

NEWS December 2005

RECYCLING ON THE RARITAN: BAYSHORE RECYCLING CORPORATION SEEKS ALTERNATIVE ENERGY OPTIONS

Where the Raritan River empties into the Raritan Bay in Keasbey, New Jersey, [Bayshore Recycling Corporation](#), along with ESMI of New Jersey, is taking steps towards being one of the most sustainable recycling facilities in the country. But isn't sustainable recycling a bit redundant? True, generating usable materials from society's discards certainly reduces waste. But using fossil fuels to do so makes recycling reliant on non-renewable energy resources and ties recycling to the environmental impacts associated with fossil fuel combustion.

Bayshore President Valerie Montecalvo has long been a strong advocate for environmental stewardship and is continually seeking new ways to turn wastes into resources. It was these environmental convictions that initially led her to evaluate "clean" energy options for her facility. When she realized that the company's energy bills were going to climb north of seven figures once they brought two new recycling processes on-line, she knew clean energy was more than just a moral choice – it was an economic one, and critical to the success of her growing business. The price of oil and gas are rising, and as long as Bayshore relies on the grid and its local gas company to supply its energy needs, they may be vulnerable to growing energy bills and sudden price spikes. Diversifying energy sources to include clean energy generated on-site greatly benefits the bottom line by reducing energy price risk.

The opportunity to decrease costs complements Bayshore's commitment to creating a cleaner environment. Montecalvo is positioning her company to be a leader in recycling petroleum-contaminated soil. "Why am I burning petroleum products to clean up damage done by petroleum products?" Montecalvo asks. She reasons that clean energy options are necessary for making Bayshore's operations consistent with the services that they provide as a recycler.

Having recently consulted with BlueWave Strategies to help permit the first low temperature thermal desorption soil treatment facility in New Jersey, Bayshore then turned to BlueWave to assess the feasibility of running all, or at least a portion of, Bayshore's recycling operations on clean energy. BlueWave worked with Bayshore to demonstrate that a number of clean energy options may make sense for the facility, including solar photovoltaics, on-site combined heat and power, and heat generation from recycled materials with high heat values. In addition, BlueWave demonstrated that aggressive incentives from the New Jersey Clean Energy Program and financing options offered by both equipment suppliers and boutique energy project developers can help Bayshore realize the benefits of clean energy without large capital expenditures.

Bayshore continues to weigh its energy options as it pursues expansion to include an adjacent industrial site and a new process to treat contaminated dredge spoils. With a better understanding of options for clean energy at Bayshore, Montecalvo knows that displacing fossil fuel use is an integral part of improving her company's performance and long-term sustainability.