



## East Contra Costa sanitation district awarded \$1 million for energy project research

By Paul Bugarino, Contra Costa Times, Walnut Creek, Calif.

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March 25--SACRAMENTO -- A Bay Area coalition led by a local sanitation district was awarded nearly \$1 million this week by the California [Energy](#) Commission to research a regional project that would convert wastewater residue to energy.

Delta Diablo Sanitation District, which serves Antioch, Pittsburg and Bay Point, will use the \$999,924 to develop, demonstrate and implement the system.

Biosolids are the semisolid materials left when wastewater is treated. The research will examine Richmond-based Intellergy Corp.'s concept of using steam and [carbon](#) dioxide to turn the biosolids into a gaseous fuel known as syngas.

"By studying how to use biosolids more effectively, California will generate energy from previously untapped waste streams and reduce the volume going into our state's growing landfills," commission Vice Chairman James Boyd said in a news release.

"We're excited. This helps us progress and assess the viability of the steam-reforming [technology](#)," Delta Diablo spokeswoman Angela Lowery said.

The total cost of the project is estimated at \$4.7 million. Intellergy will pay the remaining cost.

Delta Diablo is leading the Bay Area Biosolids to Energy Coalition, a collective of 16 Bay Area public agencies working on sustainable solutions to biosolids management.

More than 158,000 dry metric tons of biosolids are produced in the Bay Area each year.

<http://www.istockanalyst.com/business/news/5010399/east-contra-costa-sanitation-district-awarded-1-million-for-energy-project-research>