

# County trash plan to emphasize recycling

By Tim Richard  
Staff writer

It should be a countywide plan, and it should emphasize recycling. That was the consensus emerging strongly this week from a Solid Waste Task Force of Oakland County and local officials.

"The time has come for everyone to work together to build a single solid waste handling system," said James Perry, Royal Oak's public services director, reading from a concept proposal to the 17-member group.

"No single existing group is sufficient size to justify the construction of a waste-to-energy facility on a cost effective basis," said Smith, who was joined by two other local

officials in preparing the report — Roger Smith, Southfield's public services director, and Fred Korman, supervisor of Bloomfield Township. "You've made a lot of progress. I think that's great," said Roy Rewold, R-Rochester Hills, chairman of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners and chairman of the task force.

THE GROWING consensus makes it less likely two, three or four separate authorities will try to do solid waste projects in Oakland. It's possible, however, that sub-county groups will administer parts of the plan such as collection and hazardous waste dropoff sites. It appears likely that SOCTA (the 14-community South Oakland Incin-

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county consultant

erator Authority) and the Southwest Oakland Solid Waste Consortium will go separate ways.

"County leaders have instructed us," said chief consultant Larry Fox, "that your goal is minimum landfill

and to emphasize recycling." Fox, with the Washington law firm of Bishop, Cook, presented an organizational proposal calling for a countywide authority with a nine-member board — county executive Dan-

iel T. Murphy and eight members from four different sub-county regions.

Fox reported he is drafting contracts for which there are four possible bidders: American Energy Corp.; Ogden Martin Systems; Foster Wheeler Power Systems Inc.; and Westinghouse Electric Corp.

Fox has estimated total investment in the system — resource recovery facility, three incinerators and a landfill — at \$600 million to \$1 billion.

COUNTY Commissioner Larry Pernick, D-Southfield, said, "The question everyone is asking is, what does it translate to in terms of picking up the solid waste from my home or business?"

"You ask a tough question — a fair one but tough," Fox replied. "If you err, err on the high side so there are no shocks."

Estimating the average household cost for trash removal at \$15 a month, Fox said the "worst" increase would be 50 percent. "Obviously, you hope to be under that."

Oakland's work on a solid waste plan — required under a state law known as Act 641 — has shifted from landfills to incinerators to resource recovery, or recycling — making new materials out of melted trash.

With recycling, not only is there less trash to burn or bury, there is less need for using new materials and resources. Moreover, there is money to be earned by selling recycled materials, cutting trash removal costs to households and business.

Burning trash is known as WTE, or waste-to-energy; the burning process generates electricity for resale. "But the reason you're doing it," said Fox, "is because it's right for your community and right for your country. You're not doing it to make money."

FOX ALSO warned against getting public hopes too high over recycling.

"Recycling is a floating market. You have to adjust if the price goes down. There are times when there is no market" for recycled materials, he said.

## OCC campus has arts festival

A holiday festival of arts will be held this weekend on Oakland Community College's Royal Oaks Campus, 739 S. Washington.

Hours are 10 a.m. through 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 10-5 Sunday. Among the events:

- A show and sale by the Arts & Humanities Club at 7 p.m. Friday starting with a reception in the Theater Gallery on the second floor of D Building. Featured artist will be student Mary Fortuna, with music by Les Frites Dance.
- Detroit Dance Collective is at 8

p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday in the theater in D Building. It is the campus' resident dance company. Tickets are \$8 general admission, \$6 for students and seniors.

- Show and sale by the Photography Club all weekend in the student lounge. Faculty advisers are Michael Cyrol and R.L.R. Kansas.
- Potters' market show and sale

runs Friday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. It's reputed to be the largest show of its kind in the Midwest.

The OCC Community Band will present holiday concerts at 7:30 p.m. on two Mondays — Dec. 5 and 12 — at Tel-12 Mall, Telegraph at 12 Mile, in Southfield.

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