



Groundbreaking ceremony for Cherokee dPEF project

November 2, 2006

Cherokee, Iowa -- Wednesday Cherokee County Solid Waste facility held a groundbreaking to hail construction of a \$3 million dollar project using garbage from three counties to create a heat source. The heat source will be used by Soy Biodiesel, a \$45 million renewable production facility, cutting its energy costs by 50 percent, making a savings of over \$1 million annually.

The Cherokee landfill will be saving around \$520,000 extending the life of a new cell up to four times the length, as well as bring in up to \$220,000 annually selling the pellets. Cherokee Mental Health Institute will also see savings in the burning of the pellets, using them to heat the facility and provide steam for their laundry operations.

"I believe as this process evolves it will become the model for other counties," Senator Ron Wieck said.

The project earned \$250,000 this year in state tax credits and could grab \$500,000 in following years. The facility, taking up 216,000 square feet, should be operational around July/ August of 2007.

Senator Mary Lundy added, "Even though I'm from eastern Iowa, I have always admired western Iowans for their ability to work together. I hope we can replicate it elsewhere."

"This thing is going to be cool," said Mark Buschkamp, executive director of the Cherokee Area Economic Development Corporation. "Iowa can be a real leader in this. When I first came here they referred to places like this as the dump. Then, they were called landfills. And now, this is a renewable fuel production facility. Why bury this stuff when we can use it?"

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