



Media Release

SAEWA to move forward with energy from waste facility siting process

February 12, 2019

The Southern Alberta Energy from Waste Association (SAEWA) today announced that it will proceed with a formal siting process as part of its efforts to develop a clean energy from waste (EFW) facility in southern Alberta.

A \$400,000 grant from the Alberta Government Community Partnership Funding Program will allow SAEWA to move forward with a formal site evaluation process begun in 2014. As part of the siting process, SAEWA received expressions of interest from a number of southern Alberta municipalities.

This funding announcement provides the necessary resources to conduct the in-depth assessments necessary to identify a list of potential sites suitable for an EFW facility, and the second is to short list candidate sites based on advanced criteria including:

- Economic;
- Legal;
- Public Health and Safety;
- Environment;
- Social, Cultural and Community; and
- Technical.

“We are very pleased with the support from Alberta Municipal Affairs” said SAEWA Chair and Wheatland County Councillor, Ben Armstrong. “Not only does this project have the potential to provide a long-term alternative to landfills, it can also reduce our members’ greenhouse gas emissions by more than seven million tonnes over the life of the project or 236,000 tonnes per year. Some of our members’ garbage trucks travel 800 kilometers just to put waste into a landfill and we believe that a well sited EFW can cut that in half.”

“We are excited to move forward to identify an appropriate site for the energy from waste facility. Our process to date has resulted in 6 southern Alberta municipalities expressing interest in hosting an EFW facility” stated Paul Ryan, SAEWA Vice

Chair/Project Lead and Councillor for the MD of Bighorn. “I look forward to meeting with the municipal councils of the prospective locations to help them understand the siting process and other requirements. In the right location, an energy from waste facility will not only produce district energy, but can also provide the necessary infrastructure for enhanced recycling of plastic and paper products whose traditional markets have collapsed.”

Dene Cooper, Reeve, MD of Bighorn commented “this is a great project and we look forward to seeing it advance with a proven technology that can benefit all of our members. I would like to thank the Town of Canmore for its letter of support for our grant application as well as the Bow Valley Waste Management Commission for having the vision to see the value of energy from waste as an important tool in our efforts to more sustainably and efficiently manage municipal waste.”

About SAEWA

The Southern Alberta Energy from Waste Association (SAEWA) is a non-profit coalition of municipal entities and waste management jurisdictions in southern Alberta committed to the research and implementation of energy recovery from non-recyclable waste materials that will reduce long-term reliance on landfills. Established in 2009, SAEWA is seeking to foster sustainable waste management practices that contribute to our society’s overall resource efficiency and environmental responsibility. SAEWA is in the final planning stages to develop an energy-from-waste facility that will handle the conversion of municipal and other sources of solid waste into energy.

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