

## County open to new waste technologies

Fri Apr 18, 2008

By Jeanne Beneteau

NORTHUMBERLAND - Northumberland County is open-minded to any technology available that will help manage waste in the future, said its director of transportation and waste.

Director Angelos Bacopoulos said he has worked in solid waste for 26 years and is familiar with plasma technology. At the Tuesday, April 15, Port Hope committee of the whole meeting, Sunbay Energy Corporation representatives unveiled plans for an energy-from-waste plasma gasification power plant on a 23-acre site west of Wesleyville Road, south of Hwy. 401.

Mr. Bacopoulos previously served as project manager for a joint **Durham Region/York Region** examination of different technologies available to handle municipal waste. At that time, he said the project went out for proposal and plasma arc was not included in the five short-listed technologies.

Although plasma technology is used in applications around the world, there are no large-scale facilities that have operated for a prolonged period of time using municipal solid waste as feedstock, he explained.

There are, however, facilities that handle homogeneous waste such as incinerator ash, asbestos, corn husks or olive pits, he added. In addition, there are demonstration facilities around the world, including a PlascoEnergy facility in Ottawa, that deal with municipal solid waste.

According to the PlascoEnergy website, the company partnered with the City of Ottawa in 2006 to build a commercial-scale evaluation and demonstration municipal solid waste conversion facility at the city's Trail Road Landfill site.

Construction was completed last June and the first processing of surrogate waste began in July. The plant has a capacity to covert 100 tonnes of solid waste per day and is licenced to process 85 tonnes. At the licenced rate, the plant can feed four megawatts of electricity into the Ontario energy grid, enough to power 3,600 homes. In January, the Plasco Trail Road Demonstration Plant received its first load of municipal solid waste from City of Ottawa trucks, approximately 20 tonnes of garbage. The plant is currently ramping up towards 24/7 operations.

As long as a technology meets three criteria - is environmentally-acceptable, economically-feasible and is a proven technology - the county is willing to listen, noted the transportation and waste director.

"Especially one in our own backyard... we are very interested, will try to work with them and monitor their progress," Mr. Bacopoulos concluded.