



ENERGY VISION 138 EAST 13TH STREET NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10003

For Immediate Release
April 17, 2009

Contact: Marsha Gordon, LCG Communications:
718.853.5568; marshag@lcgcommunications.com

NYC to Energy Vision: “Let’s Explore Converting Waste into Transportation Fuel Together;” Why Waste Our Waste?

New York, New York: NYC’s garbage offers something much more valuable than bad smells, according to new research by Energy Vision.

“One word - biogas,” said Joanna Underwood, Energy Vision’s President. “What happens, over time, is that the residential garbage in our landfills actually produces gases that can be refined into biomethane, a renewable form of natural gas. Our preliminary research, led by Dr. Gail Richardson, Energy Vision’s Vice President for Programs, shows that this gas could be used to fuel the City’s entire fleet of **garbage trucks, more than 2400 of them, plus many other vehicle fleets**. It could move the City down the path of sustainable, renewable energy.”

“NYC already spends over \$325 million to haul away more than 3 million tons of household garbage a year to distant landfills. The City could be tapping into these ‘gas fields’ to make fuel for City fleets and might save millions of dollars in lower fuel bills. Looks like a potential win-win to us,” added Ms. Underwood.

New York City’s Department of Sanitation Commissioner John Doherty agrees that the findings are impressive, and says that his department will work with Energy Vision on this important issue. “DSNY looks forward to working with Energy Vision to explore opportunities for converting the City’s organic waste into transportation fuel for public and private fleets. If this strategy is found to make economic and environmental sense, it could contribute to the City’s long-term sustainability and energy independence,” said NYC Sanitation Commissioner Doherty.

Energy Vision, a national non-profit organization that analyzes and promotes technologies and policies to make a swift transition to pollution-free renewal energy sources, found that biogas from NYC’s residential garbage could produce tens of millions of gallons of biomethane vehicle fuel annually, not only during the lifespans of the landfills in which it is buried, but for years after their closure. This fuel – a much cleaner, less polluting fuel – could be used to replace dirtier diesel fuel.

-more-

“In addition to saving the City money and putting us on the road to renewable, petroleum-free fuels, greenhouse gas emissions would be slashed and thousands of tons of health-threatening pollutants would be eliminated each year. New York suffers one of the highest childhood asthma rates in the nation and a shift to biomethane fuel in the refuse fleet and other heavy duty vehicles would help mitigate those terrible consequences,” said Dr. Richardson.

“The cleaned-up biogas from landfills can be pumped through the same pipelines, dispensed at the same fueling stations, and burned in the same truck engines that are already on the market to support the growing use of natural gas in heavy duty truck and bus fleets in New York City and elsewhere in the US and Europe,” added Richardson. “No scientific breakthroughs are required. Nothing new needs be invented to take advantage of this very green fuel, which is already on the market in a number of European cities.”

“We are looking forward to exploring this exciting fuel option with the NYC Department of Sanitation. We hope that it will enable the City to expand its leadership role in the quest to use more secure, clean and cost effective alternative transportation fuels,” added Ms. Underwood.

Read more about Energy Vision’s biogas to biomethane research here:
<http://www.tinyurl.com/dcmbxr>

-30-

Visit Energy Vision on the web: www.energy-vision.org