



## From Waste to Energy



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**B**anking on China's push towards sustainable development and clean energy, Covanta Energy Asia Pacific recently announced an 85-percent stake in a joint venture to build a new Energy-from-Waste facility to serve the cities of Taixing and Yangzhong in Jiangsu Province.

The amount of household waste produced in China has grown as the country's standard of living has improved. China generates an estimated 280 million tons of municipal solid waste annually, most of which is currently being disposed of in simple and unsophisticated landfills. The Ministry of Construction has outlined a National Waste Disposal Plan to increase Energy-from-Waste utilization from 2005 levels of less than 2 percent of waste disposal to 30 percent of total municipal solid waste disposal by 2030.

"The development of this Energy-from-Waste facility has obvious advantages for both cities' sustainable growth," said Allard M. Nooy, president of Covanta Energy Asia Pacific.

Covanta, which has secured long-term waste disposal contracts with the municipal governments of Taixing and Yangzhong, will build a new 350 metric ton-per-day facility in the Taixing Economic Development Zone that can generate 30 metric tons of steam per hour to power local business operations. According to Covanta, municipal solid waste is transferred into a combustion chamber where it is

reduced to 10 percent of its original volume. The heat generated by the combustion process heats water into steam that powers a turbine to generate electricity.

The company's US\$30 million investment is part of the company's ongoing strategy to expand its presence in China. Partner Jiangsu Taineng Group is wholly-owned by the municipal government of Taixing and operates under the supervision of Taixing Economic and Trade Commission.

"The Taixing city committee and government will give priority and full support to this project to ensure that we can start construction, begin operations, and see results quickly and create a win-win situation for the citizens of both communities and Covanta," said Gao Yazi, Mayor of Taixing.

Construction of the Energy-from-Waste facility is expected to begin this summer and be completed by June 2011.

**Allard M. Nooy:** "By processing waste into energy, the facility's operations will provide safe solid waste disposal for both communities, help to avoid reliance on damaging landfills, and offset greenhouse gas emissions that would otherwise be generated by landfills. Not only will it generate clean, renewable energy to help power regional businesses, it will help the local environment. This effort will result in zero landfilling, a major accomplishment, as the residual ash from the process will be reused in materials for road construction."

**Covanta looks to turn household waste in China into energy.**