



**ENERGY RECOVERY COUNCIL**  
**WEEKLY UPDATE**  
**June 21, 2013**

### **WTE DEVELOPMENTS**

**The U.S. Energy Department’s Bioenergy Technologies Office (BETO) has issued a request for information (RFI) regarding waste- to-energy (WTE) technologies.** As the RFI states, since combustion of MSW is a mature technology, DOE seeks input from industry, academia, research laboratories, government agencies, and other stakeholders to assist the Department and BETO with the development of a targeted program in advanced WTE technologies. The resulting submissions will inform the Department on the potential need for financial assistance to advance these technologies to achieve widespread commercialization. Categories within the RFI include the state of the industry and overall readiness; the transition from pilot to commercial scale; and distributed- and community-scale applications of WTE. The program could include the investigation of bioenergy technologies such as (but not limited to) pyrolysis, biomass gasification, and anaerobic digestion. Responses to the RFI must be submitted by 8:00 p.m. ET on July 15, 2013.

**The Jackson County (MI) Board of Commissioners voted 8-1 to end a contract with the company that manages the county waste-to-energy facility.** According to the June 18 termination letter, ending the contract with Veolia is directly tied to the state’s decision to stop purchasing steam and electricity from the county at \$2.4 million a year. Without the state contract, the facility will most likely close later this year. According to Jackson County Administrator Michael Overton the decision can be reversed if the county finds a way to keep the facility open, such as selling electricity to the state. The state Department of Corrections will stop purchasing steam from the Jackson County facility Sept. 30.

**Wheelabrator’s Bridgeport (CT) waste-to-energy facility marked its 25th year of operations this week.** The facility processes more than 2,200 tons of waste daily – generating enough energy to power the plant and more than 64,000 homes – and serves about two dozen municipalities in Fairfield, Litchfield and New Haven counties. “This facility here is without a doubt a regional asset,” said Vincent Langone, vice president of Wheelabrator for the New York and Connecticut region. “Over the course of the last 10 or 15 years with the changes in the air standards, we’ve been required to upgrade our emissions system accordingly,” Langone said. “So we’re considered one of the cleanest technologies out there.”

**The Allentown (PA) City Council effectively washed its hands this week of a proposed clean air bill championed by opponents of a planned waste-to-energy facility.** The Council voted 5-1 to table the bill, which would have imposed around-the-clock monitoring on the \$49 million plant planned to be built by Delta Thermo Energy Inc. By essentially taking no position on the

bill, the issue is now left in the hands of the Lehigh County Board of Elections to determine whether the proposal will appear on the November ballot for approval from city voters. The Council approved a 35-year contract with Delta Thermo in March 2012, and the company plans to build the facility on 3.1 acres along the Little Lehigh Creek. Opponents of the project gathered 2,175 signatures to place the clean air bill proposal on council's agenda. The bill would have required strict monitoring and restricted the plant's emission levels. The bill's supporters hope the ordinance will prevent it from opening altogether. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection informed the city Tuesday that any ordinance the city passes would be pre-empted by state law. David Raphael, the DEP's chief counsel, told the city the department has "exclusive authority" under such proposed monitoring under the Pennsylvania Air Pollution Control Act.

**D-Waste announced the launch of the first mobile app dedicated to Waste to Energy facilities.** The new application "Waste2EnMass" is calculating mass flows and energy production based on waste quantities and composition. The app is already available in App Store and Google Play and it will be for free for a limited period of time. Waste2EnMas is a tool developed to assist solid waste managers to have a rough estimation of the Mass & Energy Balances of WTE (Mass Burn Facilities). Waste2EnMas is taking into consideration all the necessary data that affect a Modern WTE Mass Burn Facility and calculates the transferred Heating Value of a given amount of MSW to recovered amounts of Energy (Heat or/and Electricity) & produced byproducts. <http://www.d-waste.com/>

#### RELATED STORIES

**New Haven manufacturer Precision Combustion Inc. received a \$79,895 grant to develop a burner for waste-to-energy plants.** The grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Small Business Innovation Research program seeks to demonstrate a fuel-flexible, low-emission burner for biomass. Such a system would make waste-to-energy plants more economical as they wouldn't have to worry about the variable heating values resulting from burning different kinds of biomass. Waste-to-energy plants, especially those in Connecticut, have struggled to remain open as the price of electricity has dropped because of the proliferation of natural gas. (*HartfordBusiness.com 6/19/13*)

**A consortium led by Asia's richest man Li Ka-shing said on Monday it had agreed to buy a Dutch waste management company, in a deal worth more than \$1billion.** The HK\$9.7 billion (\$1.25 billion) acquisition of AVR Afvalverwerking B.V. (AVR), which specializes in turning waste into energy, is the second waste processor investment made this year by Li's Cheung Kong Infrastructure Holdings (CKI), which is leading the consortium. "The acquisition of AVR will see us investing in a leading waste management company in Europe, possessing the largest energy-from-waste plant capacity in the continent," Kam Hing-lam, Group Managing Director of CKI, said in a statement. AVR has a 23 percent market share of the Netherlands' waste processing industry with stable revenue streams from long term contracts for gate fees and waste processing as well as revenue from generated energy, the statement said. The 85-year-old Li was ranked in March as the eighth wealthiest person in the world by the Forbes rich list, with a net worth estimated at \$31 billion. (*France 24 6/17/13*)

**The Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency is looking ahead to 2015 when the contract to run its waste-to-energy facility expires.** Covanta Energy has run the facility since it opened in 1994 and has the right to buy the plant when the contract with the OCRRA expires in May 2015. The OCRRA board this week agreed to hire a negotiator in its talks with Covanta and to hire an appraiser to see how much the plant is worth. The board decided to hire an appraiser regardless of who might operate the incinerator after 2015, Raman said, because the current bonds will likely be refinanced and that would require a new appraisal. The agency has a \$33 million annual budget and runs two compost sites, two transfer stations and the incinerator, which burns trash to produce enough electricity for about 25,000 homes. In 2011 the agency burned about 327,000 tons of trash. In 1989, Ogden Martin Systems - which later became Covanta -- was selected to design, build, and operate the plant. Construction began in December 1992 and garbage burning started in 1994. (*syracuse.com 6/15/13*)

**The first international workshop on solid waste management in Baku, Azerbaijan began this week called "Waste to Energy as an Integral Part of Sustainable Waste Management Worldwide."** The five day workshop is organized by the Tamiz Shahar company in cooperation with the Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy, the Research and Technology Council "from waste to energy" SYNERGIA, Columbia University, the Energy and the Environment Center Khazar and under the sponsorship of the French company CNIM SA. Experts and scientists from many countries gathered in the Azerbaijani capital to review the progress made by the countries and to discuss current trends and technologies, the conceptual approach and forms of governance and the prospects for alternative energy. Tamiz Shahar CEO Zakir Ibrahimov told the participants that the incineration plant was built and commissioned in Baku with capacity to incinerate 500,000 tons of solid waste per year, and to generate 231 million kW/h of electricity, as well as Balakhan plant for sorting of municipal solid waste with a capacity of 200,000 tons of household waste per year. The workshop, which will continue until June 21, will include lectures of the SYNERGIA head Efstratios Kalogirou, Nicholas Themelis, a Columbia University professor of engineering and waste-to-energy researcher, Stefano Consonni, chairman of MatER (Material & Energy from Refuse), Carlo Vandecasteele, professor of University of Leuven, Managing Director of UV&P Franz Neubacher and others. (*AzerNews 6/17/13*)

**Enerkem Inc., the Montreal-based biofuel company that last year withdrew plans to raise as much as \$137.8 million in an initial public offering, raised C\$50 million (\$48.2 million) to commercialize its waste-to-ethanol technology.** Investissement Quebec joined existing equity investors that include Waste Management Inc., Braemar Energy Ventures and The Westly Group, which all increased their stakes, according to a statement today. Enerkem in January sold a C\$37 million stake in an Alberta plant it's building that will convert municipal waste into biofuels and chemicals. The facility initially will make methanol, which will be sold to Methanex Corp., until ethanol production begins next year. (*Bloomberg 6/20/13*)

**Toronto Mayor Rob Ford is touting the creation of a long-term waste management strategy as the first step towards turning the city's trash into cash.** The strategy will help shape waste management policy for the next 30 to 50 years and will look at waste reduction and collection as well as ways to potentially derive energy from waste, says a report drafted by staff on the issue. "Around 70 per cent of the world already has some sort of method in place where they turn their garbage into energy. They make money on their garbage and I have always said that garbage is money," Ford said Wednesday. "When you see truckloads of garbage going down the 401 it is

like truckloads of 100 dollar bills.” The staff report on the waste management plan outlined several ways the city could conceivably generate revenue from its solid waste, including burning it, heating it and transforming it into fuel pellets that could then be sold. Asked about how he might monetize garbage, Ford said he’ll leave it to the experts. “Some sort of burning methodology, I am not quite sure, the professionals will give us that advice, but I definitely want to see something,” he said. “Whatever technology is out there. We are behind most cities in this world when it comes to turning garbage into money and I’m just looking forward to seeing the report.” (*CTV News 6/19/13*)

### *SELECT ENERGY PRICING FROM U.S. EIA*

#### Natural gas futures price

6/19/2013: \$3.963/mmBtu  
up \$0.186 from week earlier  
up \$1.418 from year earlier

#### Crude oil futures price

6/19/2013: \$98.24/bbl  
up \$2.36 from week earlier  
up \$14.21 from year earlier

#### Weekly coal production

6/15/2013: 19.739 million tons  
up 1.554 million tons from week earlier  
up 0.404 million tons from year earlier

### *UPCOMING EVENTS*

ACORE’s Renewable Energy Finance Forum  
New York, NY  
June 25-26, 2013  
[www.reffwallstreet.com](http://www.reffwallstreet.com)

ACORE's U.S. Military & Renewable Energy Industry Forum  
Washington, DC  
July 18, 2013  
<http://www.acore.org/military-forum-program>

WASTECON 2013  
Long Beach, CA  
September 17-19, 2013  
[www.wastecon.org](http://www.wastecon.org)

1st Annual Renewable Energy From Waste Conference  
West Palm Beach, FL  
November 18-20, 2013  
[www.REWConference.com](http://www.REWConference.com)

Energy Recovery Council Annual Membership Meeting  
Washington, DC  
December 10-11, 2013