

Joint venture to develop plasma gasification facility

March 4 -- A joint venture partially owned by Waste Management Inc. is developing a plasma gasification facility at the company's Columbia Ridge landfill in Arlington, Ore.

S4 Energy Solutions LLC is the joint venture owned by Waste Management and InEnTec LLC and will build the facility that will convert municipal solid waste into clean fuels and renewable energy, Waste Management said.

Construction is slated to begin this summer and the project is expected to begin operating by the end of this year.

"Our goal is to extract as much value as possible from waste and this project will help us recover valuable resources to generate clean fuels, renewable energy and other beneficial products," said Dean Kattler, area vice president for Waste Management Pacific Northwest.

Through a gasification process, waste is superheated to temperatures up to 20,000 degrees Fahrenheit, which rearranges the molecular structure of the waste. This changes organic material into synthesis gas that can then be converted into fuels such as ethanol and diesel or industrial products like hydrogen and methanol, the company said.

Contact Waste & Recycling News senior reporter Jim Johnson at 937-964-1289 or jjjohnson@crain.com