



Media Release: Landfill Buildings to be Rebuilt

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It's been almost a year since the administration building and the scale house at the Francis Cooke Regional Landfill were burnt to the ground during a break and enter. This week the Bow Valley Regional Waste Commission will be applying to the MD of Bighorn for the necessary permits to build a new combined administration building. *"The old buildings were sitting on millions of dollars of useable landfill space" says Board Chairman Paul Ryan, "and once the Board became aware, we unanimously supported looking for a new location within our boundaries. We may have a lot of land but not a lot of places where we could rebuild. A lot of engineering was necessary to find and prepare the best location."*

"We are also very excited about being able to reduce our carbon footprint with a 25Kw solar panel array and a 20kw biomass waste to energy generator" says Board Chair Ryan. "It made sense to install the solar panels as part of the new construction due to the savings realised over installing them later. The additional cost is about \$60k with a 12 year return on investment. We have also been looking at biomass technology in the past few years and plan to install the demonstration unit in the spring"



The solar panels are rated to -40c and the roof is designed to accommodate the panels and ensure the maximum exposure angle is achieved.

The 2400 square foot building will be equipped with hydronic heating that will be supported with a small scale biomass gasifier/pyrolysis unit to supplement the in slab heat and will also generate 20Kw of electricity to help power the building during the day. The unit will be powered by clean wood waste that is tipped at the landfill. The building will also have upgraded (and recycled) triple pane windows and upgraded insulation.

CAO Andrew Calder noted, *"If the Commission can demonstrate that this technology (biomass) can be practically used to recycle wood waste in Alberta, then we hope that it may lead to other landfills across Alberta adopting similar technology. While this is a small scale (expected to consume around 60 T of clean wood waste per year) technology, if the project is successful we may consider scaling up the project to a larger 150 kW system based on the same technology. This would allow us to consume more of the wood waste produced on site and create more electricity"*

The Project Management contract was awarded to Lawson Projects from Calgary and the Design/Build contract was awarded to SBL Contractors from Rockyview County.

"Lawson and SBL have a great deal of experience working locally and in the Rocky Mountains" stated Board Chair Ryan, "and we look forward to working with them."

"It's not as straightforward a project as it first appears." says CAO Calder, "This is a remote location with no municipal services so we have to build in our own water and wastewater infrastructure, move our electrical services and widen the road."

The Board established a Steering Committee very early to guide the process and make decisions in a timely fashion. It is comprised of Director and Committee Chair Stavros Karlos (Banff), Director Ed Russell (Canmore) and Board Chair Paul Ryan (MD Bighorn) as members.

"The building itself is around \$425k" says Board Chair Ryan, "and we expect to see another \$200k+ in infrastructure costs related to choosing a different site, so we will be going back to the Board for a budget adjustment. If you consider that we will be recovering about \$3M in landfill airspace and an insurance settlement of \$325k, I think we are definitely doing the right thing."

"I am very pleased with the support that the Board has given administration throughout this process", stated Ryan, "they have been working out of rented trailers for the past 11 months and we hope to have them in new digs by the end of the year"

The old buildings were an Atco jobsite trailer and a mobile home. The buildings suffered repeated break and enters before being burnt to the ground in the B&E of November 2015. Shortly after the temporary trailers were placed there was another B&E.

"We look forward to our new and improved building" says Calder, "it will be a more pleasant and functional space for staff and clients to use. Having staff in one building is more efficient and our clients will appreciate being shielded from the wind when conducting business thanks to the new design. With toughened exterior features and a video monitored alarm system this will be a much more secure building, and with solar and biomass energy incorporated it will also be a showcase for some pretty neat sustainable technologies."