

**Incineration is more expensive than landfilling for DC, even though landfills are further away, yet DPW has been choosing incineration, and would not even let landfills bid this time.**

**DPW Director William Howland, answering questions from Transportation and Environment Committee Chair, Mary Cheh, in hearing on 9/28/2012:**

Howland: “We made the decision I think 2 years ago, 3 years ago, that -- we were taking our trash to the landfill, then – that’s a policy decision, the department, we signed a long-term contract with Fairfax County to convert it from waste to energy. One of the interesting things about that is that the last two trash hauling contracts that we entered into, we asked each vendor to give us a proposal on whether to send the – what would the cost be to send it to landfill? What would be the cost to send it to Fairfax? **We negotiated the price with Fairfax and you just needed to give us the hauling costs from DC to Fairfax. There were 9 vendors in 2004 that bid, and 5 vendors that bid in 2009. All 14 bids, it was cheaper to take it to a landfill,** which typically was as far away as Richmond, than it was to take it to Fairfax County. But we thought, environmentally, it was better to take it to Fairfax County and convert it to energy, than it was to landfill it.”

Source: Friday, September 28, 2012 Public Hearing: “Env, Public Works & Transp: Recycling and Waste Disposal in the District of Columbia,”  
<http://dccouncil.us/events/env-public-works-transp-recycling-and-waste-disposal-in-the-district-of-col>

Video:  
[http://dccarchive.oct.dc.gov/services/on\\_demand\\_video/channel13/September2012/09\\_28\\_12\\_PUBWKS.aspx](http://dccarchive.oct.dc.gov/services/on_demand_video/channel13/September2012/09_28_12_PUBWKS.aspx) at 3:30.

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-----Original Message-----

From: Thomas, Chimeka (EOM)  
Sent: Wednesday, February 04, 2009 10:10 AM  
To: Howland, William (DPW)  
Subject: RE: Waste To Energy proposal

The company that has approached our office wants a private waste to energy facility. They want the District to deliver waste to them and they will manage the waste to energy process and sell the end product. I would love for you to meet with them (and would be happy to join, of course). You clearly have greater expertise than I do about both this technology, what's being done in the region, and what's been proposed to the District in the past.

Chimeka Thomas

Chimeka Thomas  
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-----Original Message-----

From: Howland, William (DPW)  
Sent: Tuesday, February 03, 2009 8:00 PM  
To: Thomas, Chimeka (EOM)  
Subject: RE: Waste To Energy proposal

Chimeka

Not exactly. I am sure the distance is a factor in determining the cost.

Five years ago, DPW issued a solicitation for waste disposal. In the solicitation DPW asked for the vendors for pricing on two different scenarios. We asked them to give us a price for disposal if the vendors disposed of the trash at any facility of their choosing.

We also asked for a price to transport it to Fairfax County to their waste to energy facility. The price for disposal was fixed at the same cost for all of the vendors so the only thing we needed to know is what the transport cost would be to Fairfax.

We had three bidders and **all three companies bid a lower cost to haul the trash to a landfill** much further away than it would be to haul it to Fairfax with a set disposal fee.

I doubt seriously that any waste to energy facility can get the cost significantly below \$40 per ton. I realize the Fairfax County facility is nearly 20 years old and the technology has probably radically evolved.

I am still very much interested in discussing this option. I think it is environmentally a better option for the District. I am just not sure that it is a cheaper option. I think we will have achieved something if we can find an option that is price competitive.

Thanks

Bill

William O. Howland, Jr.