



# *UNION COUNTY UTILITIES AUTHORITY*

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## Executive Director of Union County Utilities Authority Speaks at 2009 Environmental Law Section Forum

*Sunil Garg to Discuss Waste-to-Energy Programs*

*Saturday, June 27, 11:00 AM*

*Golden Inn Hotel & Resort in Avalon, NJ*

**For Immediate Release**

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Rahway, NJ -- Renowned expert on waste-to-energy practices and Executive Director of the Union County Utilities Authority (UCUA), Sunil K. Garg, Ph.D, Esq., will be presenting a panel discussion on alternative energy initiatives at the 2009 Environmental Law Section Forum at 11:00 AM, on Saturday, June 27, at the Golden Inn Hotel & Resort Avalon, NJ.

Participants will hear the latest issues and developments surrounding this practice – from impact on the climate to new legislation. Garg will also address the economic benefits of waste-to-energy processes like those conducted at the UCUA plant located in Rahway, NJ. As a leading expert on renewable energy, Garg will discuss how facilities like the UCUA transform municipal solid waste into clean, renewable energy that is cost effective for the entire state.

“Waste-to-energy plants are a smart alternative as they address growing energy concerns and serve as a sustainable waste management system with minimal carbon footprint,” he says.

The majority of New Jersey’s landfills are operating at near or full capacity and producing harmful methane gases. At the same time, most renewable energy projects based on wind or solar power have extremely high operating costs that outweigh the amount energy produced. Waste-to-energy plants like UCUA reduce dependence on fossil fuels and promote energy independence while reducing GHG emissions. “It’s the simple act of providing environmental stewardship through sustainable waste management,” says Garg.

“Take for example: a family of three generates two tons of waste per a year. That waste is capable of producing enough energy through the waste-to-energy process to meet the family’s energy needs for 2 months,” Garg continues.

Sunil K. Garg serves as the Executive Director of the Union County (NJ) Utilities Authority (UCUA). He earned a Doctorate in Physical Chemistry from Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, NJ in 1978 and a JD in Law from Rutgers Law School - Newark in 1986. His career includes extended work experience in two of New Jersey's largest manufacturing companies, as well as practice of environmental and transactional law, among others, at premier law firms in New York and New Jersey. He has served as a Director of the NJSBA Environmental Law Section and is a Master of the Justice Stewart Pollack Environmental American Inn of Court. He served on Governor Jon Corzine's environmental transition team in 2005-06, and was recently appointed as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Asian American Study Foundation by the Governor. He is a 2008 recipient of the Outstanding 50 Asian Americans in Business award from the Asian American Business Development Center.

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UCUA is the implementing Authority for the Union County Solid Waste Management Plan. UCUA is empowered to plan, acquire, construct, maintain and operate facilities for the processing, recycling and disposal of solid waste in an environmentally sound manner UCUA is responsible for ensuring the financial solvency and viability of the solid waste management system and for amortization of bonds issued to finance solid waste facilities in the County. The agency is self-funded and receives no money from the County Budget. All regulated solid wastes generated in Union County including Bulky Waste and Municipal Solid Waste are directed to facilities designated by UCUA after certification from NJDEP. The centerpiece of the system is the Union County Resource Recovery Facility (UCRRF) in Rahway which commenced operations in 1994. UCRRF is owned by UCUA and is operated by Covanta Energy under a long term Disposal Agreement to provide waste disposal services until 2023.