

**BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
AGENDA ITEM**

MEETING DATE: NOVEMBER 17, 2009

Action Requested:

BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR THE LANDFILL GAS-TO-ENERGY PROJECT

Background Information:

Buncombe County needs to construct an expansion of the wastewater pre-treatment system at the County's Subtitle D landfill, consisting of an extension of the existing leachate injection and gas recovery lines as well as the generation of renewable energy from the captured methane gas.

Buncombe County is expanding the wastewater pre-treatment and renewable energy system at the landfill, with state loan assistance authorized by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (stimulus funding). The County is expecting to receive a funding agreement from NCDENR soon for the loan assistance. The County needs to budget the local funds up front in order to get application fees and other expenses paid in a timely manner.

The existing project uses leachate recirculation as a means of reducing wastewater flow to MSD and improving the quality of the discharged leachate. The existing Phase 1 leachate recirculation system eliminated 38 days of leachate hauling to MSD in 2008, at a typical rate of 6 tanker loads per day. This expansion will allow for the production of larger quantities of landfill gas through enhanced waste decomposition. This increase in gas will make renewable energy (electricity) generation from the gas viable, and a 1.4 MW electric generator would be installed to supply enough renewable energy to power 1,100 homes in the landfill's vicinity. This project offers significant water quality protections as well as an exciting source for alternative energy and reduction of greenhouse gases.

Funds/Staff Requested:

Appropriation of \$719,837 from Contingency Funds for the Landfill Gas to Energy Project.

Request Submitted By: Jon Creighton, Assistant County Manager; Jerry Mears, Solid Waste Manager

Date Submitted: November 12, 2009