



**KENT COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC WORKS**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 7, 2022

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Project Development Agreement approved for anchor tenant at future Sustainable Business Park

Kent County Department of Public Works to work with Continuus Materials and Anaergia on developing landfill alternative

Grand Rapids, MI – Late last week the **Kent County Board of Public Works** approved a Project Development Agreement (PDA) with **Kent County Bioenergy Facility**, a joint venture between **Continuus Materials** and **Anaergia**, and the agreement is now fully executed. The two companies partnered on a response to a Request for Proposals from Kent County for an “anchor tenant” at the Sustainable Business Park which is planned for 250 acres adjacent to the South Kent Landfill in Byron Center, Michigan.

The PDA is the next step in developing a multi-faceted mixed waste processing facility capable of handling 430,000 tons of municipal solid waste and recyclables each year to produce renewable natural gas, fertilizer, and recyclable commodities. Anaergia has a proven track record on four continents of turning organic waste into renewable natural gas and fertilizer using high efficiency anaerobic digestion. Continuus Materials will produce a roof coverboard material, called Everboard, on site from low value plastics and paper. The plan calls for other recycling and waste processing companies to locate around the anchor tenant at the future Sustainable Business Park.

“We are excited to take the next step in a public-private partnership to help us achieve our goal of diverting 90% of trash from the South Kent Landfill by 2030,” said **Emily Brieve**, chair of the **Kent County Board of Public Works**. “Approving the PDA is the culmination of several years of evaluation and due-diligence to find the right company that was a good fit for our community with proven technology. Now the real work begins to nail down costs, schedules and site plans.”

The PDA will guide the DPW and Kent County Bioenergy Facility over the next 18 to 36 months until the project can be fully contracted and financed. If all goes as planned, the facility could be up and running in about three years. The PDA process will also include continued stakeholder involvement to inform the project and to develop supporting policy.

The plan currently calls for Kent County to make a \$70 million investment through a bond that would be repaid by tipping fees and shared revenue from materials produced at the park. Kent County Bioenergy Facility would invest an estimated \$280 million and operate the facility. The State of Michigan recently allocated \$4 million in the 2021-22 budget toward an estimate \$19 million of necessary site preparation and infrastructure.

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