CRD Board March 13th, 2019 – presentation on items 10 and 11

Thank-you to the Chair and Board members for this opportunity to share some comments.

The two agenda items regarding Landfill Gas and organics processing will be a big test for this board to make decisions in alignment with the Climate Emergency and the goals of carbon neutrality by 2030.

Today I will focus on 5 high-level comments.

1. **The proposed 23.7 million-dollar RNG facility has a 40-year lifespan**. Justifying this capital project means that we are assuming that our communities will still be using methane as an energy source in the year 2060. The climate science is clear that we need to be at zero carbon before 2050. A decision to build carbon intensive infrastructure for use through 2060 is ignoring the climate facts. Sure, RNG displaces some fossil methane...but we need to get to zero hydrocarbon fuel use.
2. **Carbon Neutrally by 2030** implies that we will be transitioning off of hydrocarbon fuels and utilizing extremely high-quality offsets while moving to other non-carbon energy sources. I would suggest asking your staff to do a full lifecycle cost analysis taking into account the offset costs for the amortized construction carbon footprint AND the operational offsets AND the rising carbon taxes for the burning of the methane for 40 years. I would further suggest asking your staff to do the calculations assuming a realistically high offset price that reflects the true costs of sequestering carbon. To learn more about this topic you may wish to read an article I wrote that Director Helps reposted on her blog, explaining carbon neutrality, counting carbon, and offsets.
3. **Let's talk about food.** If we are diverting kitchen scraps to feed the anaerobic digester to produce methane, what will we feed the soil to grow our food? Soil inputs for industrial agriculture will no longer come from fossil fuels (think nitrogen fertilizer). We need Low Carbon Resilient technologies that simultaneously solve multiple problems. There are time proven engineering technologies that can consume ALL organic food wastes while producing high quality food. They're called pigs. Small scale regenerative poly culture farms can produce bacon, immense amounts of vegetables, no smell, and local jobs, while simultaneously sequestering carbon in the soil. This is where we should put some of our carbon offset dollars.
4. **Don't like pigs?** No problem, purchase closed cell rotating drums utilizing a method called THERMOPHILIC AEROBIC COMPOSTING. Also, a proven technology. Hot composting is inexpensive, can be scaled up or down, adapted to neighbourhood scale, and quickly produces compost that can be sold to build soil to grow more food. This is also a technology worthy of carbon offset dollars.
5. **In the mean-time**, capture all landfill gas and combust everything possible to produce electricity to feed into the grid. If waste heat is a problem, explore the opportunities for installing a sterling engine to turn waste heat into more electricity, or better yet use this heat to build a heated greenhouse for aquaponics and grow fish and greens.

In summary let's look to living systems to solve our problems…the engineering has been worked out over millions of years…it works, and I believe it's the only economically viable and climate friendly solution.

Please vote for Low Carbon Resilience and a livable climate.

Thank you,

Ann Baird