

Does Davis County Recycle?

March 5, 2007

Contact: Nathan Rich

(801) 614-5601 Fax: (801) 614-5651

Layton – More than 50 percent of the waste generated in Davis and Morgan Counties during 2006 was recycled and diverted from the landfill. During the Calendar year 2006 District facilities received a total of 273,551 tons of municipal solid waste. Of that waste we recycled the following amounts (2003, 2004, and 2005 numbers are also provided for comparison):

	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
Total Waste	245,284 tons	258,438 tons	258,799 tons	273,551 tons
Waste Landfilled	120,117 tons	125,256 tons	135,059 tons	137,723 tons
Energy Recovery	118,690 tons	124,100 tons	116,252 tons	127,415 tons
Carpet Pads	39 tons	43 tons	42 tons	62 tons
Used Oil	2 tons	14 tons	11 tons	14 tons
Metals	896 tons	834 tons	883 tons	1,222 tons
Tires	151 tons	152 tons	477 tons	97 tons
Green Waste	5,470 tons	8,158 tons	6,486 tons	7,056 tons
Recycling Bins	104 tons	216 tons	270 tons	466 tons
Refrigerators	21 units	256 units	257 units	382 units
Total Recycled	125,350 tons	133,518 tons	124,678 tons	136,332 tons
Landfill Diversion Rate	52 %	52 %	48 %	50 %

Wasatch Integrated Waste Management District is a special service district responsible for disposal of all solid waste generated in Davis and Morgan Counties, with the exception of the City of Bountiful. The District operates an integrated solid waste management system which includes; recycling, composting, waste to energy, and landfill. The Davis Energy Recovery Facility recovers energy from the garbage in the form of heat which is used to generate steam and electricity. The steam is purchased by Hill Air Force Base, thereby reducing consumption of natural gas. The District also operates the Davis Landfill and Davis Green Waste Recycling Facility.

A recently released national survey conducted by BioCycle Magazine titled *The State of Garbage in America* reports the average landfill diversion rate in the Rocky

Mountain region at 10 percent. The State of Utah is currently diverting about 10 percent of their waste from landfills (the Davis Energy Recovery Facility accounts for 5 percent of the entire Utah landfill diversion tonnage). The New England states reported the highest landfill diversion rate of 61 percent with all other regions reporting less than 42 percent of the waste stream being diverted away from a landfill. The State of California currently requires all municipalities to achieve a landfill diversion rate of at least 50 percent.

The integrated approach to solid waste management being used by Wasatch Integrated is an extremely cost efficient method of recycling. Typical curbside recycling programs cost about \$5 per month per household and collect, on average, about 50 pounds per month. The result is a cost of approximately \$200 per ton of recyclables diverted from the landfill. Curbside programs typically result in diversion rates in the range of 10 to 20 percent overall. Waste to energy costs substantially less per ton than curbside recycling, and virtually 100 percent of the waste picked up at Davis and Morgan County residences is recycled. Waste from households is reduced by 90 percent by volume while recovering energy, and ash from the facility is further recycled as daily cover at the landfill.

“I am often asked why we don’t have curbside recycling in Davis and Morgan Counties” said Nathan Rich, Executive Director of Wasatch Energy Systems. “Curbside recycling systems simply can not match the performance and cost effectiveness of the integrated waste management system which we already have in place”. Rich also pointed out the expansion in other recycling programs the District provides. “In the past few years we have added a green waste recycling and composting program, a community based recycling bin program, and most recently a household hazardous waste drop-off facility. We have also recently commissioned a project with Hill Air Force Base which uses waste methane gas being produced at the landfill to produce electricity”.

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What Happens to My Garbage?

March 5, 2007

Contact: Nathan Rich

(801) 614-5601 Fax: (801) 614-5651

Layton – Have you ever wondered, what happens to my garbage? If you are a resident of Davis or Morgan Counties you might be surprised to find out that most of the garbage you generate is recycled by Wasatch Integrated Waste Management District (Wasatch).

Wasatch, which is a Special Service District, operates a fully integrated waste management system consisting of the following components.

The **Davis Energy Recovery Facility** combusts municipal solid waste and uses the heat recovered to generate steam and electricity. The steam is sold to Hill Air Force Base (HAFB) and is used primarily for heating, while the electricity is used to run the facility. Using steam made from garbage keeps HAFB from burning natural gas or fuel oil to heat buildings. The energy recovery facility provides a large green house gas benefit by offsetting fossil fuels (natural gas or fuel oil) consumption through the use of primarily bio fuels (mainly paper, cardboard, and wood). The facility further reduces green house gases by preventing the generation of methane at a landfill. With the installation of state of the art pollution controls in 2001, the facility is one of the cleanest sources of renewable energy and has extremely low emissions of pollution including dioxins as detailed by the EPA.¹ Greenpeace co-founder Patrick Moore recently stated “waste-to-energy and landfill gas recovery can provide new energy sources that offset carbon dioxide emissions resulting from traditional fossil fuel energy sources such as coal and gas.”² The energy recovery facility reduces the volume of garbage going to the landfill by 90% while turning in into a relatively stable ash. Metals are also recovered from the incinerator ash for recycling.

The **Davis Landfill** is a modern sanitary landfill which incorporates a bottom liner and leachate collection system to protect groundwater, landfill gas collection, and modern management techniques. Ash from the energy recovery facility is used as daily cover at the landfill to maximize facility life. Gas being collected at the landfill is

currently being shipped to HAFB where it is used to generate electricity in the first **landfill gas to energy** project completed in the State of Utah. This project currently generates enough electricity to power about 700 homes and is scheduled to be enlarged within the year to handle about 1,400 homes.

The **Green Waste Recycling Facility** diverts green waste (mainly yard trimmings) out of the landfill while generating quality compost and mulch for sale at \$20 and \$5 per yard respectively.

The **Household Hazardous Waste Facility** (HHW) provides a place for residents of the District to properly dispose of potentially hazardous household items. An important component of the HHW facility is the Reuse Shed where usable products are available at no charge. Other items recycled through the HHW facility include used oil, used antifreeze, lead acid batteries, gasoline and fuel, electronic waste, and refrigerant containing units.

The District provides **traditional recycling bins** which accept cardboard, paper, plastic, steel, and glass at the landfill and participating member city locations.

The District has also recently completed improvements at the landfill which allow patrons to access available services, including waste drop off, in one convenient area without leaving a paved surface. Come visit these new **customer service facilities** and let us know how we can better serve you.

In all, the District currently diverts over half of the waste generated in Davis and Morgan Counties away from the landfill. “We feel there are better ways to handle our waste than just putting it in the ground for future generations to deal with” said Nathan Rich, Executive Director of the District.

1. <http://www.wte.org/docs/epaletter.pdf>
2. <http://www.thestar.com/article/185200>

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