

# County seeks to educate incinerator critics

By Pat Murphy  
staff writer

Oakland County's solid waste program wants to become user friendly. The program has plenty of advocates who endorse county plans to spend an estimated \$470 million to handle municipal waste over the next 20 years or so.

But the program's critics were a

focal point of at least part of the discussion last week at a meeting of the Oakland County Solid Waste Task Force.

Roger Smith, deputy director of the Solid Waste Unit of the county's department of public works, gave an update on county plans which include recycling, composting leaves and grass clippings, using existing landfills and building a \$170 million

waste-to-energy incinerator in Auburn Hills.

Essentially, Smith said plans are progressing on schedule. The county is waiting for permit approval from state and federal authorities for its incinerator, he said.

Furthermore, officials are preparing to negotiate inter-government agreements with 61 communities within Oakland County.

THE AGREEMENTS are critical, said Thomas Biasell, director of public services in Farmington Hills and a member of the task force, as a prerequisite to the county's getting bonds to build the incinerator.

While the agreements are complex, they stipulate that communities pledge municipal waste to the incinerator which needs a steady flow of waste to function efficiently, said Biasell.

Communities will pay more initially, he said. But they expect to save money over the years when tipping fees are expected to skyrocket as they have in other densely populated areas.

Tipping fees here are around \$20 per ton, compared with as high as \$100 in areas on the east coast.

The discussion turned to critics of the incinerator when county Commissioner Roy Rewold, R-Rochester, inquired about a meeting — supposedly organized by people concerned about the facility to be located southwest of the intersection of Brown and Giddings roads in Auburn Hills.

"YOU CAN bet they're not meeting to form a welcoming committee

for the incinerator," said James G. Meenan of Union Lake, a supervisor of environmental and energy systems for a General Motors subsidiary and a member of the task force.

Meenan said the task force should learn more about the meeting — if indeed it has been scheduled — and send informed representatives to provide accurate information about the incinerator.

Meenan said he considers citizen meetings to be a healthy development, even if they are organized by opponents.

But the county should provide accurate information on which to base their decisions. Rewold, chairman of the board of commissioners and who has repeatedly urged citizen input for the solid waste program, took the idea a step further.

He suggested inviting some of the incinerator's skeptics to accompany task force members on a planned visit to York, Pa. — where the Westinghouse Electric Corp. has built an incinerator very similar to the one it plans to build in Auburn Hills.

TASK FORCE members and other county officials have visited opera-

ting incinerators in several communities — including Baltimore, Md., and Nashville, Tenn. — to gather information.

Smith visited the incinerator in York last month, and urged task force members to do the same.

Seeing a fully operational incinerator that is welcomed in the community will mitigate some fears about the facility in Auburn Hills, Smith said.

Alice Tomboulion, a task force member from Oakland Township, agreed.

"People frequently form their opinions (about incinerators) on incomplete (or outdated) information," she said.

"If they talk (as members of the task force have) to people who live next to an incinerator," she said, perhaps they won't be as fearful.

Tomboulion, a former state representative and president of the Eastern Michigan Environmental Action Council, said she visited an incinerator in London, Ont., that was located within a hospital complex. "I was amazed," she said. "But the incinerator generated power for the hospitals."

## No help needed, thanks

By Pat Murphy  
staff writer

County officials want to lend a little credit to Southfield, Farmington, Troy and other communities struggling with solid waste.

Oakland officials are looking into the possibility of letting SOCRRA and RRRASOC, two authorities formed in southern Oakland County to manage waste, use the county's credit rating, the highest possible for a municipality, to sell bonds to finance their projects, said Roger

Smith, director of the county's solid waste program.

The better credit rating would enable the authorities to get more favorable interest rates, and thus save money. Spokesmen for those communities, however, are prepared to say, "Thanks, but we probably won't need your help."

During a meeting of the Oakland County Solid Waste Task Force last week, Smith said officials want to help communities working on their own solid waste problems.

Smith, who is also a deputy director of the county's department of public works, said those efforts are vital to the overall success of the county's solid waste program that will cost about \$470 million over the next two decades.

SOCRRA is the Southeast Oakland County Resource Recovery Authority. It includes Berkley, Beverly Hills, Birmingham, Clawson, Hazel Park, Ferndale, Huntington Woods,

Lathrop Village, Madison Heights, Oak Park, Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak, Royal Oak Township and Troy. RRRASOC, Resource Recovery and Recycling Authority of Southwest Oakland County, includes Farmington, Farmington Hills, Southfield, South Lyon, Walled Lake and Wixom.

SOCRRA is building a \$50 million waste-to-energy incinerator in Madison Heights and is awaiting permit approval from state officials, according to executive director Thomas Waffan.

SOCRRA communities appreciate Oakland's offer of a credit rating, said Waffan. "But we probably won't need it. We've been operating since the mid 1950s and we have a good record, financially and otherwise."

RRRASOC is in the middle stages of selecting a site for its recycling plant, called MRP, or materials recovery facility, a \$20 million project.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**AMERICAN EXPRESS**  
IDS American Express is offering a financial planning, stockbroker career with management potential. Substantial salary and bonuses. Degree and 2 years sales or professional experience required. Call for confidential interview.  
Mr. Kend 827-1230

**BEST DOLLHOUSE FOR AGES 4-11**  
• Pre-assembled  
• Pieces as small as 2mm  
• Piece included  
• 2nd Floor & Garage Extensions  
**20% Off**  
Thru 2-10-90  
Michigan's Largest Selection of Furniture, Lights & Accessories  
Homeowners Club (Special Bonus Program)  
**The Doll Hospital**  
8 Toy Soldier Shop  
2947 W. 12 Mile • Berkley 543-3115  
Mon.-Sat. 10-5, Fri. 10-8 p.m.

**GIBSON**  
School For The Gifted  
• An Independent, co-educational day school for gifted students ages 4-13.  
• Accredited by the Independent Schools Association of the Central States  
• Open to all, regardless of race, color, religion, national or ethnic origin.  
• 8-1 student to teacher ratio  
• Financial aid available  
12925 Fenton Road  
Rochester, MI 48309  
537-8688  
**OPEN HOUSE**  
FEB. 8  
10-8

**Observer & Eccentric**  
**CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING**  
644-1070 Oakland County  
591-0900 Wayne County  
852-3222 Rochester / Avon

**WINTER FURNACE SALE**  
**TRANE**  
• 97% efficient  
• AC prepped  
• 5 years parts  
• 5 years service  
**\$995**  
PLUS INSTALLATION  
BLU 040K942B  
• 70% efficient  
• AC prepped  
• 5 years parts  
• 5 years service  
**\$389**  
PLUS INSTALLATION  
TUS060A936A  
**APRILAIRE 550 HUMIDIFIER \$99**  
Cash & Carry  
**DIGITAL SET-BACK THERMOSTAT \$99**  
Cash & Carry  
**Honeywell ELECTRONIC AIR CLEANER \$299**  
Cash & Carry  
**NEEDISCOUNT 478-3838**  
**HEATING AND COOLING, INC.**  
23028 COMMERCE DRIVE • FARMINGTON HILLS, MI 48024

**WINDOW SALE**  
**VINYL WINDOW ONLY \$500 EACH**  
PER MONTH 4 WINDOW MINIMUM  
**COMPLETELY INSTALLED!**  
• THERMAL PANE GLASS  
• TILT IN FOR EASY CLEANING  
• FREE NYLON SCREENS  
**FREE VENT SECURITY LOCKS WITH EVERY ORDER—THIS WEEK ONLY!**  
TO FIGURE YOUR MONTHLY PAYMENT, SIMPLY MULTIPLY THE NUMBER OF WINDOWS YOU NEED BY 5 DOLLARS  
SLIDERS AVAILABLE AT NO EXTRA CHARGE  
\*BASED ON 13.99 FIXED RATE \$4 MO.  
**GREAT LAKES IMPROVEMENTS** MICH. LIC. #68658  
313-238-1050  
800-383-7929  
1501 S. SAGINAW, FLINT, MI

**Health Care... Close To Home**  
Meijer Associates, you should know about HealthPlus of Michigan health-care coverage. With HealthPlus of Michigan on your side, it's alot easier to ensure that your good health goes on and on. In Southeastern Michigan, HealthPlus of Michigan is the comprehensive plan with hundreds of independent physicians and specialists, affiliations with dozens of hospitals, as well as participation by about 95% of area pharmacies. Plus, HealthPlus of Michigan continues to grow, adding new affiliations on an on-going basis. That means good health care that's also close to home, and offers:  
• no deductibles  
• no claim forms  
• \$5 copay for office visits  
• \$5 copay for prescriptions  
• emergency coverage world-wide  
• complete hospitalization  
**The Plan That Remembers The Person.**  
**Health Plus of Michigan**  
For Care That's Close To Home  
Choose HealthPlus of Michigan.

**Children's Dentistry Doesn't Have To Be Expensive**  
**Specialized Dental Care Starts Now**  
INTRODUCTORY SPECIAL **\$8**  
• Complete Exam  
• Consultation  
• Cleaning  
• Fluoride  
• 4 Diagnostic X-Rays  
**Children's Dental Center**  
6177 Orchard Lake Rd. • West Bloomfield MI 48322 830-5000 M-F  
4770 Rochester Road, Suite 106 • Troy MI 48068 830-5000 M-F  
For more information, call (313) 230-2222, or toll free, 1-800-332-9161, today.

**Health Care... Close To Home**  
Meijer Associates, you should know about HealthPlus of Michigan health-care coverage. With HealthPlus of Michigan on your side, it's alot easier to ensure that your good health goes on and on. In Southeastern Michigan, HealthPlus of Michigan is the comprehensive plan with hundreds of independent physicians and specialists, affiliations with dozens of hospitals, as well as participation by about 95% of area pharmacies. Plus, HealthPlus of Michigan continues to grow, adding new affiliations on an on-going basis. That means good health care that's also close to home, and offers:  
• no deductibles  
• no claim forms  
• \$5 copay for office visits  
• \$5 copay for prescriptions  
• emergency coverage world-wide  
• complete hospitalization  
**The Plan That Remembers The Person.**  
**Health Plus of Michigan**  
For Care That's Close To Home  
Choose HealthPlus of Michigan.  
For more information, call (313) 230-2222, or toll free, 1-800-332-9161, today.