

## Energy-from-waste company aims for 2010 start-up

### Plasma gasification plant proposed for site west of Wesleyville

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By: By Jeanne Beneteau

PORT HOPE - Should provincial and municipal approvals fall into place, Port Hope could be home to a state-of-the-art energy from waste facility by early-2010.

At the Tuesday, April 15, committee of the whole meeting, Sunbay Energy Managing Director Jordan Oxley unveiled plans for the company's proposed energy-from-waste gasification power plant on a 23-acre site west of Wesleyville Road, south of Hwy. 401. Mr. Oxley said the company is opening a storefront office at 35 Walton St. on May 15 to provide residents with information about the technology and to keep the community up-to-date throughout the planning process.

He stressed the proposed facility is not an incinerator. It is a three-phase process that takes feedstock (municipal waste and tire waste) and uses plasma gasification at high temperatures. The process produces synthetic gas (syngas) which is then used to run turbines to produce electricity and converts feedstock to a vitrified (glassy) material.

Once the plant is in full operation, it will be capable of handling approximately 400 tons of municipal solid waste and tire waste per day, and produce enough syngas to produce 26 megawatts of power, electricity for 20,000 to 25,000 homes. The residual vitrified material can be used as road paving material or even molded into bricks or tiles, he added.

Mr. Oxley said the proposed plant will complement, not replace, recycling and noted waste will be sorted to ensure recyclables are removed from the feedstock.

"The gasification facility is a replacement for landfills," said Mr. Oxley. "This is proven technology (15 years for a similar facility in Bordeaux, France, as well as Japan and Korea) and from an environmental character, outperforms alternatives such as landfills and incineration."

It is also important to note the plant will operate as a just-in-time facility, he said. An estimated 20 trucks per day will deliver waste to an entirely enclosed tipping and sorting floor, he explained.

"There will be no accumulated waste on-site," he said.

The proposed Port Hope location is an ideal choice for a variety of reasons, he explained. It is a recognized industrial site with no known environmental constraints; the site fronts on and is accessible to Wesleyville Road, a major industrial road; it has direct access to both CN and CP rail lines; it has close access to Hwy. 401; and has access to a nearby power corridor and local power sources, he noted.

The project represents investment between \$85 and \$110 million dollars, Mr. Oxley added. Phase one, the public consultation and municipal and provincial approval process, is now underway and is expected to take between six and nine months. Sunbay Energy plans to begin construction by fall or winter of this year and the plant will take up to 18 months to

build. Currently, the timeline is targeting early-2010 as the facility's commercial operation date, he said.

There will be an estimated 200 jobs created during the construction phase and the plant will employ about 50 people when operational, Mr. Oxley noted. The job categories will range from engineering, the skilled trades and labour to equipment operations.

Over the next few months, Sunbay will meet with waste management officials in the area including Northumberland County (which handles 50 tons of municipal waste per day) as well as Peterborough, Kingston and Belleville to discuss the advantages of moving to the energy-from-waste process, to handle each municipality's waste. Tipping fees, transfer and transportation costs plus carbon balance and environmental issues will be included in the discussions, he added.

He noted the proposed Port Hope energy-from-waste gasification power plant will likely become a demonstration plant for all the world to examine once it is up and running.

"I would estimate about 300 people from all over Canada and globally to tour the plant annually to see the technology in action," Mr. Oxley concluded.

For more information on the Sunbay Energy plan, visit [www.sunbayenergy.com](http://www.sunbayenergy.com).