



April 14, 2010

Letters to the Editor
The New York Times
620 Eighth Avenue
New York, NY 10018

Dear Editor:

I would like to commend Elisabeth Rosenthal for the breadth of research she conducted in preparing the article entitled, "Europe Finds Clean Energy in Trash; U.S Lags Behind." The detail with which she investigated the merits of waste-to-energy provided readers with an accurate portrayal of trash as a clean energy source, whose full potential has yet to be tapped. One item in her article with which I would take issue is the assertion that there are no new waste-to-energy facilities being planned or constructed in the United States. On the contrary, the US has seen a resurgence of interest in waste-to-energy and new capacity has been planned and constructed.

New capacity in the form of expansions of existing facilities has been constructed in the last three years in Lee County (FL), Hillsborough County (FL), and Olmsted County (MN). These facilities undertook major construction projects to add new capacity by more than fifty percent each to accommodate new demand. The expansion of these facilities validates the original decisions to utilize waste-to-energy and serves a testament to the value these facilities can bring to a community. Other expansions are in process in Honolulu (HI), Hempstead (NY), Pope-Douglas (MN), and Perham (MN) and are being considered in other locations.

New facilities are also on the drawing board in order to achieve the benefits offered by waste-to-energy in managing trash responsibly and generating much needed renewable energy. As with any major capital investment in energy producing facilities, the process is long and arduous, but they are certainly underway with respect to waste-to-energy. Facilities have been proposed and are moving forward in Palm Beach County, Florida and multiple locations in Maryland. Other facilities are being actively considered in many parts of the country, including Los Angeles County (CA), Chester County (SC), and others.

While these facilities will take time to wind their way through the necessary processes, it is clear that waste-to-energy is on the rise in the United States and we will begin to close the gap to our European counterparts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ted Michaels". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and "M".

Ted Michaels
President