



Environmental Research & Education Foundation

Lighting a path to sustainable waste management practices

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Hi-res photos available upon request

EREF Holds Second Regional Summit in North Carolina with Focus on Landfill Gas to Energy

Raleigh, NC — The Environmental Research and Education Foundation (EREF) held a Regional Summit on Sustainable Solid Waste Practices & Research on September 7 - 8, 2011 in Raleigh, North Carolina. The Regional Summit featured a special Landfill Gas to Energy session and tour.



There were 126 attendees, which exceeded initial estimates. Attendees came from 14 states and multiple areas within the industry, with 21% of attendees from municipalities and regulatory agencies, 22% from industry, 25% consultants and the remaining from academia. The first day of the Raleigh Regional Summit included presentations providing an overview of research and trends advancing sustainable solid waste management. The second day featured a special session on landfill gas to energy, which highlighted the intersection of research and practice on utilizing landfill gas for beneficial use and included perspectives from industry, academia, consultants and regulatory agencies.

“The EREF Regional Summit provided timely information on current sponsored research,” said attendee Dr. Sam Vigil of California Polytechnic State University. “The size of the Summit allowed for useful networking with other attendees.”

On the second day registrants were treated to a tour of the Black Creek Renewable Energy Facility in Roseboro, North Carolina. Waste Industries, Gregory Poole Equipment Company and Progress Energy teamed up with SCS Energy to build this power plant using landfill gas to generate electricity. Phase 1 of the project included four engines generating 1.6 Mega Watts of power each. As the gas curve increases, six additional engines will be added. Each engine produces sufficient power for 1,000 homes.

“This is very informative and leading edge work for the waste industry,” said Ray Hoffman, an Engineer with Republic Services. “As these projects prepare to move from the lab to the field, it is important for the industry to be able to communicate the benefits and to offer up sites for participation.”



“The Regional Summits were developed as part of an effort to expand EREF’s educational mission,” explains Bryan Staley, EREF President and Chief Executive Officer. “We are working hard to broaden the educational reach to the industry and disseminate the wealth of information developed by the foundation.”

Suitable for executives, managers, technical personnel, regulators and consultants, EREF’s Regional Summits present key solid waste research findings and highlight impacts on practice as well as provide updates on legislative activities/policy as they relate to needed research.

EREF is a 501(c)3 class charity that funds and directs scientific research and educational initiatives for waste management practices to benefit industry participants and the communities they serve. For more complete information on EREF funded research, its scholarship program and how to donate to this great cause, visit www.erefdn.org.