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## St. Lucia inks agreement with local waste-to-energy company

Oct. 18, 2010

The Government of St. Lucia recently signed an agreement with IGE Island Green Energy, which is in partnership with the Elementa Group, a Sault Ste. Marie-based energy company with a cutting-edge technology that converts household garbage into clean energy.

Guy Joseph, Minister of Communications, Works, Transport & Public Utilities for the Caribbean nation, was in the Sault today to approve the deal, tour Elementa's pilot plant at the city landfill site, and meet with company and municipal representatives.

The Elementa process is as ingenious as it is environmentally friendly. The company's patented steam reformation technology converts solid waste into a clean, synthetic gas – similar to natural gas – which can be used for power generation.

It's a non-incineration process in an oxygen-free environment, meaning there are no greenhouse gases produced. Not only does the technology have the potential to solve the ever-piling global problem of garbage, it can also significantly reduce the emission of methane gas at landfills.

"Methane is one of the worst contributors to global warming because it is more than 20 times as dangerous as CO2 regarding greenhouse gas effects," said Jayson Zwierschke, President & CEO of Elementa Group Inc.

With so many benefits, countries around the world are showing great interest in the Elementa Group. Following the recent agreement with St. Lucia, the nation is expected to build the first full-scale waste-to-energy plant in the Caribbean, which will have the capacity to process the majority of household and industrial waste on the island.

Meanwhile, Elementa's demonstration facility is currently operating in Sault Ste. Marie, and the company is building a full-scale commercial plant here beginning this fall.

"The fact that the pilot plant is in the Sault, and that the process – in many ways – got its start here, speaks to the vision of our community," said Dave Murphy, Acting CEO of the Sault Ste. Marie Economic Development Corporation, which has been working with Elementa Group for a number of years now. "Along with the many other green alternative energy companies in our community, we're justifying our claim of being the Alternative Energy Capital of North America."

For more information, visit [www.elementagroup.com](http://www.elementagroup.com).

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*PHOTO: (L to R) Councillor Steve Butland, Co-Chair of the City's Green Committee, watches as an agreement is signed between Joe Howe, Jr., Managing Director of Island Green Energy; Jayson Zwierschke, President & CEO of Elementa Group; and the Honourable Guy Joseph, St. Lucia's Minister of Communications, Works, Transport & Public Utilities.*



*PHOTO: At Elementa Group's pilot facility at the Sault Ste. Marie landfill site Oct. 18 are (L to R) Jayson Zwierschke, President & CEO of Elementa Group; the Honourable Guy Joseph, St. Lucia's Minister of Communications, Works, Transport & Public Utilities; Joe Howe, Jr., Managing Director of Island Green Energy; and Ernie Dueck, Vice-President of Engineering for Elementa Group.*



*PHOTO: City CAO Joe Fratesi promotes Sault Ste. Marie's competitive advantages to Minister Joseph prior to the signing of the agreement between St. Lucia, Island Green Energy and Elementa Group.*



*PHOTO: At Elementa's pilot facility in Sault Ste. Marie are (L to R) Len Zwierschke, Vice-President of Elementa Group; Joe Howe, Jr., Managing Director of Island Green Energy; the Honourable Guy Joseph, St. Lucia's Minister of Communications, Works, Transport & Public Utilities; and Jayson Zwierschke, President & CEO of Elementa Group.*



*PHOTO: Following the signing ceremony are (L to R) John Febbraro, Director of Industrial Marketing for the EDC's Business Sault Ste. Marie division, and the Honourable Guy Joseph, St. Lucia's Minister of Communications, Works, Transport & Public Utilities.*

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