**Latrobe Valley Express**

**Valley for industry**

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LATROBE Valley household waste could be used to reduce a local coal-fired power station's carbon emissions by 750,000 tonnes per year.

A licence deal recently forged by Victoria's Bosco International and Italian company Pirelli Ambiente is the first step in a major proposal to convert the region's municipal waste and disused tyres into a fuel that, when burned with coal, can significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Bosco wants to construct a plant in the Valley where it would use the Pirelli Group's patented technology to develop the low CO2 emitting fuel, which according to the company, would generate 200 construction jobs and about $70 million a year for the local economy.

Company spokesman Norman Fay said Bosco was in discussions with a Valley power generator to burn the fuel in one of its boilers, but he would not reveal which electricity giant was involved.

Mr Fay said the fuel burned at a higher `calorific rate' than coal, resulting in lower CO2 emissions and if it made up 10 per cent of mass going into one boiler, with coal making up the rest, annual carbon emissions of that boiler would be reduced by 750,000 tonnes.

He said Bosco planned to use Latrobe City's municipal waste, along with about 540,000 tonnes from Melbourne to develop the fuel.

``The first step is we recover all appropriate recyclable materials such as aluminium and glass bottles and they will go back into the recycling process,'' Mr Fay said.

``The rest we convert into the fuel.''

Mr Fay said residual waste would go back into Latrobe's Hyland Highway Landfill but it would be no more than what the facility currently receives.

Gippsland Regional Waste Management Group executive officer Matthew Peake said the landfill received about 45,000 tonnes per year.

Bosco made a presentation to the waste group on Thursday and is in discussions with Latrobe City Council about possible locations for the plant.

It will now go through the government and environmental planning approval process, but Mr Fay said the company hoped to get the plant running by 2013.

Mr Peake told The Express the waste management group was keen to see a more detailed proposal but welcomed the concept because it was ``certainly a lot better to see that residual material go to energy generation rather than send it to landfill''.

He said the leftover waste going back into Latrobe's landfill would contain less methane, if the company's proposal was accurate.

Latrobe City chief executive Paul Buckley said the $180 million project proposal was ``positive'' for the Valley.

``We're keen to enter into further discussions with the company to get detail about what's involved like transport, logistics, access to the waste stream and the best location,'' Mr Buckley said.