

Ms. Brenda Platt
Co-Director, Institute for Local Self-Reliance
927 15th Street, NW, 4th Floor
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Platt:

Thank you for your letter of September 1, 2004, urging EPA to exclude municipal solid waste as a renewable source of fuel and power.

In several forums, including letters to Integrated Waste Services Association, and the U.S. Conference of Mayors, as well as programs such as EPA's Clean Air Markets and Resource Conservation Challenge, EPA has referred to the derivation of energy from municipal solid waste as a renewable source of energy. This position is consistent with our goal of recycling and reusing materials to the greatest extent possible. While we prefer to avoid generation of waste in the first place, we recognize that considerable quantities of municipal solid waste have and will continue to be generated. Given this situation, the Agency encourages the use of these materials to produce energy in combustion units or to utilize the energy of landfill gases, as being wiser choices than disposal without energy recovery.

Again, thank you for your comments on this matter. EPA will continue to work with you and others to foster prevention of municipal solid waste generation, as well as recycling. If you have further questions, please contact Lillian Bagus, Director for the Municipal and Industrial Solid Waste Division at 703-308-8254.

Sincerely,

Thomas P. Dunne
Acting Assistant Administrator

cc: Monica Wilson

RO 14730