

[Florida county plans to vaporize landfill trash](#)

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[kept trash](#), originally uploaded by [zen](#).

(ed. note - Photo is only meant to represent waste and is not an actual picture of the current St. Lucie landfill)

The [USA Today](#) has a story about a Florida county which will use a new technology to eliminate their use of landfill space and generate electricity by vaporizing their [municipal solid waste](#) at temperatures hotter than the sun.

According to [Geoplasma](#), developers of the power plant, no byproduct will be unused and instead monetized to help defer costs of the facility. St. Lucie County officials “estimate their entire landfill — 4.3 million tons of trash collected since 1978 — will be gone in 18 years.”

“This is sustainability in its truest and finest form,” said Hilburn Hillestad, president of Geoplasma, a subsidiary of Jacoby Development Inc. Mr. Hillestad and Jim Jacoby, Chairman of Geoplasma, had previously been Environmental Merit Award Recipients for the work in redeveloping a 138 acre steel mill (Atlantic Steel Mill) in Atlanta, GA.

The material to be dealt with on a daily basis is hard to fathom:

“80,000 pounds of steam per day will be sold to a neighboring Tropicana Products Inc. facility to power the juice plant’s turbines.”

“Sludge from the county’s wastewater treatment plant will be vaporized, and a material created from melted organic matter — up to 600 tons a day — will be hardened into slag, and sold for use in road and construction projects.”

The plant will possibly utilize a plasma arc technology being licensed by [Startech Environmental](#). Their site claims with regard to their Plasma Converter, “all wastes fed into the vessel are irreversibly destroyed and converted, through the process of molecular dissociation, into a safe synthesis fuel gas called Plasma Converted Gas”. Also, they have systems in development which will be able to accommodate 500 tons of waste per day.

The technology even has Homeland Defense implications. A plasma converter can be mounted on a truck and moved on location to destroy rubble, waste and hazardous materials. The Army is utilizing a similar technology to destroy small caliber ordinance at the Hawthorne Ammunition Depot in Nevada.