

WASTE-TO-ENERGY

★ **GOLD...** The 2007 *Waste-to-Energy Gold Excellence Award* recipient is **STANISLAUS RESOURCE RECOVERY FACILITY, California**

In the 1980's, environmental concerns and the political realities of expanding or siting new landfills caused local officials of the City of Modesto and County of Stanislaus (Contracting Communities) to look at new approaches for waste handling. Waste-to-Energy was selected as the alternative with the greatest potential for successful development in Stanislaus County, which is located in north central California.

The Stanislaus Resource Recovery Facility began operations in 1989 after obtaining the required operating and air permits. Today, after 18 years of operations, the Facility continues to dispose waste, recover metals, and generate electricity in an efficient, cost effective and environmentally responsible manner. It is a major component of the Contracting Communities' solid waste disposal system, and a sound alternative to landfilling one hundred percent of the waste. The Facility also provides a very good supplemental waste program for assured destruction services.

The Facility's processing of over 5 million tons of waste and generation of over 2.5 million megawatts of electricity since beginning operations, while maintaining an excellent safety and environmental compliance record, is remarkable. It is a well-designed facility in a very good state of repair and condition. The Facility was awarded membership in CalOSHA's Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) and USEPA's National Environmental Performance Track Program (NEPT). The debt financing structure of the Facility, which it has benefited enormously from, is unique in the sense that it utilizes a variable interest rate as opposed to a fixed rate.

★ **SILVER...** The 2007 *Waste-to-Energy Silver Excellence Award* recipient is **COVANTA ONONDAGA, Onondaga County Resource Recovery Facility, New York**

The Onondaga County Resource Recovery Facility (OCRRF) is a state of the art, Martin Gmbh design, waste-to-energy facility consisting of three 330-ton processing trains. Covanta Onondaga L.P. operates and leases the OCRRF from Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency (OCRRA). The lease expires in 2015 at which time Covanta has the option to purchase the facility. The facility is located due south of Syracuse on a 12-acre site in Jamesville, New York. The facility Co-permittees are Covanta Onondaga, L.P. and OCRRA. OCRRA manages the comprehensive, integrated solid waste program for Onondaga County.

The original emissions levels established in the 1994 NYS Certificate to Operate were among the most stringent and the most comprehensive in the United States for waste-to-energy facilities. Strict requirements carried over to the 2003 Title V Permit and Solid Waste permit. Even with these constraints Covanta Onondaga has been able to maintain an excellent environmental compliance record with Federal and State permit conditions.

In addition to outstanding compliance, Covanta Onondaga prides itself in its' proactive tact. As the facility operator, Covanta has teamed up with OSHA and EPA. In 2006 Covanta achieved both OSHA Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) Star Status and obtained EPA National Environmental Performance Track (NEPT) endorsement. Covanta has eliminated the last manifested waste stream by switching to a non-hazardous parts washer solvent.

The facility was designed to minimize all aspects of impact on the environment. The entire facility is landscaped to blend in with local topography. The large boiler building is terraced to diminish the impact of its' size. An air-cooled condenser is used instead of a steam-plume emanating water-cooled condenser. The facility operates at zero-discharge with respect to industrial wastewater. Storm water runoff is routed to the on-site retention pond.