

# Going Green with Landfill Gas Methane

## Guelph Hydro Awarded Renewable Energy Contract

In late November 2004, the Government of Ontario announced it was awarding contracts to independent power producers to finance ten new green power projects in the province. The successful candidates were chosen from 41 proposed projects submitted to the Ministry of Energy as part of its Renewable Energy Supply Request for Proposals process.

Guelph Hydro's Generation subsidiary has been awarded one of those select contracts for a project that will see landfill gas methane used to generate electricity for the city's electricity consumers. The plant will generate 2.5 megawatts of electricity from the gas reserves in the landfill, equivalent to approximately 1% of the demand on the local Guelph system.

The plant is part of Guelph Hydro's on-going commitment to preserving the environmental well-being of the community.

"Generating electricity from sources such as landfill gas are important steps to take, not just for Guelph, but for the whole province," says Jim McKenzie, President and CEO of Guelph Hydro Inc. "Every step we take like this reduces our dependence on traditional generating sources such as coal. We are turning the methane gas, once considered a liability, into a real asset."

Under an agreement with the City of Guelph, the new company will purchase the landfill gas from the City in order to operate the plant. Currently under construction at the City's EASTVIEW Landfill site, the renewable energy plant will be fuelled by the landfill gas methane collected from the site and supplied to three engine-generators.

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The landfill site has estimated gas reserves for 20 years which will generate electricity for the lifespan of the available gas. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$5.9 million.

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities, through its Green Municipal Enabling Fund, provided funding to help defray some of the feasibility study and design development costs.



Each of the three engine generators will produce 925 kilowatts at Guelph's Renewable Energy Facility. (photo courtesy of Guelph Hydro Inc.)

"This facility is a real illustration of how our local utility works with the City to bring benefit to the community," says Paul Truex, Chair of Guelph Hydro. "The City benefits as Guelph Hydro buys the gas to operate the plant from the City and we all benefit when we generate electricity locally."

Construction is expected to be completed this Spring with production of electricity expected as early as May.