



LAURENTIAN 2005 ANNUAL REPORT

LAURENTIAN RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (RC&D)

RECAP RENEWABLE ENERGY CLEAN AIR PROJECT

INTERNATIONAL FALLS
MINNESOTA

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Lenore Johnson, Vice President
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Steve O'Neil
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Bill Vogel
Gerald Wick

A letter of intent for the International Falls Renewable Energy Clean Air Project (RECAP) was signed on September 6, 2005 at the Koochiching County Board Meeting in International Falls, Minnesota. The letter of intent allows Koochiching County to proceed with studies to determine the viability of a plasma gasification facility to process municipal solid waste and other local residues.

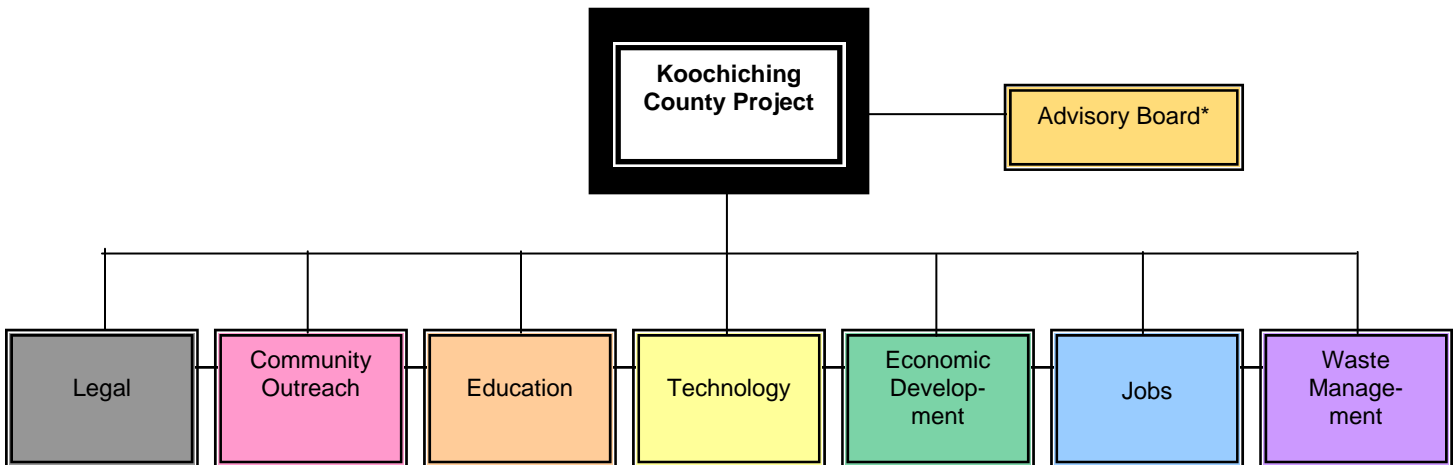
This northern Minnesota project recognizes the importance of finding solutions to the municipal waste problem affecting rural communities. RECAP focuses on an innovative partnership to create a working model of a renewable, sustainable development. A combined heat and power facility powered by plasma gasification is the mainstay of the project. This system has the potential to provide the electricity, heat, steam, and hot water to create several value added products.

The vision of sustainability is derived from the concept of producing raw materials locally, converting them to manufactured products, and keeping the money generated from sales within the local area and economy

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Laurentian Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Council, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation serving northeastern Minnesota. The RC&D Council is sponsored by the Board of County Commissioners and Soil & Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) in the five north-eastern counties of Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, St. Louis, and the Grand Portage Reservation Tribal Council.

Laurentian Project Highlights



RECAP—Renewable Energy Clean Air Project

Continued from front page

Providing the plasma gasification solution with biomass from local wood waste streams and other locally grown and harvested biomass, as well as municipal solid waste sources, drives this concept. Existing natural forest stands are not part of feedstock supply for this project.

Program evaluation participants for this project are: Koochiching County, Laurentian RC&D, Distributed Generation Solutions, Korridor Capital, Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College, Cloquet, Rainy River Community College, International Falls, University of MN Extension Service, University of Minnesota Duluth, MN Department of Natural Resources-Forestry Division, Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA Forest Service, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Minnesota Power, St. Louis County Solid Waste Department, US Environmental Protection Agency, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, US Department of Energy, Minnesota Agroforestry Cooperative, and Onanegozie and WESMIN RC&D Councils.

What is RC&D?

Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D), is a program that works with local community members to identify and solve human, economic, and environmental needs in their communities. An RC&D can work on many types of rural development. Examples may include: creating a park, renovating a community facility or tourist attraction, promoting an industry, or cleaning up a waterway. Many types of economic and natural resource development opportunities exist and are being promoted throughout Minnesota via the RC&D program. Once a need is identified, RC&D works as a consultant to provide assistance to local community members. The type of assistance depends on the type of project and may include technical or planning development, informational and educational activities, grant writing, and/or administrative support.

RC&D's partner with the private sector, corporations, foundations, and all levels of government to secure assistance for projects. Each RC&D Council is sponsored locally and voluntarily in each county by the Board of Commissioners and the Soil & Water Conservation Districts (SWCD). Other sponsors may include Indian Tribal Councils, cities, towns, townships, civic organizations, or economic development organizations.

Laurentian receives support from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Project funding must be found through grant writing, fundraising, fees, and other means consistent with the goals of the Council and 501(c)(3) laws.

For information on possible projects in your area, contact your county's 2006 RC&D Council members or the Laurentian office.

Cook County

Jim Johnson, County Commissioner
James Hall, SWCD

Itasca County

Catherine McLynn, County Commissioner
Darrell Lauber, SWCD
Don Simons, SWCD (alternate)
Ted Lovdahl, At-Large Member

Koochiching County

Kevin Adee, County Commissioner
Marty Nosie, SWCD

Lake County

Lenore Johnson, County Commissioner
Phillip Goutermont, SWCD

St. Louis County

Steve O'Neil, County Commissioner
Peggy Pearson, SWCD (North)
Albert Moline, SWCD (South)
Gerald Wick, At-Large Member

Grand Portage Reservation

Norman Deschampe
Bill Vogel (alternate)

The Laurentian Resource Conservation & Development staff is Steven Kluess, RC&D Coordinator, and Jodi Joki, Program Assistant, 4850 Miller Trunk Highway, Suite 2A, Duluth, MN 55811. Telephone: (218) 720-5225.

Visit our website at: www.lrcd.org

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Laurentian RC&D

4850 Miller Trunk Highway
Suite 2A
Duluth, MN 55811

Dry Hydrant Surveys

Over one hundred surveys were sent to volunteer fire departments in the Laurentian RC&D area. Returned surveys expressed interest in acquiring dry hydrants and the number of hydrants. Results from this mailing will be compiled and reported on in 2006.

Light on the Land Demonstration



Laurentian R&D assisted in hosting a two day Light on the Land demonstration in St. Louis County on September 9-10, 2005. This demonstration highlighted horse loggers, mini-skidders, ATVs and various forestry equipment. The demonstration site was in Orr, Minnesota.

Small-scale logging is a system, and a range of equipment that increases logging flexibility, and extends production seasons. Small-scale logging equipment is designed for thinning operations, where maneuverability is a primary concern. It is not logging small trees and/or small volumes. Demonstrations also took place at the Cloquet Forestry Center, Wabasha and Crow Wing Counties.

2006 Election of Officers

Council elections were held during the January 2006 Annual Meeting. Laurentian RC&D Officers for 2006 are:

Kevin Adee - President
Lenore Johnson - Vice President
Albert Moline - Treasurer
Phillip Goutermont - Secretary

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Laurentian RC&D 2005 Plan of Work

GOAL 1: LAND CONSERVATION

Obj. A. Promote Forestry Best Management Practices (BMPs) by assisting forestry groups to achieve their goals.

GOAL 2: LAND MANAGEMENT

Obj. A. Promote the Agro-Forestry Council through the St. Louis River Watershed projects and other programs.

GOAL 3: WATER MANAGEMENT

Obj. A. Promote watershed Best Management Practices by assisting watershed groups to achieve their goals.

GOAL 4: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Obj. A. Educate the public regarding sewage treatment issues in Laurentian's area.

Obj. B. Assist community groups/individuals to create and develop economic opportunities.

Obj. C. Promote the RC&D program throughout Laurentian's five county areas.

2006 Council Meetings

January 23, 2006
March 27, 2006
May 22, 2006
July 24, 2006
September 25, 2006
November 27, 2006