

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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Contact: Joel Keefer  
(716) 753-4672

## **Historic Day Witnessed at Chautauqua County Landfill**

*Final test of engines at Methane-Electric Plant takes place*

Mayville: -- Chautauqua County Executive Gregory J. Edwards was on hand as the engines inside the County's Methane-Electric Plant underwent their first, full capacity test today (February 12).

"Today is an important milestone for Chautauqua County," Edwards proclaimed. "We are generating electricity utilizing a process that will improve our environment and selling that electricity at a profit. This is truly an accomplishment and I am proud to be part of this occasion."

Edwards said that after today's tests are completed, the Methane-Electric Plant will be permitted to connect to National Grid's service lines.

Edwards said that the electricity that is produced by the plant is estimated to profit Chautauqua County to the tune of \$2 million per year. "When I became County Executive, the methane gas generated by our own landfill waste was the largest unutilized source of energy in the county," Edwards said. "Now we're using this renewable source to run generators, resulting in green electricity."

"What sets us apart is that we are the only county in New York State to own, operate and sell electricity produced by using methane from a county owned landfill," Edwards said. "We are producing electricity through a method that delivers on the agendas of New York Governor David Paterson and President Barack Obama, who have made it clear that Green Energy is a priority for not only New York State, but the Nation as well."

"I am now taking this successful effort and using it to attract green industries to Chautauqua County by demonstrating our commitment to the environment and green growth," Edwards said.

Edwards thanked Senator Charles Schumer, Representative Brian Higgins, Dennis Elsenbeck, lead official with National Grid, Peter Zeliff, CEO of Innovative Energy Systems (IES), and the members of the leadership team of County Department professionals for making this day possible.

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