

Land Services Department

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Christopher Pence.....Land Services Supervisor

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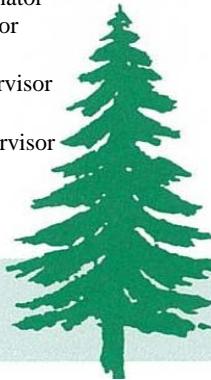
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Gary Griffin.....Land Services Supervisor

Public Land Management

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NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CROW WING COUNTY RECEIVES EPA LANDFILL PROJECT OF THE YEAR AWARD

According to the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Crow Wing County has one of the top methane recovery operations in the nation. The County was awarded the EPA Landfill Gas Methane Outreach Program's (LMOP) Project of the Year January 19, 2011 at a conference in Baltimore, MD. Doug Morris, Crow Wing County Solid Waste Coordinator, accepted the award on behalf of the County. The award recognizes the County Landfill's innovative and unique reuse of landfill gas (LFG) for on-site building heating and for advancing the landfill gas reuse industry.

Landfill gas is a byproduct created by the breakdown of materials deposited at the landfill and in the past had been released into the environment. Crow Wing County was one of the first small scale landfills in the nation to capture the gas and use it to heat its on-site buildings. The amount of landfill gas generated from the landfill is sufficient to power a small commercial boiler.

"This is an example of turning a problem into an asset for the County" stated Paul Thiede, Chairman of the Crow Wing County Board of Commissioners. "Landfill gas is now used to heat our buildings and we are reducing our impact on the environment at the same time. It is a win-win situation for the County and the environment".

Thiede also noted that taxpayers benefit as well. By capturing the landfill gas, the County is able to sell carbon credits on the commodities market. The County received \$100,000 in 2009 from selling these carbon credits.

In addition to reusing the landfill gas, the County has seen a tremendous economic benefit of reduced costs associated with hauling leachate for offsite disposal, postponed costs associated with new disposal area construction because of accelerated waste settlement and offset natural

gas use for building heat. These savings have allowed the County to implement a variety of recycling and waste diversion programs.

Crow Wing County has reduced its carbon footprint by utilizing the energy re-use project. Fossil fuels that would have been used for transportation are no longer burned and natural gas that was used for building heat is no longer needed. Also, the landfill gas emissions have a global warming effect that is 21 times more than that of carbon dioxide. By collecting and utilizing the landfill gas as heat for buildings, Crow Wing County is able to minimize greenhouse gas emissions and save money.

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