



Ridgewood Renewable Power

Media Archive

Press Conference Announcing Development
of 41-Megawatt Power Plant at State Landfill

Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation
Wednesday, December 3, 2008
10:30 a.m.



Posted Dec 1, 2008

Energy

R.I. to host methane-to-power plant

By PBN Staff

JOHNSTON – Methane gas released by decomposing waste at the state Central Landfill will be transformed into electric power via a public-private project involving international power-plant owner, operator and developer Ridgewood Renewable Power LLC, the parties said today.

The planned facility would be the nation's second-largest gas-to-electric plant. Details are to be unveiled by state, local and company officials during a Wednesday-morning news conference at the offices of the R.I. Resource Recovery Corporation (RIRRC), the agency that manages the landfill.

Ridgewood's President and CEO Randall D. Holmes and Managing Director Stephen D. Galowitz are expected to attend, along with Gov. Donald L. Carcieri, Johnston Mayor Joseph M. Polisena, RIRRC Executive Director Michael O'Connell and House Majority Leader Gordon D. Fox (D-Providence), among others.

The Ridgewood, N.J.-based developer has invested in hydroelectric, biomass, natural gas and landfill-methane power plants in the United States, United Kingdom and Egypt. It also has been active in waste-handling and water-purification projects.

The landfill-methane project will join the planned waste-to-fertilizer plant being constructed in the new new Lakeside Commerce Industrial Park – adjacent to the landfill in Johnston – for Boston-based Converted Organics Inc. (Nasdaq: COIN). ([READ MORE](#))

Ridgewood Renewable Power LLC – a member of the Ridgewood Cos., along with Ridgewood Capital and Ridgewood Energy – focuses on renewable power generation and development, including biomass, hydroelectric and landfill-methane projects. To learn more, visit www.RidgewoodPower.com.

The R.I. Resource Recovery Corporation, manager of the state Central Landfill in Johnston, was created by the R.I. General Assembly in 1974 to provide environmentally sound programs and facilities for managing solid waste generated in Rhode Island. Additional information is available at www.rirrc.org.



COURTESY RIDGEWOOD RENEWABLE POWER LLC

THE FACILITY will transform methane gas produced at the Central Landfill from a hazardous byproduct to a renewable energy source.



Associated Press

RI reaches deal doubling methane power at landfill

Associated Press, 12.01.08, 04:54 PM EST



A New Jersey firm has reached an agreement with Rhode Island authorities to double methane-fueled electricity production at the state's central landfill in Johnston, company officials said Monday.

Ridgewood Renewable Power LLC currently operates a power facility capable of producing about 20.5 megawatts of electricity - enough to power roughly 15,000 homes - by burning the methane gas created by decomposing trash.

Ridgewood managing director Stephen Galowitz said the firm will invest roughly \$80 million to renovate and expand its power plants so it can produce nearly 48 megawatts of electricity by 2010. Two of its three existing plants will be demolished or relocated so the landfill can expand.

The firm's current engines use methane gas power to propel pistons that ultimately generate electricity. Galowitz said his company wants to install new combustion turbines that create electricity by using the gas to spin a turbine blade. The system also will use the exhaust heat from the turbine to create additional electrical power.

"It's a more efficient technology," Galowitz said.

Ridgewood reached its agreement with the Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corp., which runs the state landfill, about two weeks ago. As part of the deal, Ridgewood will pay for the system that collects methane gas, a task that currently costs the landfill agency about \$5 million annually.

The company must obtain air permits from the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management.

Michael O'Connell, executive director of the Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corp., would not immediately release a copy of the agreement Monday or discuss the terms. Gov. Don Carcieri plans to formally announce the deal at a news conference Wednesday.

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PBN PROVIDENCE
 .com BUSINESS NEWS

Posted Dec 3, 2008

Energy

R.I. landfill to fuel \$80M power plant

By Ted Nesi
 PBN Staff Writer

JOHNSTON – Ridgewood Renewable Power LLC, an international energy company, plans to spend \$80 million over the next two years to construct a state-of-the-art gas-to-electric power plant at the state Central Landfill, company executives and state officials announced today.

Ridgewood has been operating gas-to-electric facilities – converting the natural gas produced by decomposing garbage into energy – at the landfill since 1996. ([READ](#)

[MORE](#)) The new plant will more than double the company's on-site generating capacity, from 20 megawatts at present to 47.6 megawatts when the project is completed, probably in 2010.

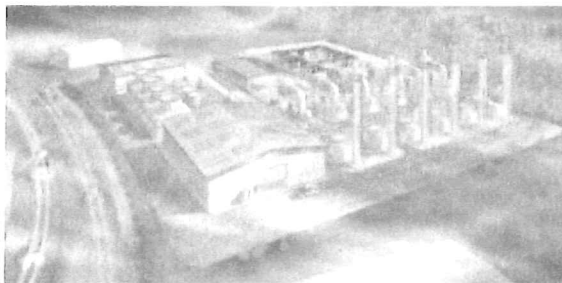
"We are extremely pleased to be making this investment here in Rhode Island," Randall D. Holmes, Ridgewood's president and CEO, said in a statement. "This facility will be one of the most efficient and clean landfill gas-to-electric systems in the world."

No state money will be spent on the project. The agreement also provides a boost to the R.I. Resource Recovery Corporation (RIRRC), the quasi-public agency that operates the landfill, because it will allow the landfill to expand into some areas that are occupied by Ridgewood's existing plants in Johnston, which are to be decommissioned after the new plant comes online.

"The agreement we have reached with Ridgewood not only allows the R.I. Resource Recovery Corporation to share in the financial benefits of the expansion," RIRRC Executive Director Michael O'Connell said, "but it further allows the critical Phase VI expansion at the landfill to proceed without the costly burden of purchasing Ridgewood's current facility."

Although landfill gas lacks the glamour of solar or wind energy, harnessing it to produce electricity and heat is a form of renewable energy that experts say will be a part of any solution to mitigating the effects of climate change.

The natural gas produced by decomposing trash is rich in methane, a greenhouse gas that is more than 20 times as potent as carbon dioxide, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).



COURTESY RIDGEWOOD RENEWABLE
 POWER LLC

THE GAS-TO-ELECTRIC PLANT, shown in an artist's rendering, will be constructed by Ridgewood to replace its existing facility at the state landfill in Johnston. It will more than double the on-site electric generating capacity, to 47.6 megawatts.

Projo 7 to 7 News Blog

Update: Power plant at landfill would double production

12:20 PM Wed, Dec 03, 2008 | [Permalink](#)

Maria Armental ☒ [Email](#)



Journal photo/ Kathy Borchers

Stephen Galowitz, Ridgewood Renewable Power's managing director, Randall Holmes, Ridgewood president and CEO, and Michael O'Connell, the Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation's executive director, take questions at this morning's press conference. At right is an artist's rendering of the proposed project.

JOHNSTON -- A New Jersey company and state officials announced this morning plans to build a 41-megawatt landfill gas-to-electric power plant at the state's Central Landfill.

The facility would be the second largest such facility in the country, according to [Ridgewood Renewable Power](#) officials, who would build and operate the plant.

The \$80-million plant would be built in three phases with a projected completion date of 2010, said Randall D. Holmes, the company's president and CEO.

When a company vice president first announced the project in June, he estimated the cost at \$65 million to \$70 million. He said it would double the power output of Ridgewood's long-established methane facility at the landfill, which produces 20 megawatts.

"This facility will be one of the most efficient and clean landfill gas-to-electric system in the world," Holmes said.

"The agreement we have reached with the Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation accommodates landfill expansion and allows us to develop a state-of-the-art facility that will benefit Rhode Island on multiple levels," he said.

-- Journal staff writer Mark Reynolds



Johnston

Plans to harness landfill gases for power meet with praise

01:00 AM EST on Thursday, December 4, 2008

By Mark Reynolds

Journal Staff Writer



Several trash haulers are dwarfed by the trash mound at the state's Central Landfill. The trash can supply enough methane gas to provide electricity to more than 38,000 homes, according to the New Jersey energy company that plans to build a power plant.

The Providence Journal / Kathy Borchers

JOHNSTON — An \$80-million project to generate electricity from the methane gases that are given off by Rhode Island's trash drew support from local and state officials yesterday morning.

Executives from a New Jersey company, Ridgewood Renewable Power, unveiled detailed plans and announced that their project, to start this spring, will more than double the output of gas-fueled electricity generation at the state's Central Landfill, creating the second-largest such facility in the United States.

The proposed plant would churn out 41 megawatts of electricity — enough to supply more than 38,000 homes, according to the company, which aims to bring the new plant online late in 2010.

Over three decades, the facility's projected energy output would be on par with what a coal-burning facility would produce with about 2.9 million tons of coal — enough to fill a freight train 275 miles long, the company said.

"I think this is one of those projects that's a win-win," Governor Carcieri said, at a news conference. "It's a great effort. The fact is, we need this as a critical part of our state."

The project, like a proposal for an offshore wind farm, will help expand the state's renewable energy infrastructure, Carcieri said, noting that energy-producing states have the healthiest finances.

"From my perspective, we're looking for a lot of good news anywhere we can find it," he said, "but this is real good news."

Ridgewood first set up shop at the landfill in 1996 and the company operates a collection of methane-fired generation facilities.

A network of pipes runs through the piles of landfill debris and captures the gases produced by the natural decomposition. The pipes feed three power plants.

Two of those facilities are in an area where the landfill's steward, the Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation, will need to dump trash in the future. Under the terms of a new contract with Resource Recovery, these two plants would be removed.

A third plant, which provides about 6 megawatts of electrical output, would remain at the landfill site and supplement the new 41-megawatt facility.

The project will unfold in three phases, encompassing upgrades to the existing collection system, as well as the construction of both the power plant and a \$10-million treatment facility to cleanse and purify the gases.

The existing system, a single-cycle approach, lacks the necessary capacity to harness all of the gases released by the state's trash, so excess gases are burned off.

The new two-cycle system would use almost all of the gas and produce energy at a much higher rate, according to Stephen Galowitz, Ridgewood's managing director.

In the first cycle, landfill gases would power five large turbines that were likened yesterday to jet engines. In the second cycle, the byproduct of the turbine process — a tremendous amount of heat — would feed steam-driven electricity generators.

"It's a fascinating process and we're very proud of it," said Ridgewood's president, Randall Holmes.

Meanwhile, the new arrangement would allow Ridgewood to process more gas and also would help clear the way for landfilling operations in the years ahead, according to Resource Recovery's executive director, Michael O'Connell.

The contract includes rental provisions for Ridgewood's new site across the street from the landfill and it allows Resource Recovery to sidestep about \$5 million in costs associated with caring for the gas-collection system, O'Connell said. Those duties would be handled by Ridgewood.

"This is when capitalism and the environment come together and that's really the perfect storm," O'Connell said.

"It's going to be good for the taxpayers of Rhode Island," he said.

Carcieri lauded O'Connell's work on the deal but quibbled with his language.

"I think a perfect storm is negative," he said.

"I think of this as a virtuous circle," he added, referring to "the beauty" of generating energy from waste.

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