



Group Offers Gasification Plant Alternative

By [Brian Miller](#)

CREATED JAN. 4, 2013

GREEN BAY-- A group that includes opponents of the trash gasification plant in Green Bay has come up with an alternative plan. It's called "zero waste."

Zero waste more than just one thing, it's a philosophy adopted by several cities across the U.S. It's a whole system approach to reducing our need for landfill space. It includes, among other ideas, reducing consumption and increasing the amount we recycle.

At Brown County's waste transfer station, every year about 145,000 tons of trash is processed before heading to a landfill in Outagamie County.

Dean Haen is the director of Brown County's Solid Waste Department, he is among about a dozen people who make up a zero waste steering committee. The group formed last month to promote the idea of zero Dean Hoegger of the [Clean Water Action Council](#) says the committee formed in response to a controversial trash to energy plant in Green Bay. They are looking at alternatives to the gasification plant. **The committee is holding a public presentation at the Brown County Central Library February 7 at 6:30 p.m.** The public is encouraged to attend.

Find this article at:

<http://www.nbc26.com/news/local/185708862.html>

Check the box to include the list of links referenced in the article.

Leigh Ann Wagner Kroening

From: Geoff Farr
Sent: Monday, January 07, 2013 1:01 PM
To: Frank Ingram; Leigh Ann Wagner Kroening
Cc: Paul F. Evert; 'Becky Stephens'; davidsteffen04@yahoo.com
Subject: RE: Go Green Save Green Agenda

Frank, Thanks for the info. I'm sure we can have some nice discussion on this. Geoff

Respectfully,

Geoffrey Farr P.E.
Director of Public Works
Village of Howard, Wisconsin

920/434-4060

920/434-4072

www.villageofhoward.com

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From: Frank Ingram [mailto:fingram@new.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, January 07, 2013 8:42 AM
To: Geoff Farr; Leigh Ann Wagner Kroening
Cc: Paul F. Evert; 'Becky Stephens'; davidsteffen04@yahoo.com
Subject: RE: Go Green Save Green Agenda

Hi Geoff.

The WLSSD website is www.wlssd.com/

* See attached WLSSD ordinance
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The website used to have a lot more detail on how they composted food waste but they have revised the website. I am sure that they would advise you if you called.

My understanding is that the new Wisconsin regulation is based in large part on the Minnesota rules.

I have attached a copy of the WLSSD ordinance which requires compliance by large food waste generators. Smaller establishments may have been brought into the rule by subsidiary regulation since the ordinance was published. Any establishment can participate voluntarily and of course that will reduce their waste disposal costs. My understanding is that some Superior establishments also process food waste in the same way since they have the same ownership and waste contracts as Duluth businesses.

My reason for emphasizing Howard's potential role is that the Howard Composting site already meets many of the requirements for food waste composting whereas other municipal yard waste composting sites in the County do not. The Howard site is on a concrete hardstanding, it is secure, and it is away from residential areas. It is also easy to supervise and manage. There are staff on hand who could make sure that the food waste is incorporated into the pile on

a daily basis and there is management supervision. If Howard could do this for a significant part of the County it would generate income for the Village and avoid the need for the County to spend money setting up a new facility.

My concern is that the County is late to the game here, and that the Village, as their customer, has not been pressing them sufficiently hard. These new regulations have been under discussion for three years and the County could have been ready to start using them as soon as they came into force. It was not.

My understanding is that Minnesotans did not find the process difficult and that it has saved businesses money. I would hope that Brown County residents and businesses are not inherently incapable of adopting the same landfill reduction measures.

My impression remains that the County retains a very defensive posture with regard to its use of landfill. Perhaps because people have careers built around developing the tri county facility, perhaps because the alternatives are unfamiliar and therefore challenging to the common view of how things are done. None of these reasons are good enough and I think that the Village should be demanding more of the County.

Frank

From: Geoff Farr [<mailto:GFarr@villageofhoward.com>]
Sent: Friday, January 4, 2013 9:54 AM
To: Frank Ingram; Leigh Ann Wagner Kroening
Cc: Paul F. Evert; 'Becky Stephens'; davidsteffen04@yahoo.com
Subject: RE: Go Green Save Green Agenda

Frank, We've been working on this for over a year now and have a good understanding of what we expect from the County and vice versa as far a land filling, recycling and waste reduction.

We have discussed organics removal with the County framework. Once commingled in waste, organics are very difficult to separate. This idea continues to be explored.

Yes Howard could accept food organics for composting but may need a permit modification. For a local case, I believe discussion needs to begin with food waste generators that will volunteer to separate and transport materials to our site for composting. If there is some interest we can go from there...

Please provide me with some information as to the Duluth Superior organic composting that you referenced.

“Solid waste” means any garbage, refuse, sludge from a waste treatment plant, water supply treatment plant or air pollution control facility and other discarded or salvageable materials, including solid, liquid, semisolid, or contained gaseous materials resulting from industrial, commercial, mining and agricultural operations, and from community activities, but does not include solids or dissolved material in domestic sewage, or solid or dissolved materials in irrigation return flows or industrial discharges which are point sources subject to permits under ch. 283, or source material, as defined in s. 254.31 (10), special nuclear material, as defined in s. 254.31 (11), or by-product material, as defined in s. 254.31 (1).

“Solid Waste Reduction Measures” means recycling or other measures taken by the municipality to reduce the amount of solid waste generated by the municipality”, so we are covered.

Seven Generations.....I have equal amounts of trepidation and optimism about the whole process if a deal is ever struck with them. It is certainly not for a lack of effort that a deal has not been completed to date. The delay is in part due to the political wrangling related to the land use permit in the City of Green Bay.

All of the Municipalities and Brown County are "on board" with recycling and waste reduction. However not every good idea will pass muster once the details are fleshed out and an actual process is conceptualized. Like most things it is just far more complicated than people realize. The County has taken the lead in many recycling, hazardous & waste reduction ventures. The joint landfill and recycling agreements have saved the public millions in my opinion. You only need to look at the private landfill tip rates that generally start at \$55 and go up to \$60+ per ton. Waste reduction, material separation and sales generate revenue and are part of that equation, that's the bottom line.

Thanks Geoff

Respectfully,

Geoffrey Farr P.E.
Director of Public Works
Village of Howard, Wisconsin

920/434-4060

920/434-4072

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From: Frank Ingram [<mailto:fingram@new.rr.com>]
Sent: Thursday, January 03, 2013 5:30 PM
To: Geoff Farr; Leigh Ann Wagner Kroening
Cc: Paul F. Evert; 'Becky Stephens'; davidsteffen04@yahoo.com
Subject: RE: Go Green Save Green Agenda

Geoff

Until David Steffen told me a new deal had been signed I thought this was still at the talk stage. I must stop relying on the Press Gazette for news.

This arose in the press as a consequence of the Oneida Seven Generations Plant discussion but seems to have much wider implications. I spoke to the County Waste Manager (Mr. Haen) and it seemed that the County was most concerned that any reduction of solid waste delivery to its landfill from any one municipality would have the effect of increasing the fixed landfill costs for other municipalities. While the County was very happy to supply solid waste from the waste stream to the Seven Generations Plant, *after* it was delivered to the County; having failed to reach such an agreement with Seven Generations it seemed to be seeking to prevent anyone else from doing so. Regardless of the future of the Seven Generations Plant this seems to be a retrograde step which will have the effect of discouraging municipalities from taking any steps on their own to reduce landfill.

To misquote Bill Clinton I suppose it all depends on what the meaning of "Solid Waste" is. Is this defined by the County or the municipality. To take a hypothetical situation. If Howard were approached by a company that said it could recycle materials from our household garbage which are not currently regarded as recyclable by the County and asked Howard to have a certain amount of household waste delivered to a site in Howard where it would sort the waste, extract what it wanted (say 40%) and asked Howard to take what remained to landfill, would this be permitted by the new contract

between Howard and the County? Would Howard be penalized in any way by paying a higher rate per ton for disposal of what remained?

While I agree that joint work between municipalities and County to reduce landfill would seem to be the best approach I would hesitate to give a body (the County) which has such an institutional investment in landfill a veto on what can and cannot be done. Pilot initiatives at a local level could well be snuffed out rather than be adopted county wide.

Another point that I wanted to bring up at the meeting was my perennial interest in food waste composting. I understand that the new Wisconsin regulations permitting it are now in force. Mr. Haen said that the County was "thinking about it" but I got the impression that the County was "a day late and a dollar short" in making this happen. It is not new technology and Duluth-Superior has been doing it for over 10 years (admittedly with the composting done in Minnesota) . Given that Howard would seem to have one of the better situated composting sites for this activity can I ask if there has been any co-operation proposed with the County to start this practice?

Thanks

Frank

From: Geoff Farr [<mailto:GFarr@villageofhoward.com>]

Sent: Thursday, January 3, 2013 10:23 AM

To: Leigh Ann Wagner Kroening

Cc: Frank (fingram@new.rr.com); Paul F. Evert; Becky Stephens (becky.stephens.preh@statefarm.com)

Subject: RE: Go Green Save Green Agenda

LA, There is a misunderstanding... Frank should call me. For everyone's edification, there are no specified minimum tonnages in the solid waste contract.... The only requirement is to deliver 100% of municipalities solid waste to the County. Municipalities and or the County can extract any "non waste" materials from its solid waste stream as it sees fit. Municipalities and the County have agreed to jointly work together to implement best practices and actively encourage diversion of reusable materials from its waste stream to the benefit of its Customers. The Brown County Solid Waste Agreement was approved by most Brown County municipalities in December and the agreement acknowledges that "Waste Stream Reduction Measures may result in reduced tonnages" delivered to the County. Further the County has agreed to explore emerging solid waste reduction technologies that benefit us all.

I'd be more than happy to discuss this at the next GGSG meeting.

Frank, if I have not answered your question at this point please call me at 434-4060.

Thanks Geoff

Respectfully,

Geoffrey Farr P.E.
Director of Public Works
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From: Leigh Ann Wagner Kroening
Sent: Thursday, January 03, 2013 9:37 AM
To: Geoff Farr; Paul F. Evert
Cc: Frank (fingram@new.rr.com)
Subject: RE: Go Green Save Green Agenda

I will let Frank respond directly, but I don't think he's talking about landfilling recyclables. I think his concern is that Brown County is mandating municipalities provide a certain minimum of landfill waste, which would punish municipalities who are moving toward Zero-Waste Initiatives (There's a huge regional initiative being spearheaded by Mike Aubinger.) I believe Frank wants to make sure that municipalities who are working to reduce waste (through a variety of initiatives) will not be punished if their amount of landfill waste drops.

Leigh Ann

From: Geoff Farr
Sent: Thursday, January 03, 2013 9:32 AM
To: Leigh Ann Wagner Kroening; Paul F. Evert
Subject: RE: Go Green Save Green Agenda

I'd be happy to discuss this but cannot prepare a report until I know what the issue is, if any. Thanks Geoff

Respectfully,

Geoffrey Farr P.E.
Director of Public Works
Village of Howard, Wisconsin

920/434-4060

920/434-4072

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From: Leigh Ann Wagner Kroening
Sent: Thursday, January 03, 2013 9:18 AM
To: Geoff Farr; Paul F. Evert
Subject: FW: Go Green Save Green Agenda

Geoff,

Please see below. I know this has been discussed at length at board meetings. Can you update one of your old staff reports for the Jan. 15 GGSG meeting, please?

Leigh Ann

From: Frank Ingram [<mailto:frankingram@new.rr.com>]
Sent: Thursday, January 03, 2013 7:42 AM
To: Leigh Ann Wagner Kroening

Cc: becky.stephens.preh@statefarm.com

Subject: Go Green Save Green Agenda

Becky, Leigh Ann

Could we put "County Land Fill Policy" on the Agenda for the Go Green meeting please.

There have been some disturbing reports that the County is trying to lock in municipalities to land fill contracts which will have the effect of punishing financially any municipality that tries to find an alternative to landfill for household waste other than what the County offers to recycle. While a coordinated recycling approach is desirable, to require landfilling of anything that the County will not recycle is a retrograde step, discouraging innovation.

I will draft a resolution and circulate it for comment in the next day or so.

Thanks

Frank Ingram



Western Lake Superior Sanitary District. Organic Waste.

SECTION 4.10 ORGANIC WASTE RECOVERY

4.10.1 Recovery

Every Person identified herein shall recover Organic Waste by removing it from the solid waste stream and segregating it for separate collection by a Recovery Service. All wrapping or packaging on the waste shall be removed prior to recovery of the waste. The Organic Waste shall be placed in a Container. The District may establish requirements for Containers for Organic Waste. Recovery of Organic Waste shall be in accordance with the requirements of this Ordinance.

A. Pre-Consumer Organic Waste. The owners and operators of the following described commercial establishments located within the District shall separate Pre-Consumer Organic Waste for recovery:

1. Grocery Stores that occupy 7,500 square feet or more of Floor Area.
2. A Restaurant or Catering Business which is issued a medium or large Food Handling License in St. Louis County or a large Food Handling License in Carlton County by the Minnesota Department of Health.
3. Post Secondary institutions with enrollment of more than 1,000 full time students which provide meals prepared on-site for students. 44

4. Hospital or Nursing Home having at least 100 beds and providing prepared meals to employees, patients, guests, or residents.
 5. A food manufacturer or processor that occupies 5,000 square feet or more of Floor Area.
 6. An Assisted Living Facility.
 7. A Correctional Facility.
- B. Other Commercial establishments. The District may designate other commercial establishments to separate Pre-Consumer Organic Waste or other Organic Waste for recovery. Such a designation may be established by Board resolution and shall be effective upon publication once in a newspaper having general circulation in the District.
- C. Industrial Organic Waste. No Person shall deposit Industrial Organic Waste in the solid waste stream without prior approval of the Executive Director.
- D. Effective Date. The effective date(s) for this subsection shall be determined by subsequent board resolution(s), and shall be effective upon publication once in a newspaper having general circulation in the District.

4.10.2 Voluntary Participation

Any Person can voluntarily recover Organic Waste at an earlier date than is required by this Ordinance.

4.10.3 Prohibition

No Person other than the licensed Recovery Service which provides services to the particular structure shall collect or gather Organic Waste at the particular structure.

4.10.4 Limitation on Disposal and Co-Mingling

Source-separated Organic Waste shall not be deposited in the solid waste stream. The Executive Director in his or her sole discretion may waive this prohibition on a case by case basis for good cause. Organic Waste that has been source-separated must not be contaminated or co-mingled by the Collector in a manner which would make the Organic Waste unusable by the Recovery Facility. 45

4.10.5 Recovery Service

For the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the District, the following requirements applicable to the removal and disposal of all Organic Waste are established:

- A. License required. No Person shall collect or remove Organic Waste within the District without first obtaining a Recovery Service license from the District. The process for obtaining a license is set forth in Sections 6.2.1, 6.2.2, 6.2.4 – 6.2.8. At a minimum, the Recovery Service must meet the following standards:
1. Transport the Organic Waste in a leak-proof container or vehicle and in a manner that prevents the release of liquids.
 2. Provide a letter of certification signed by the applicant verifying that the vehicle(s) to be utilized for collection conform to the requirements of the District.
 3. Provide a certificate(s) of an insurance company authorized to do business in the State of Minnesota certifying that the applicant has in full force and effect a policy or policies of insurance insuring the applicant, its agents and employees, and its vehicle(s) in an amount of not less than One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) for bodily injuries to any one person, not less than Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000) for bodily injuries in any one accident, and not less than Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) for property damage in any one accident. Such insurance shall not be subject to cancellation or modification without fifteen (15) days advance written notice to the licensing authority.
 4. The applicant shall maintain such vehicles in good repair and shall comply with all laws, rules and regulations applicable to such vehicles.
 5. All such vehicles shall display identification numbers and in a color which contrasts with the color of the vehicle, on the sides and rear thereof.
 6. Assure that the Organic Waste is transported to a Recovery Facility.
 7. Comply with the all District regulations, ordinances and the Solid Waste Management Plan.
 8. In order to minimize contamination of waste streams, a Collector shall on Containers of Organic Waste clearly indicate the intended 46

contents of the Container. The markings shall be legible from a reasonable distance and be displayed in a manner and location obvious to people using the Container.

- A Recovery Service license must contain the limitation that the license may be revoked at anytime for violation of District regulations and ordinances.
- B. Any licensed solid waste Collector may provide Recovery Service, if the Collector meets all of the Recovery Service requirements. This provision is not intended to limit licenses to collect and transport Organic Waste to solid waste Collectors, or to require all solid waste Collectors to provide Recovery Service.
- C. Continuing obligations. All Persons providing Recovery Service, in addition to any other requirements contained in this Ordinance or other District ordinance or regulation, shall assure that Organic Waste separated by the generator shall not be placed in the solid waste stream.
- D. Reports. Each Recovery Service shall provide all reports required under Section 4.10.7.
- E. Collection Frequency. A Recovery Service must collect recovered Organic Waste on a frequency of not less than once a week, except that during the months of November thru March, the frequency can be extended to every other week.

4.10.6 Executive Director Discretion

- A. Any person required to recover Organic Waste may petition the Executive Director to suspend the provisions of this Ordinance if the petitioner demonstrates Recovery Service is not available to the petitioner. The Executive Director may impose conditions, such as a limitation of time, on the suspension as the Executive Director determines in his or her sole discretion. At any time during a suspension, the Executive Director may determine that Recovery Service is available to the petitioner and notify the petitioner in writing that the suspension is terminated.
- B. The Executive Director may, in his or her sole discretion, determine that a particular load of Organic Waste separated for Recovery, or a particular load of Industrial Organic Waste, be accepted at the Transfer Station for disposal due to contamination, rejection of the waste by all available Recovery Facilities or such other reasons which the Executive Director finds reasonable.⁴⁷

- C. The Executive Director may, in his or her sole discretion, may on good cause shown by an applicant vary the terms of this Ordinance as applied to a particular applicant. Any application for a variance must be in writing and set forth in detail the reasons in support of granting the variance.

4.10.7 Reports

Each Collector and Recovery Facility which collects or manages Organic Waste for beneficial reuse shall submit quarterly reports to the District of the following:

- A. Tonnage and disposition of Organic Waste collected or processed, or any other information requested by the District in a quarterly report.
- B. Quarterly reports shall be completed and returned to the District for each quarter of the calendar year, within thirty (30) days of the end of the quarter.
- C. Each Recovery Service provider shall provide the District with an opportunity to inspect current Organic Waste customer lists. Customer lists provided to the District are private data on individuals (for individual data) and non-public data (for data not on individuals) in accordance with Minn. Stat. § 115A.93. Upon request by the District, each provider shall provide access to its books and records relating to information required above upon one (1) days notice.
- D. Failure to provide timely complete reports is grounds for suspension or termination of a license.

4.10.8 Enforcement and Inspection

- A. Inspection and evaluation of Containers and Recovery Service providers shall be made by the District in such frequency as to ensure consistent compliance by owners, occupants, and Recovery Service providers with provisions of this Ordinance. Each owner, occupant or Recovery Service provider shall be required to allow free access to authorized representatives of the District, or to authorize representatives of any other governmental agency at any time for the purpose of making such inspections as may be necessary to determine compliance with the requirements of this Ordinance, or any other applicable statute, ordinance or regulation.
- B. The District shall have the right to inspect private property to determine if a Recovery Service provider or Container is in compliance with the provisions of this Ordinance.⁴⁸

C. Suspension and revocation of a license shall follow the same procedure as set forth in Section 3.5.

4.10.9 Exclusion

- A. Quick-serve food service establishments that offer as the primary method of service, at all meal times, food and drink orders taken at and served to the customer at a self-service counter are excluded from the requirements in Section 4.10.1. A and B.
- B. Nothing in this Ordinance shall preclude a food establishment from donating to a food bank, shelter or Second Harvest left over or unsold food that is safe for human consumption.