

**Integrated Waste Services Association  
National Solid Wastes Management Association  
Solid Waste Association of North America  
ASME (American Society of Mechanical Engineers)  
The United States Conference of Mayors**

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***Don't Waste Waste!  
Waste-Based Energy Can Help Meet Our Energy Needs***

**October 5, 2006** - WASHINGTON, DC—A broad coalition of government and business groups have joined together to call for increased incentives to promote the development and utilization of energy produced from waste, or waste-based energy (WBE). The United States Conference of Mayors, the Integrated Waste Services Association, the National Solid Wastes Management Association, the Solid Waste Association of North America, and the ASME Solid Waste Processing Division believe that the high cost of energy in the United States requires an increased commitment to recovering energy from the waste stream. This coalition calls upon Congress, federal agencies, and states to provide additional incentives to stimulate new waste-based energy capacity, as well as support existing capacity.

Waste-based energy is a term used to describe all technologies that recover energy from waste. The most prevalent examples of waste-based energy include landfill gas, waste-to-energy, and biomass. Landfill gas projects collect the gas generated in a landfill (from the decomposition of waste) and use the gas as a fuel. This fuel has many uses, including manufacturing or powering engines to generate electricity. Waste-to-energy facilities generate electricity through the controlled combustion of municipal solid waste in specially-designed power plants. Biomass plants burn organic waste, such as agricultural or wood waste, to generate steam and produce electricity. In addition to landfill gas, waste-to-energy, and biomass, other forms of waste-based energy may include the generation of energy derived from the anaerobic digestion or gasification of organic waste.

“The recovery of energy from waste will lessen America’s demand for foreign oil and natural gas and help reduce the cost of energy. Further incentives are necessary to ensure that the United States takes advantage of the energy found in the waste stream,” said Ted Michaels, President of the Integrated Waste Services Association.

“As America's cities strive to meet the costly waste management services of their residents, we will benefit greatly from the growth of waste-based energy that can ease the financial burden and provide reliable and affordable energy for our residents,” said Tom Cochran, Executive Director of the United States Conference of Mayors.

“The energy capacity available from solid waste is largely untapped; and our commitment to grow and continually develop these waste-based energy technologies will ensure the utilization of solid waste as a clean, reliable, renewable energy source,” commented John Skinner, Executive Director and CEO of the Solid Waste Association of North America.

The informal coalition, formed in support of waste-based energy, will work with members of Congress, federal agencies, state governments, and private industry to highlight the benefits that can be enjoyed nationally through incentives for and investment in waste-based energy.

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