive these credits, the effect of these revisions would be to further discourage the development of conversion technologies in California.

As a result of these amendments, the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force has submitted a letter opposing AB 222, unless it is amended to revert back to the July 8, 2009 version. To read the letter click [here](#). We strongly encourage your organization to send similar letters in support of the previous version of AB 222.

Events

SAVE THE DATE Thursday, September 23, 2010

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Works will be hosting a Conversion Technology information and networking workshop in support of our Phase IV effort to develop commercial conversion technology projects in Los Angeles County. More information will be posted on our website, stay tuned.

Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee

The Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee will be meeting on:

Thursday, August 19, 2010, 10:00 a.m.
Department of Public Works
900 South Fremont Ave., Conference Room C
Alhambra, CA 91803

The agenda and previous approved minutes are available for download at our [website](#):

California Resource Recovery Association Conference & Tradeshow

August 8-11, 2010

Sheraton Grand Sacramento Hotel,

1230 J Street

Sacramento, CA 95814

For more information, please visit the conference [website](#):

WASTECON 2010

August 15-17

Boston Convention & Exhibition Center

415 Summer Street

Boston, Massachusetts, 02210

For more information, please visit the conference [website](#):

News

The Garbage Question: An Alternative Solution in An Ever-Consuming World

The figures concerning our waste are astounding. Despite our recycling initiatives, we create an overwhelming amount of waste, and it has got to go somewhere. Some companies and local governments are advancing unique alternatives to this growing problem. To read more click [here](#).

Biorefineries have big role in fight against climate change and economic development

The World Economic Forum recently released a report entitled "The Future of Industrial Biorefineries." The report concludes that converting biomass into fuels, energy, and chemicals has the potential to generate upwards of \$230 billion to the global economy by 2020 - the majority of which will be in the U.S. To read more click [here](#).

Fiberight to build MSW demonstration plant

Fiberight is working with CleanTech Biofuels Inc. at the Lawrenceville plant. CleanTech will install its patented biomass recovery process, which uses steam and pressure to clean and separate MSW into biomass and recyclables. To read more click [here](#).

Joint venture to build world scale biorefinery in Indonesia

Expected to be operational by 2011, this commercial-scale manufacturing facility will begin with a capacity of 180,000 metric tons of palm, mustard, soybean and waste oils. The facility will be located in Surabaya, Indonesia and will create chemicals used in products such as lubricants, renewable biodiesel and green jet fuels. To read more click [here](#).



Conversion Technology E-Newsletter - Final Update on Assembly Bill 222
08/25/2010

Final Update on Assembly Bill 222

We regret to inform you that Assembly Bill 222 (AB 222) has been stripped and amended to now be a vehicle for legislation on human services. AB 222, as a bill to advance the use of solid waste as a feedstock for the production of advanced biofuels and green power in California, no longer exists.

AB 222 progressed further through the California Legislature than any previous conversion technology bill, thanks to the strong support by elected officials, local and state agencies, individuals, labor and environmental organizations, technology companies, and universities - many of whom subscribe to this newsletter. The bill gained national attention, with states across the country looking to California for leadership on sustainability and energy independence.

AB 222 passed the California State Assembly by a vote of 54-13 in June 2009, after being unanimously approved by the Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee. In July 2009, it was approved by the Senate Utilities, Energy and Communications Committee. The Senate Environmental Quality Committee elected not to act on the bill and put it over for consideration until 2010. On June 28, 2010, without regard to the strong endorsement of over 100 organizations, including the California Energy Commission, Air Resources Board, and the Department of Recycling and Resource Recovery; the Senate Environmental Quality Committee voted to incorporate amendments to the bill that discourage the development of conversion technologies in California. It was at this time that many jurisdictions, including the County of Los Angeles, changed their position to oppose unless amended.

Assembly members Ma and Adams, the bills primary authors, worked extensively with the Senate Environmental Quality Committee in an attempt to restore the bill; however, once it was clear such amendments were not possible this year, the Bill was gutted and amended to remove all references to solid waste, and is now a spot bill for human services.

The 2-year effort to pass AB 222 was not fruitless. Because of AB 222, the statewide discussion on conversion technologies and their value in addressing the most pressing statewide environmental issues was moved to the forefront. As a result, there has been an upsurge in interest by jurisdictions, entrepreneurs, and the solid waste industry in developing CT projects. There is a growing consensus of the need for these technologies

to complement waste reduction and recycling programs, generate green power and biofuels, and create local jobs.

Each year, California sends over 40 million tons of solid waste to landfills. If we are to reduce our dependence on landfills and utilize solid waste as a resource, a diversified solid waste management approach that includes reuse, waste reduction, recycling, composting, and conversion technologies are essential. Despite the Legislatures inability to pass comprehensive statewide conversion technology legislation this year; many project developers, including the County of Los Angeles will continue to move forward with project development. A key objective of the Countys conversion technology project is to demonstrate the operational and environmental viability of these technologies within Californias regulatory framework.

We will continue to provide updates on legislative proposals or regulatory developments as they occur.



Conversion Technology Workshop Update

09/17/2010

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOP

Thank you to all of you who have registered early for the Conversion Technology Informational Workshop on Thursday, September 23, 2010.

Due to increasing interest, this event has reached maximum capacity. In order to make sure there is room for all interested parties, please check your schedule and let us know as soon as possible if you WILL NOT be able to attend. If you have a conflict, please send a note to cskye@dpw.lacounty.gov with WORKSHOP CANCELLATION in the subject line.

Similarly, if it is more convenient for you to participate via the webinar, please let us know and we will switch your reservation. For those of you have not signed up, there is still time to register for the webinar, which can be accessed through an internet browser from anywhere. Please visit www.SoCalConversion.org no later than Wednesday, September 22, 2010 to sign up.

Thank you and we look forward to seeing each of you on September 23rd!



SCWMF - SAVE THE DATE

10/29/2010

Save the date!

SCWMF Annual Conference & Exhibit Presents
"Solid Waste in 3-D" - re-Design, Direction and Dough

Date:

November 10, 2010

Location:

Crowne Plaza Hotel
1500 S. Raymond Ave.
Fullerton, CA 92831

Keynote Speaker:

Mayor Ron Loveridge, City of Riverside

Luncheon Speaker:

Carmen Trutanich
City Attorney for the City of Los Angeles

For more information on the conference schedule and session schedules and topics visit the webpage at: <http://www.scwmf.org/web/forum-events/conference/>



Conversion Technology E-Newsletter - November 2010

11/04/2010

Staff updates

Los Angeles County Public Works Department Submits Preliminary Siting Assessment to Board of Supervisors

At the request of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, the Department of Public Works submitted a Preliminary Conversion Technology Site Assessment on October 20, 2010. This Assessment evaluates the advantages and challenges of locating a conversion technology facility within Los Angeles County. Eleven stakeholders representing cities, solid waste companies, and industrial real estate developers within Los Angeles County submitted 16 sites to Public Works for consideration.

This preliminary site assessment considered technical factors such as site acreage, existing infrastructure, utilities, proximity to power and gas transmission lines, proximity to sensitive ecological areas, zoning, and other factors. This assessment is not intended to be comprehensive nor is it designed to rank the sites. It is intended to establish a basis for future, more detailed technical and environmental assessments. This will assist the County in advancing the development of an optimal number of conversion technology projects within the County, which will assist in meeting the long-term solid waste management needs of County residents and businesses while generating local renewable energy, and retaining jobs and economic resources within the County. To read the Assessment, please click [here](#).

Conversion technology workshop video update

On September 23, 2010, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works hosted a comprehensive workshop regarding the development of conversion technologies in L.A. County. Staff is in the process of making the video available online and will be posting on our SoCalConversion.org website. For more information regarding the website, please visit <http://www.socalconversion.org/workshops.html>

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News

Waste Management Launches new food and organic recycling technology in Orange County

On October 27, 2010, Waste Management of Orange County (WMOC) opened its new Food and Organic Recycling Facility, featuring processing technology that is the first of its kind in Southern California. Located at WMOC's Transfer and Processing Center in Orange, the Food and Organic Recycling facility processes food and organics collected from local businesses, and converts it into a material that can be used as a source of energy. Local companies that will be sending organic waste to the WMOC facility include Fashion Island, Olive Garden, Montage Laguna Beach, Irvine Company, Hyatt Irvine and Lucille's BBQ Grill in Lake Forest. To read more click [here](#).

Construction of Enerkem's municipal waste-to-biofuels facility underway in Edmonton

Enerkem Inc. held a groundbreaking ceremony at the end of August to signify the start of construction of its new municipal waste-to-biofuels facility in Edmonton. Enerkem's partners on the project include the City of Edmonton and the Government of Alberta. According to Enerkem, the new advanced biofuels plant is the world's first industrial-scale biofuels project to use municipal solid waste as feedstock. It will have an annual production capacity of 36 million litres (10 million gallons.)The plant is scheduled to start operating towards the end of 2011. To read more click [here](#).

Enerkem meets environmental requirements for its Miss. waste-to-ethanol plant

Enerkem Corp. announced the completion of its U.S. federal environmental assessment requirements for its Mississippi waste-to-ethanol plant in Pontotoc, allowing the \$100 million project to move forward. Last December, Enerkem was granted US\$50 million in funding from the U.S. Department of Energy for its Pontotoc, Mississippi biorefinery project. To read more click [here](#).

Rentech and ClearFuels' Bio-Refinery to get full funding

Rentech, Inc. and ClearFuels Technology Inc. jointly announced that a cooperative agreement has been signed with the U.S. Department of Energy to receive the remaining \$19.7 million of a \$23 million grant to complete construction of a demonstration scale biomass gasifier at Rentech's Energy Technology Center (RETC) in Colorado, and to

integrate and operate it with Rentech's Product Demonstration Unit (PDU) for the production of renewable synthetic fuels from biomass. To read more click [here](#).

Koochiching County moves ahead with high-tech garbage solution

Koochiching County recently signed a contract with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency as part of its Renewable Energy Clean Air Project. It's another step forward in the county's quest to adopt emerging technology to deal with its garbage. To read more click [here](#).

EU Companies plan to dig up landfills to convert decades-old waste into energy

Belgian company Advanced Plasma Power is planning to extract a 16.5 million tonnes of solid waste from a landfill which has been in use since the 1960s. Several other European companies are analyzing the feasibility of such projects. Advanced Plasma Power (APP) is planning to excavate 16.5 million tonnes of solid waste from a landfill site near Hasselt in eastern Belgium. The project which will span up to 30 years would convert the organic waste into usable fuel gas (practically methane) through its Gasplasma technology. The project would generate enough fuel to power a 60 MW power plant capable of supplying electricity to 60,000 homes. To read more click [here](#).

Report says UK must reduce landfill by using energy from waste

The CBI called on Government today to encourage more waste to energy projects, as the first renewable gas from brewery and food waste is delivered to the National Grid. In its new report, 'Going To Waste: Making The Case For Energy From Waste', the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) stresses the necessity of using non-recyclable waste to meet the UK's energy needs. It said this is crucial for reducing the amount of rubbish being sent to landfill sites and meeting climate change targets. To read more click [here](#).

Questions or Comments? Please email us at staff@socalconversion.org



Conversion Technology E-Newsletter - December 2010
12/21/2010

Staff updates

No ATAS Meeting in December

Due to the holiday season, there will not be an Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee meeting in December. Monthly meetings will resume January 2011. Happy Holidays.

H.R. 4853

President Barack Obama signed H.R. 4853, the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010. The tax deal also extends the ethanol tax credit through 2011, and retroactively extends the biodiesel tax incentive and the renewable diesel incentive through 2011. The bill also renewed the 54-cent tariff on Brazilian ethanol through 2011 and includes tax credits and accelerated depreciation benefits for conversion technology projects using MSW.

For additional information go to: <http://www.gop.gov/bill/111/2/hr4853a>

Events

PACIFIC WEST BIOMASS CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW

January 10-12, 2011
Sheraton Seattle Hotel
1400 6th Avenue
Seattle, Washington, 98101
For more information please visit the [website](#).

VERDEXCHANGE CONFERENCE 2011

January 23, 2011 - January 25, 2011
Los Angeles Marriott Downtown
333 South Figueroa Street
Los Angeles, California, 90071
For more information visit the [website](#).

PROJECTS

CalRecycle approves \$1.6 million loan for food waste digester project in Chino, CA

The loan to Environ Strategy Consultants, Inc. (Environ) from CalRecycle's Recycling Market Development Zone Loan Program (RMDZ loan) will be used to purchase equipment (hydropulpers and ancillary equipment) for an anaerobic digestion project that will process food waste derived from commercial and industrial sources to produce biomethane gas.

The biomethane gas will be used to power two engine generators and produce electricity. The hydropulper system will separate the plastic, grit and other contaminants from the food waste into a homogenous organic liquefied pulp/slurry that is used to produce the biomethane gas. This process will also produce organic compost from the recovered digester sludge material.

If all project funding and equipment is secured per project timelines, Environ anticipates starting production by October 2011 and selling any surplus power to Southern California Edison.

For additional information go to:

<http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Actions/PublicNoticeDetail.aspx?id=269&aiid=267>

PG&E Issues Biogas RFI

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) would like to assess the availability and pricing of Renewables Portfolio Standard (RPS) eligible biogas for sale to PG&E.

Potential gas suppliers are invited to participate in PG&E's Request for Information (RFI) for RPS-eligible biogas sale to PG&E.

For specific details on this RFI please click [here](#).

News

SDG&E proposes piping methane gas from waste

San Diego Gas & Electric has proposed to inject methane from landfills and wastewater treatment plants into its pipelines, a move that could potentially reduce atmospheric greenhouse gases and provide additional environmental benefits. To read the article in its entirety, please click [here](#).

Using waste, Swedish city nearly eliminates its fossil fuel use

The city Kristianstad vowed a decade ago to wean itself from fossil fuels and has already crossed a crucial threshold. The city and surrounding county, with a population of 80,000, essentially use no oil, natural gas or coal to heat homes and businesses, even during the long frigid winters. It is a complete reversal from 20 years ago, when all of their heat came from fossil fuels. To read the article in its entirety, please click [here](#).

Harnessing the power of waste

In recent years, the U.S. has become the the leading generator of municipal solid waste; the EPA's most recent study indicates that collectively, the U.S. generates over 250 million tons of trash annually, which equals roughly 4.5 pounds per person each day. While it comes as no surprise that we dispose of more garbage than generations before us, we now have a full spectrum of ways to use this waste to address the worlds growing demand for energy. To read the article in its entirety, please click [here](#).

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