



Department of Commerce and Economic Opportu

Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor / Jack Lavin, Director

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Gov. Blagojevich Announces \$400,000 Opportunity Returns Grant To Support Clean, Re **From Olney Wastewater System**



*opportunity*returns

Creating more jobs for today and tomorrow

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Rod R. Blagojevich – Governor

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GOV. BLAGOJEVICH ANNOUNCES \$400,000 *OPPOR* **GRANT TO SUPPORT CLEAN, RENEWABLE ENER** **FROM OLNEY WASTEWATER SYST**

CHICAGO – Gov. Rod Blagojevich today announced **\$400,000** in *Opportunity Re*

reconstruction of the Olney wastewater treatment facility and the production of clean local wastewater. The funding is coming as a part of *Opportunity Returns*, Gov. Blagojevich's economic development plan to spur growth and job creation across the Southeastern Illinois region.

"Sound and reliable infrastructure is an essential foundation of any community and helps to attract new business and create new jobs. Through *Opportunity Returns*, Olney will strengthen that foundation, but also make use of an effective renewable energy strategy for economic upside. Across the Southeast region and throughout the state, we'll continue to support important projects that are beneficial to both the environment and our economy," Gov. Blagojevich said.

Olney will receive the funds to repair its primary anaerobic digester (which breaks down waste and produces natural gas), install a new gas collection and clean-up system, and install a new cover on the city's wastewater treatment facility. This grant, administered by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), will provide \$300,000 from the Renewable Energy Resources Program, as \$100,000 in emergency Community Development Assistance Program funds. The city is also receiving local funding for the project.

The cover on the primary digester collapsed last summer and was removed, leaving the facility to function as inefficiently and effectively as designed. The new cover for the anaerobic digester will reduce odors at the facility and allow it to capture the natural gas from the decomposition of waste. The city estimates that the addition of the gas recovery and clean-up system, as well as the new cover, will save more than \$26,000 per year in energy costs.

"Gov. Blagojevich's *Opportunity Returns* program is proving itself to be a responsible way to promote economic development. Without these type of partnerships between state and local governments, communities like Olney may be unable to meet unforeseen fiscal challenges and be unable to participate in innovative energy programs with economic benefits such as this one," State Representative John P. (D-Effingham) said.

(more)

DCEO's Renewable Energy Resources Program supports renewable and clean energy projects for livestock operations with large waste streams, and wind power and solar energy projects.

"Gov. Blagojevich strongly supports the goals of our Renewable Energy Resources Program to achieve environmental quality, public health and fuel diversity benefits. This *Opportunity Returns* project in Olney is a great representation of the program because the funding will be used to achieve key objectives," DCEO Director Jack Lavin said.

Gov. Blagojevich's *Opportunity Returns* regional economic development plan is the most comprehensive approach to creating jobs in Illinois' history. Since a one-size-fits-all approach to economic development just doesn't work, the Governor has divided the state into 10 regions based on economic strengths and needs, and developing a plan with specific actions for each region. The plan is based on the input of local business, labor and public sector leaders, *Opportunity Returns* actions to make each region more accessible, more marketable, more entrepreneurial and more competitive.

businesses.



olney renewable fuels.12-6-04.doc

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