

**Docket Optical System - 02-REN-1038 RP3 Grant**

**From:** Tim Goncharoff <dpw131@co.santa-cruz.ca.us>  
**To:** "'docket@energy.state.ca.us'" <docket@energy.state.ca.us>  
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**CC:** "'sneidich@energy.state.ca.us'" <sneidich@energy.state.ca.us>

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The proposed grants are a wonderful idea and potentially a very useful tool.

Currently we are being approached by numerous waste-to-energy companies with proposals for using various technologies to turn municipal solid waste into energy. It is very difficult to evaluate these.

There are a few things the department could do to help.

- Provide an independent evaluation of the various technologies, to save local governments from doing this analysis over and over on their own. An important element would be the influence of current tax and other incentives, as often the fiscal analysis is dependent on short-term subsidies which may not last.
- Provide a model "Request for Proposals (RFP)" which local governments can issue to interested companies.
- Provide a list of companies engaged in this business, along with some background. Upon investigation some of these turn out to be new start-ups with little expertise or track record.
- Provide grants for consulting on conversion technology projects. Every operation is different, and different approaches will work best in different areas with different waste streams. Few local governments have the expertise to evaluate these factors on their own, and the variables are too many for the department to address in a general way. There are excellent consulting firms with expertise in this field, but strapped local governments often can't afford their services. Grants for this purpose would help overcome a major hurdle.

Thank you, and good luck.

Tim Goncharoff  
 Division of Recycling and Solid Waste  
 Department of Public Works  
 County of Santa Cruz, CA  
 (831) 454-2970 office  
 (831) 331-7878 cell