California city and local waste hauler propose biomass facility

Napa officials and Napa Recycling and Waste Services say the facility would generate 15,000 megawatt-hours per year.

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CDR Staff

Napa, California, city council and the city's waste hauler, Napa Recycling and Waste Services, have proposed two biomass facilities that diverts wood waste from landfill, a report from the *Napa Valley Register* says. The pair of plants will use gasification to generate power from the wood waste.

The biomass plant would be located at the Napa Materials Diversion Facility and city officials say it will create 2 megawatts of electricity that Napa Waste and Recycling can sell to the Pacific Gas and Electric Co. (PG&E).

According to the report, the proposal would extend the relationship between the city and Napa Recycling until 2031. The two plants, each with a 1-megawatt capacity, would cost $12.6 million to build and would generate around 15,000 megawatt-hours per year. The report says the plants will generate electricity for 2,200 households.

Ten percent of the power would be used by Napa Waste and Recycling and the rest would be sold to PG&E to glow into the grid. Selling the electricity to PG&E would create $1.75 million in extra revenue for Napa Waste and Recycling, the report says.

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The city's public works department said the biomass plant would turn a $5.1 million profit over its first 20 years, the report says. The city's base payment to Napa Waste and Recycling would increase from $10.6 million to $15.6 million in 2019. With revenue from power and biochar sales, and savings from not having to haul the wood waste out of the area, the net cost increase would be limited to $1.8 million.

If passed, the city projected a 9.5 percent increase to residential rates in the proposal, spread over two years. Other terms in the proposal include converting the truck fleets from diesel to compressed natural gas and improving sorting equipment to recover 5,000 more tons of material per year by 2020.