

**Green Pipeline to Fuel Water Reclamation Facility**  
Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Description

The Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) is getting ready to construct a low-pressure pipeline to transport landfill gas 17 miles to one of its regional, water reclamation facilities on Lake Michigan, an effort that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 500,000 tons a year. Along with installation of new turbines, the \$80 million dollar project will provide more than \$100 million in energy savings for MMSD and its customers.

Background

Cleaning dirty water requires an enormous amount of energy, approximately \$14 million a year for natural gas alone to power both of MMSD's water reclamation facilities that serve 1.1 million people in 28 communities. By converting landfill gas, from decomposing garbage, to a renewable power source, the District will eventually be able to fully power its Jones Island Water Reclamation Facility during wet weather and sell excess electricity to the power company during dry weather. MMSD's new source of energy will reduce the amount of natural gas and electricity purchased from the power company by \$148 million over the next 20 years. Any increases in the price of natural gas on the stock market will increase MMSD's total energy savings.

Veolia Water Milwaukee approached MMSD about the concept shortly after entering a new 10 year contract with the District to run MMSD's water reclamation facilities and sewers. Veolia Environmental Services, a sister company to Veolia Water Milwaukee, owns the landfill where MMSD will acquire the landfill gas. There are two stages to the project. Stage one involves building the pipeline and converting large dryers to process methane gas in MMSD's Milorganite building where micro organisms are converted to a popular fertilizer sold around the country. Stage two involves replacing two, 40 year old turbines with five high efficiency models to convert methane gas to electricity.

Results

It is anticipated that constructing the new system will create 300 jobs. Based on current natural gas prices on the open market, the landfill gas project is expected to save MMSD's largest customer, MillerCoors Brewing, about \$6 million over 20 years. Household customers can expect an 8% reduction in annual user charge bills.

(more)

## Pictures



MMSD's Jones Island Water Reclamation Facility

## Contacts

Bill Graffin, MMSD Public Information Manager  
Phone: 414-225-2077 email: [bgraffin@mmsd.com](mailto:bgraffin@mmsd.com)