

- [Find Articles in:](#)
- [All](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Reference](#)
- [Technology](#)
- [Lifestyle](#)
- [Newspaper Collection](#)

## Business Publications

0 Comments

# Converting a Wasteland into Renewable Power

---

NJBIZ, Aug 6, 2007 by Ruth, João-Pierre S

### CARNEYS POINT

Salem County plans to use methane from a landfill to produce natural gas and generate electricity

A PUBUC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP is turning to the Salem County Landfill in Alloway for a renewable source of energy to fuel the fires at a glassmaking educational center slated to open next year. Joining forces to build a methane-guzzling 1.9- megawatt generating plant are the Marina Energy unit of South Jersey Industries Inc. in Folsom, and DCO Energy in Mays Landing, a maker of on-site energy production gear.

"The energy portion is just one component of a project that will probably have some long-range economic development significance," says Michael Chapman, executive director, of the Salem County Utilities Authority that oversees the landfill. "That 1.9 megawatts would supply the power to about 400 homes in the Alloway area."

"We are the only community college in the state working with its utilities authority in this manner," says Raymond Constantine, executive director for special projects at Salem County Community College.

Fred Eckert, vice president of DCO Energy, says the power facility will cost \$5.4 million to build. "That includes the energy generation facility and the pipeline, all interconnection costs, permitting costs, all the developing costs," says Eckert.

Chapman says the 10,000-square-foot education center next to the landfill will cost another \$2 million and allow the college's glassmaking program to accommodate 500 students in addition to the 300 now at the school's existing center in Carneys Point 15 miles away

The generating plant will produce electric power and provide gas to furnaces at the glassmaking center. Methane from the landfill will be the fuel source for the power generator at the facility.

The college currently uses natural gas to fire the furnaces at the Carneys Point campus. "We're a large consumer of natural gas," says Constantine. "The college has the only associate's degree in the country for scientific glass production. We also have a fine arts degree in glass art. We're outgrowing our facility in Carneys Point."

Chapman first proposed tapping the landfill's methane for the college's glassmaking courses in 2005. He says the landfill can produce enough methane to replace natural gas that would cost the school \$250,000 a year, or propane that can cost nearly \$500,000 a year.

SC Landfill Energy LLC, the partnership of Marina Energy and DCO Energy, is working with the college and the utilities authority to develop what will be the first gas-to-electric facility in Salem County. SC Landfill Energy will operate the facility on a 20-year contract, selling electricity to the county utility and the regional grid.

Marina and DCO have collaborated on similar projects in the state, mining methane from landfills in Egg Harbor and White, with discussions currently under way in Burlington County.

Chapman says the county plans to award bids for the construction contract by September to put the facility on track to power up next year. "We hope to have in constructed by March or April," he says.

Buttressing the college's glassmaking resources should develop more skilled workers for a trade that has its roots in the region. "Glass manufacturing in the Northern Hemisphere got its start in Alloway" says Chapman. The Wistar Glass Factory that operated in the 1700s was the first glassmaking facility in the country.

"Landfill gas produces green house gases," he adds. "We're required to collect a lot of the gas and destroy most of it. DCO Energy is going to harness our landfill gas, clean it up, run a generator for power and then there is the side stream of gas that will be piped across the street to the newly created glass center facility."

E-mail to [jpruth@njbiz.com](mailto:jpruth@njbiz.com)

Copyright Journal Publications Inc. Aug 6, 2007

Provided by ProQuest Information and Learning Company. All rights Reserved

Advanced Search

njbiz Converting a Wastela

in

free and premium articles



Search