



**Office of the Mayor
City of Los Angeles**

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MAYOR VILLARAIGOSA ANNOUNCES GREEN ENERGY PROJECT AMONG TOP 50 INNOVATIONS IN GOVERNMENT

Harvard Kennedy School's Ash Institute honors Terminal Island Renewable Energy site, recognizing City's efforts to go green and its state-of-the-art clean energy facility

LOS ANGELES -- Highlighting the effort to green Los Angeles, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and Department of Public Works Bureau of Sanitation Director Enrique C. Zaldivar today announced that the Terminal Island Renewable Energy (TIRE) project has been named as a finalist for the 2009 Harvard Kennedy School's Ash Institute Award for Innovations in American Government.

"Terminal Island is setting the green standard for innovation, clean energy and renewable power nationwide," Mayor Villaraigosa said. "The Innovations in American Government recognition is a testament to this City's unyielding commitment to sustainability, unparalleled investment in alternative energy sources, and unmatched strategy to make LA the cleanest and greenest big city in America."

The Ash Institute's announcement recognizes the TIRE project as one of the top 50 programs representing the best practices in government innovation on City, county, tribal, state and federal levels.

The TIRE facility – a five-year demonstration project – is the nation's first project aimed at producing green energy from a renewable bio-resource. The TIRE project will produce approximately 3,500 kilowatts of renewable power by converting bio-solids into clean energy. This technology has the potential to provide a cleaner environment and economic benefits to millions of citizens of major cities throughout the world.

Working with Terralog Technologies, and the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the TIRE project provides the following benefits:

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- Biosolids Management: TIRE adds to the options available to the City for the beneficial reuse of biosolids. Currently, Los Angeles relies almost exclusively on land application at distant locations.
- Renewable Energy: The green energy produced would equal the amount of energy required to power nearly 3,000 homes annually.
- Economic: TIRE will save money and make money. The City will save more than \$1.6 million annually over the cost of trucking a similar amount of biosolids to Kern County, and the energy produced will be worth \$2.4 million per year.
- Water Quality: Brine produced by the Terminal Island Water Reclamation Plant (TIWRP) was previously dumped into San Pedro Bay. That brine will now be used by TIRE, resulting in zero brine discharges and enabling the expansion of the TIWRP to produce more recycled water.
- Greenhouse Gases: TIRE will permanently sequester 82,000 tons of carbon dioxide over the five-year demonstration period. Those emissions would otherwise be released to the atmosphere from the land application of a similar amount of bio-solids. The permanent sequestration of 82,000 tons of CO2 is equivalent to taking 3,200 automobiles off the streets of LA for five years.

ABOUT THE "INNOVATIONS IN AMERICAN GOVERNMENT" AWARD

The Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard Kennedy School (HKS) annually awards selected programs for its Innovations in American Government Awards competition. Nearly 1,000 programs apply.

Established in 1985 at HKS by the Ford Foundation, the Innovations in American Government Awards Program is designed to improve government practice by honoring effective government initiatives and encouraging the dissemination of such best practices across the country.

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

The Department of Public Works is the second largest municipal agency in the City, focused on essential needs for a better quality of life and environmental protection. With 5,700 employees and a \$1 billion annual budget, the department is responsible for construction, renovation and operation of public facilities and infrastructure including: municipal buildings and treatment facilities; streets, street lights, and the urban forest; bridges and sidewalks; sewers, catch basins and storm drains; recycling and integrated solid waste management.

For more information about the Department of Public Works, call the Public Affairs Office at (213) 978-0333 or visit www.lacity.org/bpw.

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