



## MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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# **Biogas Energy Plant Producing Renewable Energy from Decomposition of Yard Waste Opens in Columbia**

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**New green energy source made possible by  
Legislation sponsored by Senator Kevin Engler**

FARMINGTON, MO – An energy plant that uses the gas created when yard waste decomposes to generate renewable energy will open today in Columbia, Mo. The plant became a reality when a bill sponsored by Sen. Kevin Engler (R-Farmington) was included a green power bill (Senate Bill 54) and signed by the Governor earlier in the year. The bill allows yard waste to be deposited in a landfill when a bioreactor is utilized to accelerate the production of landfill gas that is used to generate electricity.

“I am very pleased to have a role in the passage of this legislation,” said Engler. “This bill not only creates a new economically viable power source here in Missouri, but does so in an environmentally responsible way. For this reason, I believe it’s a win-win situation for both consumers and the environmentally-conscious.”

The bioreactor at the plant uses as much as 40,000 gallons of water per day to accelerate decomposition and increase the amount of methane gas produced. It is estimated that the bioreactor will increase the rate at which methane gas is produced by 36 percent over a standard landfill, allowing more renewable energy to be generated.

According to the City of Columbia, the Columbia landfill contains over two million tons of waste that generates sufficient quantities of methane gas to make it economically feasible to produce electricity. The project cost \$2.85 million to build and was partially funded through an electric bond issue passed by voters in 2006.

The plant is expected to have an initial output of 2.1 megawatts or enough energy to power 1,500 homes. This is equivalent to approximately 1.5 percent of Columbia’s current energy use per year, and output of the plant is expected to produce as much as 2.5 percent of the city’s energy needs in ten years.

“In the future, I hope other cities and towns across the state will explore this new option to generate power,” said Engler. “As our demand for energy continues to increase, it is important that we begin meeting this demand with renewable sources of energy which are less harmful to the environment”.

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