

September 7, 2010

Laura Routh

Comments on waste management

It is my concern that we are focusing on a public vs. private debate when our primary attention should be given to the goals and effectiveness of our overall waste management system, first.

PAYT does not require privatization, but it does require planning. Planning is crucial. We need a plan, and we don't have one. Given the dynamic nature of the waste industry, regionally, I truly believe that we need outside, unbiased, professional planning assistance. There are a number of excellent firms available in the region.

As I understand the City's current system, we don't know our set out rates for trash, nor do we have a clear sense of waste type and volumes for our institutional, industrial or commercial generators. We have no control over endpoints and we have not done a legitimate disposal capacity projection or made sure we had a plan B for disposal if disposal option A ceases to exist.

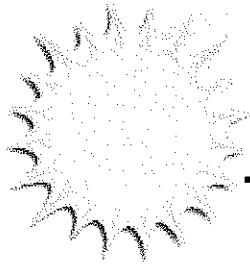
We need to plan not just for waste collection but also to identify the goals of our overall system. Because we have not planned for the future in regard to waste reduction, we have spent years buying what may very well be largely obsolete equipment. We have also invested heavily in commercial hauling without assessing our role or our efficiency in that enterprise. I do not think we can go forth with a decent RFP for collection unless we know our own needs and services well enough to clearly elucidate the goals and scope of our program.

If the City does decide to privatize, it must first make sure that it has fully assessed the market (i.e. identified all possible competitors); established clear regulations (i.e. currently, for private curbside haulers, we have no insurance requirements or a requirement that vendors provide proof of recycling); and we must ensure contract completeness. The contract has to be strong enough to protect the City's long-term interests and shield it from liability. Contract management and regulation are central to ensure that we realize the gains that we want.

In regard to privatization, please be aware that weak competition between vendors will generally lessen the potential for cost savings. In many cases, cost savings from privatization erode over time, when privatized communities are compared with those that retain public capacity.

Aside from cost, one of the biggest concerns that I have about privatization is that of accountability. Private vendors are not required (unless it is a feature of their contract) to maintain or offer open records of operations to the public. Privatization means that the level of citizen participation in determining goals and affecting operations will be reduced if not eliminated altogether. Privatization of our trash collection may also degrade the social equity in our community; we will lose well paid local job. In most cases, the private waste sector does not pay wages or provide benefits to same degree that the City does.

I respectfully request that my comments here be included in the public record for tonight's meeting. Thank you for your consideration and your service to the community.



# Advanced Alternative Energy Corp.

[www.aaecorp.com](http://www.aaecorp.com)

Sept. 3, 2010

## Lawrence City Commission

### Re: City trash service

#### Dear Commissioners

It's no secret that Deffenbaugh trash service wants to take over Lawrence's business,, but do Lawrence residents want that,, and would that the best thing for Lawrence in the long run?

Because residents now have their own city owned trash service and because this gives Lawrence residents some control over the costs of their trash pickup; I don't think it would be in the interest of Lawrence residents to let that control go to an out of town firm.

Also consider that there is considerable value in trash that Lawrence residents could begin benefiting from if a modern waste recovery system were put in place.

I think Lawrence residents would do well to let Deffenbaugh continue to offer curbside recycling, at the rate Deffenbaugh wants to offer it, and continue to support Wal-Mart's recycling center, and continue to support the drop-off bins around town, and improve our local waste management system in order to maximize value recovery from the local waste stream.

Improving our local waste management system can be done through implementing a system of resource recovery by installing a Material Recovery Facility (MRF) near the city to extract recyclables and convert the remaining valuable resource left after the MRF operation. Benefits are available in that resource that can be returned back to the residents of Lawrence with a biorefinery that generates power and biofuels.

Lawrence can dispose of remaining residue after the MRF feeds the carbon containing fraction of the waste to a city scale biorefinery. This would be a step in the right direction. A city scaled biorefinery can meet the needs of Lawrence for the foreseeable future. City scale distributed biorefineries are the new wave of waste recovery.

Keeping our tax dollars in local circulation and keeping local jobs in place are appropriate ways to insure economic stability and growth are available locally.

In addition to the above; between 100 - 500 manufacturing jobs could be created locally if a significant portion of the biorefinery is fabricated here at Lawrence and if other towns and cities across America ultimately order equipment for such installations.

## **LAWRENCE COULD EVENTUALLY LEAD THE NATION IN PRODUCTION OF NEW TECHNOLOGY BASED EQUIPMENT FOR DISTRIBUTED BIOREFINERIES**

I have included with this letter an article announcing the DoE is finally waking up to the advent of the technical capability to effectively and economically convert Municipal Trash to Renewable Energy.

Here is the lead paragraph from that article;

Washington, DC - U.S. Senator Charles E. Schumer and Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today visited Taylor Recycling Facility to announce that the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has given initial approval and is poised to give a final sign off on a \$100 million loan guarantee for the company to construct and operate a biomass facility in Montgomery, New York. The project will create 400 local jobs in the construction phase and an additional 80 full-time positions in Orange County once the plant is in operation. DOE is beginning its final due diligence review of the project.

I've researched this field for over 25 years and have invented and patented a novel new biomass and waste fuels conversion system that I believe is very similar to a technology the DoE is about to offer a guaranteed loan for. This new DoE backed project is intended to be put in place in Montgomery New York. In fact the technology appears to be so similar that I've asked Senator Brownback's office to assist me in contacting the DoE and determining if the company that is behind the New York project is using the technology I have invented and patented in U.S. patent # 5261335.

This new development I believe lends credence to my long held belief that a biorefinery scaled for the City of Lawrence could be supported by the DoE if Lawrence were to indicate an interest in having such a new facility near Lawrence - and if Lawrence were interested in supporting the concept of establishing a manufacturing plant at Lawrence to replicate the technology for installation at other towns and cities all across the nation.

Whatever the Lawrence City Commission decides I'm sure it will be in the best interests of the residents of Lawrence.

Sincerely;

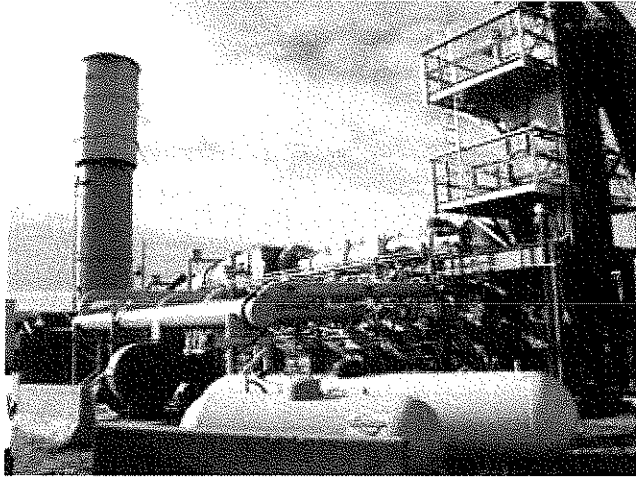
*Les Blevins*

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# DoE Poised To Give Final Approval Of \$100 Million Loan Guarantee For Taylor Biomass Energy Project

12/08/2010

[pangea](#)



DoE Poised To Give Final Approval Of \$100 Million Loan Guarantee

**Schumer, Hinchey Announce U.S. Department Of Energy Poised To Give Final Approval Of \$100 Million Loan Guarantee For Taylor Biomass Energy Project In Orange County That Will Create 480 Jobs**

## **Press Releases for Congressman Maurice Hinchey**

**Washington, DC** - U.S. Senator Charles E. Schumer and Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today visited Taylor Recycling Facility to announce that the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has given initial approval and is poised to give a final sign off on a \$100 million loan guarantee for the company to construct and operate a biomass facility in Montgomery, New York. The project will create 400 local jobs in the construction phase and an additional 80 full-time positions in Orange County once the plant is in operation. DOE is beginning its final due diligence review of the project.

Schumer and Hinchey were joined by County Executive Edward Diana and other community and business leaders for the announcement, which will enable the construction of a site that would be the nation's first commercially-sized biomass gasification facility that utilizes municipal solid waste (MSW) to produce electricity.

"After years of work, we are at the one yard line with this project," said Schumer. "Over 100 million dollars in investments and hundreds of jobs are within our grasp. Once the project is completed, this will be the preeminent place in the country for people to learn about biomass

energy, and other pioneering companies will be encouraged to choose the region for their new projects. This investment isn't just good news for Taylor Biomass and the people they will employ, but good news for the entire Hudson Valley economy."

"I'm delighted that the Taylor Biomass Energy proposal is now poised to become a reality now that the DOE has given it the green light and is undergoing a final review process — a stage which only a handful of projects across the nation have reached in applying for critical federal loan guarantees," said Hinchey. "Taylor's proposal will have very significant and positive economic impacts for our entire region as it creates hundreds of local jobs while commercializing a biomass energy project that we hope can be replicated around the country. This technology will allow local workers to produce clean, renewable energy right here in the Hudson Valley while also helping to deal with our area's solid waste in an environmentally-responsible manner."

"I am extremely pleased that DOE has decided to move forward with Taylor's application, bringing it one step closer to fruition," said Congressman John Hall (NY-19). "I have met with Jim Taylor and toured his facility several times, advocating to DOE on their behalf because I truly believe in this technology which will not only create jobs, but turn our trash into renewable energy. I applaud Jim and his team today on a decision that will have economic and environmental benefits for generations to come."

For two years Schumer and Hinchey have worked to move the project forward. Both law makers have personally spoken with United States Department of Energy (DOE) Secretary Steven Chu in support of the final approval for the loan guarantees, and both have sent strong letters of support. The congressman also toured the Taylor Recycling facility in Montgomery in 2008 with senior biomass staff at the U.S. Department of Energy, and has supported the project through the local environmental review process in the Town of Montgomery. Schumer started his advocacy after visiting the facility in December of 2008, and was able to pass legislation ensuring that the company had access to clean energy tax credits.

The \$104 million loan guarantee program will be funded in part through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, which Schumer and Hinchey strongly supported and voted for in order to preserve and create well-paying jobs, promote local and state fiscal stabilization, and accelerate the development of renewable energy technologies that could be replicated in other areas of our country. Taylor's proposed biomass gasification facility enjoys strong support from the community, including from Orange County, which has committed to direct its solid waste to the facility. In addition to creating local jobs, the plant would also help to increase the revenues and lower the tax burden for people living in the Town of Montgomery, County of Orange, and the State of New York and provide significant positive direct and indirect economic impacts.

Taylor Biomass Energy submitted the first part of its application for the loan guarantee in September 2009. After receiving approval for the initial application, the company submitted the second phase of the application in January 2010. The company recently received notification that it was among only a handful of projects across the nation to move forward towards final federal review. In addition to the federal loan guarantee, the company will also be entitled to receive a 30 percent federal tax credit made available for renewable energy projects once it begins its generation of electricity. Schumer and Hinchey both supported the renewable energy tax credit.

Taylor Biomass Energy has previously received funding for this project through the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) and has worked diligently with local and state agencies to move this important initiative forward. Taylor's current operation, in which the company recycles the large percentage of the construction and demolition debris it accepts, demonstrates the company's innovative approach to waste management and its longtime commitment to environmental sustainability.

Loan guarantees are an innovative approach that the federal government can use to support job growth in local communities while minimizing the use of taxpayer dollars. Under government loan guarantee programs, companies like Taylor Biomass go through an intensive vetting process during which the viability of the company's business plan is judged against factors like community interest and initial private investment. By guaranteeing the loan, the federal government spurs entrepreneurs to invest in the project because they know that their investment is safe. Approving this application for a loan guarantee would give Taylor Biomass the leverage they need to seek out additional private investment and begin the process of creating jobs and driving growth more quickly.

Source: <http://www.canadaviews.ca>

# City wants to discuss pay-as-you-throw trash, as well as privatizing the service

## No decisions expected immediately



Photo by Richard Gwin.

Rick Lambert, a worker for Deffenbaugh Industries of Kansas City, Kan., picks up recyclable materials Thursday in Lawrence.

By Chad Lawhorn

September 2, 2010

City commissioners will begin discussing whether residents should be charged depending on the amount of trash they produce. The possible change also brings into question whether a private company should be used.

Changes in how people are charged for their trash service, and the idea of turning the city-operated enterprise over to a private company are set for discussion at Lawrence City Hall.

Commissioner Rob Chestnut at Tuesday's meeting will ask his fellow commissioners to open up a review of new options for the city's trash collection service.

"I kind of feel like we're at a crossroads with our solid waste service right now," Chestnut said. "This seems like a good time to study some issues."

At the top of the list is the idea of implementing a “pay-as-you-throw” system that would charge people who frequently set out large amounts of trash more than people who set out small amounts of trash.

Such systems are becoming more common in cities, and often involve residents being assigned a certain size of cart to contain their trash. If they can't fit all their trash in the cart, they can pay to set out additional bags. Or if they frequently exceed their cart's capacity, they can pay extra for a larger cart.

The city's Sustainability Advisory Board has recommended the city go to a volume-based trash system to encourage more recycling by residents. The idea has some support on the City Commission.

“I think it is a good idea,” City Commissioner Mike Dever said. “And if you look at how most households use our trash service, I don't think it would be a big change for a lot of households.”

Chestnut said he's still undecided about the idea, but is becoming more open to it as he hears from more residents.

“I hear quite a few comments from residents who say they are trying everything they can to increase their recycling, and then their neighbors aren't doing anything but they still get charged the same rate for trash pickup,” Chestnut said.

But if the city were to go to a volume-based trash service, it could require new investments in trucks and technology. Chestnut said that likely would be a good time to consider whether the city should continue operating the service or allowing a private company to take over the operations.

Another factor is that Kansas City-based Deffenbaugh Industries — the largest solid waste company in the region — is more aggressively eyeing Lawrence. The company in March began offering curbside recycling service to households for \$4.95 per month.

So far, that service has attracted about 3,600 households and has collected about 430 tons of recyclable materials.



"Lawrence has been great," said Tom Coffman, a vice president for Deffenbaugh. "From the very first day the participation and volumes have exceeded our most enthusiastic expectations."

Coffman also confirmed the company has started to offer recycling services for commercial customers, and would like to expand that business.

Dever said Deffenbaugh's activity may cause the city to look at privatization, but he said he had some serious questions.

"My biggest fear is we lose control over the quality of the service and the cost of the service," Dever said. "And once we stop providing the service, it will be almost impossible for us to jump back into it. That is a big hesitancy."

Chestnut said he's also unsure of what the right answer is on privatization.

"These are sensitive issues," Chestnut said. "Anytime you mention privatization, you are talking about people's livelihood. I recognize that. But I want to sort through all the details and then get a lot of public comment."

Commissioners — who aren't expected to make any final decisions Tuesday — meet at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.

## Comments

LJWorld.com doesn't necessarily condone the comments here, nor does it review every post. Read our full policy. Also, read about banned accounts and harassing comments.

1.

onceinawhile (anonymous) says...

How would this affect apartment complexes?

September 2, 2010 at 5:50 p.m.

Informed (anonymous) replies...

This proposal is for residential trash service. Apartment complexes already pay on a different scale.

September 2, 2010 at 7:55 p.m.

2.

**none2 (anonymous) says...**

"At the top of the list is the idea of implementing a "pay-as-you-throw" system that would charge people who frequently set out large amounts of trash more than people who set out small amounts of trash."

I think they forgot to mention a third category -- those that occasionally set out a large amount. If you do a lot of recycling, most of the time you won't have much. However, there are times when you may have a larger load. I hope they don't penalize those that fall into that infrequent large loads category.

September 2, 2010 at 6:22 p.m.

3.

**sri (anonymous) says...**

Always reading about changes/problems with the trash pick-ups, but is it really a problem? KU students trash makes things harder to contract out, so maybe we pay more than others, but we pay higher taxes for everything, so why is this a big deal?

September 2, 2010 at 6:46 p.m.

**jafs (anonymous) replies...**

Well, we pay for water and sewer (and electricity and gas) based on usage, why not trash?

September 2, 2010 at 6:59 p.m.

4.

**oneeye wilbur (anonymous) says...**

So just go ahead and get rid of the City Sanitation Dept and let Defenbaugh get on with the business in Lawrence as the provider.

OR what would Boulder do?

The City Commission always mucking with something that really isn't broken.

September 2, 2010 at 7:32 p.m.

5.

**tange (anonymous) says...**

Hmm... trash disparity. Hu nu?

September 2, 2010 at 8:08 p.m.

6.

**DVECC (anonymous) says...**

The trash service here is awesome. I'm willing to bet a majority of Lawrence is completely satisfied with the value provided for the price. I recycle and yes I am aware that my trash fee is subsidizing the rental on our block, big deal. The trash guys are neat, respectful of my property and when I need a mattress or couch hauled off it gets done.

Chestnut if it aint broke....

September 2, 2010 at 8:08 p.m.

7.

**DRsmith (anonymous) says...**

Lawrence cracks me up. So what about those that will just toss the trash wherever they please to avoid the higher charges?

September 2, 2010 at 8:35 p.m.

**biggunz (anonymous) replies...**

Yep. People toss their crap in dumpsters all the time. Every dumpster in Lawrence will be full.

September 2, 2010 at 10:28 p.m.

8.

**SpeedRacer (anonymous) says...**

An extremely large Deffenbaugh trash truck drove down my narrow residential street yesterday...anyone know why?

September 2, 2010 at 8:37 p.m.

**biggunz (anonymous) replies...**

Lol. An "extremely large" truck drove down your "narrow residential street"? Sorry, sounds like a prelude to b\*tching and moaning to me.

September 2, 2010 at 10:31 p.m.

**just another bozo on this bus (anonymous) replies...**

So you got in your own pre-emptive b\*tch and moan. Super!!

September 2, 2010 at 10:50 p.m.

9.

**no thanks (anonymous) says...**

The City shouldn't provide services that the general market can provide, such as those services provided with sanitation department. There are several benefits, which includes a switch to volume based usage (which just makes sense), but

also raising cash at a time when the City struggles. Perhaps that money could be put to good use by reducing our property taxes (not likely, but a good thought).

September 2, 2010 at 8:51 p.m.

**gccs14r (anonymous) replies...**

No, private contractors should not be used to provide basic services that are well withing the capability of a municipality to offer. Costs are fixed, so the only way to make a profit is to raise rates or reduce service. I'm happy with the service and don't want to pay more for less, so I definitely don't want some outside corporation coming in to export even more of our dollars.

September 2, 2010 at 10:32 p.m.

**just another bozo on this bus (anonymous) replies...**

I agree. Fixed volume is a good idea, but there is no reason to fix what ain't broke by privatizing. (apologies in advance for the double post as the JW works through whatever bugs they have.)

September 2, 2010 at 10:52 p.m.

10.

**kansasgirl18 (Bailey Perkins) says...**

Let me get this straight, if I'm too busy to remember to set my trash out one week - I will be charged for the overflow the next? How is that fair?

September 2, 2010 at 10:23 p.m.

11.

**biggunz (anonymous) replies...**

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September 2, 2010 at 10:28 p.m.

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September 2, 2010 at 10:52 p.m.

16.

**just another bozo on this bus (anonymous) says...**

Make that apologies for the triple post.

September 2, 2010 at 10:53 p.m.

17.

**kansasredlegs (anonymous) says...**

Go ahead Commissioners, I need the excuse to stop raking leaves and cleaning up my yard. Nice to have retired one-bag-of-garbage-per-week neighbors so I can throw my excess that I can't fit into my can into theirs. It'll be sweet watching D'baughers picking up my stuff from 3 different locations for the same money.

September 2, 2010 at 11:07 p.m.

just another bozo on this bus (anonymous) replies...

You're a real sleazeball.

September 2, 2010 at 11:52 p.m.

18.

Jaminrawk (anonymous) says...

No, seriously, it's a GREAT idea to put Lawrence residents out of their jobs and hand the reigns over to a Kansas City business. Nothing says good city management like the threat of more unemployment.

September 2, 2010 at 11:28 p.m.

19.

fiercesomeus (anonymous) says...

Please attend the City Commission meeting Tuesday Sept 7 at 6:30 at city hall.

September 3, 2010 at 3:53 a.m.

20.

LesBlevins (anonymous) says...

Rob Chestnut says; "I hear quite a few comments from residents who say they are trying everything they can to increase their recycling rate" "and then their neighbors aren't doing anything but they still get charged the same rate for trash pickup."

This of course should be high on the list of concerns for the city because that isn't a fair system and leads to tension and who knows what else between neighbors.

A Material Recovery Facility is a fair way to solve this problem as everyone's recyclables would be removed by automatic equipment and/or by those who are in need of a job.