

December 7, 2011

Council moves to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at landfill

Gladstone Regional Council will implement a new system halving Council's greenhouse gas emissions at Benaraby Landfill, the first of its kind in the region.

Council, at its December 6 general meeting, awarded a 30 year contract to Landfill Gas Industries Pty Ltd, to install and manage a landfill gas extraction system, a flaring system and an electricity grid connection and generation system.

Environment and Regulation portfolio spokesperson Councillor Col Chapman said Council had discussed landfill gas management options in the past and were keen to move forward with a management system.

The system reduces greenhouse gas emissions from the landfill by collecting the methane gas through a network of pipes.

Methane gas is then piped to a flare to be burnt by combustion, converting the methane to carbon dioxide and, as a result, reduces the overall impact caused by landfill gas.

"Progressing with this system will reduce more than 50 per cent of Council's greenhouse gas emissions while generating an income from the sale of Council owned credit under the carbon farming initiative," Cr Chapman said.

"The landfill at Benaraby is Council's largest source of greenhouse gas emissions, mainly due to the methane emissions produced from the breakdown of buried waste."

Landfill gas is produced when organic waste, such as food scraps and garden waste, break down.

The gas consists of methane, carbon dioxide and a range of compounds including some odorous gases like hydrogen sulphide.

Cr Chapman said the first stage of the process would involve quantifying the amount and quality of the gas being emitted from the landfill before it could be captured, measured and burned.

"These results will determine the viability of running a generator for producing electricity that can be fed back into the grid," he said.

(-MORE-)

media release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

"Council has positioned itself well given its proactive approach to sustainability and cleaner production and this move to gas management system is a win for Council, both environmentally and financially."

Cr Chapman also noted that, while federal government legislation was not finalised, all landfills would be subject to carbon tax and that the introduction of this system would minimise Council's tax liability while seeing a return from carbon farming initiatives in its first year of operation.

(-ENDS-)

MEDIA INFORMATION: For further information contact Council's Community Relations Section on 4976 6911.

Gladstone Regional Council
PO Box 29 Gladstone Q 4680 | Email: info@gladstonerc.qld.gov.au
Ph: 4970 0700 | Fax: 4975 8500