# 'You've got to get together' on waste plan

The solid waste agreement the courty wants Oakland Courty communities to sign will unainterably commit you to pay for Incineration of trash for as long as 50 years and handicap your successors in office. "You can't respond to new technologies. The county has one out, you have none," Hubert Hartman told about 35 representatives of cities, townships and villages acress Oakland County. They were attending an informational session on the financial implications of and alternatives to the county's solid waste plan Taursday night in Bloomfield Township.

Taursday night in Bloomfield Town-slip.

It was sponsored by Help Oakland Protect the Environment, a chizons group based in Rochester.

"Why not draw up a new agree-ment calling for a MRF (materials recovery facility)," Hartman urged.

"Then build a burn plant (later) if necessary."

Hartman is an executive manage-ment specialist from Lake County, Fla, who has spent three years ex-

873-8300

ittrich

amining waste to energy systems ("We call them burn plants"). He and Neil Seldman, a waste management Nett Setuman, a waste management consultant from Washington D.C., painted a picture of a county tied financially and philosophically to the hurden of providing enough refuse for an incinerator it may not have needed at all.

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"WE BELIEVE the data shows that burning garbage is the most expensive and most polluted way to gard of your yold waste." Seldman said. "Capital costs are going to drive you bankrupt if you don't watch out. If you're a taxpayer, build a system that costs the least to maintain."

Representatives from 25 communities, including, Bingham Farms, the clother of the promise of the property of the proper whe BELLEYE me data shows that burning garbage is the most expensive and most polluted way to get it of your solid waste. Sediman sand "Capital costs are going to drive you bankrupt If you don't watch out. If you're a taxpayer, build a system that costs the least to maintain."

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Fifty cities across the country said no to incinerators. Once you build a burn plant you defeat comprehensive recyclina.

> - Neil Seldman "YOU CAN'T INVEST in a burn ant until you know how much you

plant until you know how much you will need to burn," Seldman said. The two presenters, who had never met before, pointed out; \$500 million in bonds would in-

\$500 million in bonds would increase the county's outstanding deht by almost 150 percent.
 The proposed intergovernmental agreement (IGA) gives the county the right to issue additional bonds during the lifetime of the agreement without the approval of municipalities.

· Cost estimates involve only sol-

crator residue is hazardous hasn't been resolved and the solid waste plan is always subject to additional federal and state regulatory add ons which could be costly.

If you import waste to feed an oversized incinerator, you will alway one of an oversized ash landfill to bury residue.

Even communities who now pay for their own waste disposal, such as Pontiae and the South Oakland County Resource Recovery Authority (30CHRA) and Recovere Recovery and Recycling Authority of Southwest Oakland County (RRIA-SOC), are liable for the countywide (as.

"FIFTY CITIES across the country said no to incinerators." Seldman reported. "Once you build a burn plant you defeat comprehensive recycling."

To get to the 80 percent mark in recycling, takes a combination of Mandatory recycling, economic Incentives, public awareness, commitment to buy goods that promote recycling, creating industries within your own community that capture

from the waste stream, commercial recycling and source reduction through reuse, non use and backgard comperting. Asked an obvious question. "Why hasn't the county called the municipalities together?" "They're rejecting everything-from the bottom up," answered Tom Werth, a Rochester city councilman. "It was done ass-backwards." "What they did is to separate the county into anti-landful and anti-incinerator," said commissioner

gether."
"You've got to get together and you've got to talk," Hartman responded.

sponded.
As for the \$1 million owed to ... Westinghouse. Seldman said: "A good businessman knows when to cut his losses. It's time to bite the builet and move on."

VCR cassettes of the 60-minute edited version of the symposium, will be available beginning March 20. Officials of municipalities are invited to reserve a copy by calling 651-7202.

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