

DURHAM



1 8 6 9  
CITY OF MEDICINE

**CITY OF DURHAM**  
*Office of Public Affairs*  
101 CITY HALL PLAZA  
DURHAM, NC 27701

## **Media Advisory**

**For Details, Contact:**

Amy Blalock, City of Durham  
919-560-4123 x 11253

Lewis Gay, Methane Power  
704-806-1481

Jason Walls, Duke Energy  
1-800-559-3853

For Immediate Release: November 5, 2009

### **Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony Tomorrow for Durham Landfill Gas-to-Energy Green Power Project**

*Event Will Celebrate Partnership that Enables “Green” Electricity to Now be Harnessed  
at Durham’s Former Landfill*

DURHAM, N.C. – On Friday, November 6, 2009, at 11 a.m., the City of Durham will be the latest municipality to benefit from green energy thanks to a partnership which will harness the City’s landfill gas to produce renewable energy.

The City of Durham, along with Methane Power, Inc. and Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC, will host a ribbon-cutting ceremony to recognize the completion and start-up operation of the City of Durham Landfill Gas-to-Energy Green Power Project. Featured guest speakers include City of Durham Mayor William V. “Bill” Bell, Duke Energy District Manager Ken Kernodle, Leo LeBlanc with Methane Power, Inc. and Chris Godlove with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Landfill gas, largely methane, is produced when organic materials in large landfills decompose. This greenhouse gas, if allowed to be released to the atmosphere, is 20 times more potent than carbon dioxide at trapping heat in the atmosphere. Durham’s project captures the gas produced at the City’s closed landfill and will fuel three 20-cylinder engines to convert it into electricity. Using the gas to produce electricity is not only cost effective, but also eliminates this potent gas that otherwise is a major contributor to global warming. Ultimately, this project will generate approximately three megawatts of electricity, which is equivalent to powering about 1,900 average-sized homes annually. “Not only does this project support Durham’s green energy efforts by converting landfill gas into renewable energy, it also provides a financial benefit to our taxpayers by offsetting the costs of the required post-closure landfill monitoring,” said Mayor

Bell. “This is just another example of how Durham is leading the way in protecting and preserving our community’s natural environment.”

Under the terms of the partnership, Duke Energy will purchase the renewable energy certificates and three megawatts of renewable energy generated at the landfill. “This is just one more example of how Duke Energy Carolinas is investing in renewable energy in the Carolinas,” said Brett Carter, president of Duke Energy Carolinas. “Our commitment to provide customers with reliable, affordable and clean electricity is steadfast.”

Methane Power has made a \$5 million investment in the City of Durham to construct the new facility, which will harness the landfill gas and turn it into renewable energy that will then be purchased by Duke Energy. According to Lewis Gay, vice president of Methane Power, landfill gas is one of the most economical renewable options available in North Carolina and it uses proven technology. “Methane Power is pleased to be a part of this project working with the innovative leadership of the City of Durham and Duke Energy Carolinas,” said Gay. “We are dedicated to providing North Carolina with as much renewable energy as possible from landfill gas.”

###

*News media interested in attending this event should arrive directly to the old landfill site, located at 2115 East Club Boulevard. The event will be held inside the Waste Disposal & Recycling Center (Transfer Station) – upon entrance, go past the Scale House (on the right) to the tent (on the left) where the event will be held.*