

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
Cc: Gunasekara, Mandy[Gunasekara.Mandy@epa.gov]
From: Bailey, Bill J.
Sent: Thur 7/13/2017 9:27:37 PM
Subject: Follow up to request from Administrator Pruitt
[disney-finds-new-ways-to-reduce-reuse-recycle-food-waste\[1\].pdf](#)

Ryan – it was great to meet you the other night. I’m copying Mandy with whom we have been working on another matter.

I am following up on a request from Administrator Pruitt the other night. He mentioned knowing of an impressive food waste sustainability program we operate in Orlando. He mentioned that this is a significant issue for an Italian minister (I assume it was his counterpart in Italy), and said he would like to bring that minister to Orlando to show him our program. I told the Administrator I’m sure we would be delighted to host him and his Italian counterpart, and that I would look into it further.

I have followed up with my colleagues in Orlando on this. In the interest of making sure that we are talking about the same thing, I am attaching a one-page release that describes our work with Harvest Power to convert our food waste into renewable biogas and natural fertilizers. The release further states that the facility can “produce 7 megawatts of combined heat and power.” I believe this is the program that interested the Administrator, but if not, please let me know. If I have that right, we would gladly work with Harvest Power Orlando to facilitate a visit.

It was truly a pleasure meeting you and the Administrator the other night. His passion and deep understanding of the issues you all have on your plate is impressive to see.

Please let me know how we can be helpful moving forward. We are anxious to help you all in any way we can.

Thanks so much,

Bill

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Disney Finds New Ways to Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Food Waste

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla., April 21, 2015 – With hundreds of food and beverage locations throughout Walt Disney World Resort, how do Disney chefs ensure that guests enjoy bountiful buffets, endless gourmet experiences and well-stocked sweet shops...all without excessive food waste? The secret ingredients are reducing, reusing and recycling.

Disney has developed a variety of innovative systems and best practices to address this issue, from the first stages of food planning and preparation through the final processing of food waste. With the Company's new buffet optimization tool, which forecasts restaurant food production based on volume, Disney has reduced buffet food production by tens of thousands of pounds each year.

To achieve these results, teams conducted in-depth research to gauge the amount of food remaining after meals. No statistic was left without scrutiny – researchers even calculated the amount of excess sauce left in each pan.

"We were willing to step out of our comfort zone to introduce a new and thought-provoking idea to meet our environmental goals," said John L. Clark, chef de cuisine, Disney's Grand Floridian Resort & Spa. "It's important to remember that no thought is too small to make an impact on the environment."

Despite this new tool's efficiency, it doesn't eliminate *all* food waste. Some remaining food is donated, while the rest is transported for reuse and recycling. In 2014, Walt Disney World Resort became one of the first customers of *Harvest Power Orlando*, an advanced food waste recovery facility. This facility has the capacity to convert more than 120,000 tons of organic waste, such as food scraps, annually into renewable biogas and natural fertilizers, as well as the potential to produce 7 megawatts of combined heat and power.

Through a process called anaerobic digestion, Harvest Power Orlando uses naturally occurring micro-organisms to break down Disney's organic food waste and transform the resulting biogas into renewable energy for the Reedy Creek Improvement District. Some of the waste is also converted into fertilizer that is sold to help revitalize local soil. Disney's collaboration with Harvest Power allows for more food waste to be recycled than ever before, diverting waste that may have once ended up in a landfill.