

# NEWS

## From GEORGIA TECH'S ENGINEERING EXPERIMENT STATION

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October 5, 1979

LaGRANGE INDUSTRIAL PARK

SITE OF ENERGY STUDY

For Immediate Release

LaGRANGE, GA ....Someday the LaGrange Industrial Park may produce its energy "on location" from renewable resources such as wood or solid waste, or from coal, our most abundant natural resource.

A study to explore those possibilities has been funded by the Department of Energy and the LaGrange Industrial Authority. The study will feature the LaGrange Industrial Park as a model industrial site that could be adapted to an integrated energy system. This is an energy system that would produce all or part of the electrical and heating needs of the park. And the energy would be generated from a location in or near the industrial park.

The object of the study will be to see whether the 507-acre park could be self-supporting in energy. This means breaking away from natural gas, propane, and fuel oil. Temporary shortages of these fuels have caused some shutdowns in the past.

The study will look into the availability of renewable resources to be used as a fuel for the energy system. One resource to be studied is wood residue presently wasted in the forests or lumber mills. Preliminary studies indicate that the wood residue resource is extensive in West Georgia, but the study will provide specific data on its availability and probable cost of gathering, transportation and storage.

Coal might be used as a backup fuel in the event of a temporary shortage of wood. And the study will examine the cost effectiveness of burning garbage and other municipal waste products to generate energy.

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The success of this study in LaGrange would result in a complete package telling more industrial parks or clusters of industries how to set up integrated energy systems for themselves. And the LaGrange Industrial Authority is prepared to look into construction of the system at the park if it proves feasible.

This study is being conducted by Georgia Tech's Engineering Experiment Station, the engineering and development firm of Sverdrup and Parcel Associates, Inc., and the Georgia Forestry Commission.

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