
PlascoEnergy begins converting household garbage

By Krystle Chow, Ottawa Business Journal Staff

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Plasco Energy Group Inc. has begun taking in city garbage at its waste-to-energy plant.

The Ottawa-based green energy company, which has a demonstration plasma gasification facility at the Trail Road waste facility, announced Thursday evening that it had received its first load of approximately 20 tonnes of municipal solid waste, which it will break down and convert into a clean fuel used to generate electricity.

"This is one of the last steps in what has been a very meticulous process to bring this first Plasco Conversion System into operation," said PlascoEnergy CEO Rod Bryden in a statement, noting, "While it is an important achievement, there are still a few weeks of intermittent operation to ensure that the system performs as intended before commencing 24-hour, seven-day-a-week processing of garbage."



Rod Bryden. (Darren Brown, OBJ)

PlascoEnergy began running regular shifts at its demo plant in October 2007, after being approved to operate its plant at 85 tonnes per day out of a possible 100 tonnes of capacity.

The company's plasma gasification technology, on a large scale, is said to be able to process almost all of Ottawa's 200,000 tonnes of solid waste annually and create enough clean electricity to light nearly 25,000 homes.

"Interest in the Plasco Conversion System is very high in many communities around the world and we are very optimistic that PlascoEnergy will become a new and meaningful choice in the management of waste and delivery of distributed clean and green power in urban communities," added Mr. Bryden.

Mayor Larry O'Brien congratulated PlascoEnergy on the milestone, saying, "This is an important step and Ottawa City Council is certainly proud to be part of this innovation that is poised to provide substantial environmental benefits to the nation's capital."

The demo plant will receive garbage periodically during the month of February as it moves into regular operation.