



COUNTY OF YOLO

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Yolo County Board Chair to Welcome International Forum on Greener Solid Waste Practices

(Woodland, CA) – Yolo County Board of Supervisors Chair Mariko Yamada will provide opening remarks at the *Greener Solid Waste Practices: Reducing emissions, meeting local energy needs, and stimulating the local economy* forum, to be held in Davis, California, September 17-18, 2007.

This unique workshop, which builds on the first 2006 event in LaGrange, Georgia, is a joint initiative of CIFAL Atlanta (International Training Center for Authorities and Civil Society Leaders), UNITAR (United Nations Institute for Training and Research), and LMOP (United States Environmental Protection Agency Landfill Methane Outreach Program). The forum will explore sustainable solid waste management policy, public-private partnerships, solid waste combustion, landfill gas-to-energy projects, greenhouse gas reductions, and alternative solid waste management practices. The two-day event will bring together approximately one hundred senior-level policy makers, elected officials, and practitioners from the public and private sector, representing major cities within California, China, Latin America, Africa, and the continental United States.

The goal of this year's forum is to assist participating local governments in achieving the U.N. Millennium Development Declaration on environmental sustainability through the implementation of gas-to-energy projects at local landfill sites. Landfill gas-to-energy projects are recognized as one of the single most profitable near-term steps a government can take towards reducing harmful greenhouse gas emissions. Methane, which is over 20 times more potent than carbon dioxide, can be converted into electricity or heat to replace traditional, higher-polluting, energy sources. Energy from landfill gas is a renewable resource that can be sold at a stable, lower price to energy sector purchasers. A portion of the forum will include a tour of Yolo County's innovative central landfill.

Yolo County has been a leader in the research and development of alternative solid waste management practices for many years. The landfill began producing energy from landfill gas in 1985. In 2000, under the U.S. EPA's Excellence and Leadership Project, it became the first landfill in California, and the second in the nation, to implement full-scale bioreactor technology by pumping liquid into the landfill to accelerate waste decomposition and landfill gas production, increase electricity generation, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and extend the life of the landfill.

Yolo County is also leading the way to green energy and cleaner composting through a recent grant from the California Integrated Waste Management Board. The landfill constructed a pilot project to demonstrate a new technology as part of a solution to California's organic waste materials recycling capacity. The large scale landfill-based anaerobic digester will use clean source-separated organic

material to generate green electricity, reduce composting emissions, and produce compost at a market-competitive price.

“We are pleased Yolo County has been chosen to host this important international forum on greener solid waste practices,” said Yolo County Board of Supervisors Chair Mariko Yamada. “It is very exciting to know a small, rural local government, like Yolo County, can lead industry and other local governments in addressing waste management issues, and the energy crisis, in a sustainable way.”

For additional information on the *Greener Solid Waste Practices* forum, visit: <http://www.cifalatlanta.org/workshops/sustainability/landfills2007/landfills%20index.html>.

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