



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL AWARDS CONTRACT THAT USES TRASH TO GENERATE ELECTRICITY

WASHINGTON – Architect of the Capitol Stephen T. Ayers, AIA, LEED AP, announced today that beginning in November 2011, the AOC has contracted to use the process of “waste-to-energy” as an alternative method to dispose of solid waste from Capitol Hill.

Waste-to-energy refers to the burning of solid wastes to generate heat and, in turn, produce steam and electricity. This process creates usable energy employing waste that would otherwise be placed in landfills – diverting up to 90 percent of the Capitol campus’s non-recyclable solid waste. It is designed to complement, and not compete with, ongoing, robust recycling programs.

“We appreciate the support of the Committee on House Administration for this initiative,” noted Ayers. “In Fiscal Year 2010, more than 5,300 tons of waste was collected from Congressional facilities. Under this new contract, instead of being placed in landfills, the waste will be burned, generating enough electricity to power an office building the size of the Dirksen or Longworth Building for several months.”

This new waste-to-energy initiative is the most recent example of the AOC’s continuing partnership with Congress to reduce energy consumption, conserve natural resources, and protect the environment. For more information about AOC’s sustainability efforts, please visit www.aoc.gov/sustainability.cfm.

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