



Green Energy



Recycling



March e-NEWS 2010



Hardin County

focus

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF OUR CITIZENS
FROM THE DESK OF JUDGE/EXECUTIVE HARRY L. BERRY

Hardin County Goes Green

As we look forward to Spring and **St. Patrick's Day**, March seems an appropriate time to explain **Hardin County's Green Efforts** to impact our environment.

Hardin County appreciates the earth and sponsors or co-sponsors events with the Commonwealth of Kentucky, Akebono, AGC Automotive Industries, and the League of Women Voters throughout the year. These **Green Events** include:

- Earth Day Celebration
- Household Hazardous Waste Day
- E-Scrap Day
- Tire Amnesty Days
- Free Dump Days



Recycling prolongs the life of materials by reprocessing them into a new material or product rather than dumping them in a landfill. Our **Recycling Program** is very popular. We partnered with the Fort Knox Recycling Center to collect: aluminum and tin cans, newspapers, cardboard, magazines, and plastic containers nos. 1 to 7.

We have four recycling locations in the county: (1) **Elizabethtown** at 2522 Ring Road, (2) **Vine Grove** at South Mill Street, (3) **Stephensburg** at Highway 62 and Eastview Road, and (4) **Rineyville** Community Park.

Green Energy

Hardin County Government joined with NOLIN RECC and East Kentucky Power Cooperative (EKPC) to utilize the **greenhouse gas** created by the natural decomposition of waste within our landfill to produce **green electricity**. This system recycles the captured methane gas extracted from the landfill to power large commercial generators operated by EKPC to supply sufficient electricity to power approximately 3,000 homes in Hardin County.

It is greenhouse gas which is nearly 20 times as potent as carbon dioxide in its negative effects on the environment. Methane is recognized as a renewable energy source that is generated 24/7. Converting methane gas to **green power** provides environmental benefits by off-setting the use of non-renewable resources such as coal, oil, and gas as well as reducing emission of sodium dioxide, nitrogen oxides, particulate matter and carbon dioxide.

The total annual reduction in emissions by both the methane gas collection and conversion to electricity is equivalent to any one of the following environmental benefits: (1) removing 39,747 passenger vehicles from our roadways, (2) the carbon sequestered annually by 49,322 acres of pine or fir forests, (3) eliminating carbon



emissions from burning 1,133 railcars worth of coal, or (4) preventing carbon dioxide from 24.6 million gallons of gasoline consumption.

Currently there are 340+ landfill gas-to-electric projects in operation in the U.S. Your county is one of six in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

The Environmental Protection Agency estimates as many as 500 additional landfills could cost effectively tap methane as an energy source, producing electricity to power one million homes across our country.

