

### **CNN Features EcoComplex**

Catawba County's EcoComplex, which has won national and state honors for innovation, will again be featured in the national spotlight during this weekend. CNN will broadcast a feature on the EcoComplex during its "Your Money" program at 1pm. Eastern on Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday.

The EcoComplex is a system being designed to recover and reuse all useable products and by-products from a group of private and public partners, located in a close-knit defined area near the Blackburn Landfill off Highway 10 in the Vale area. This group of partners is working together to use each others waste products either as a source of energy or as a raw material for the production of their own product.

Two businesses that work in wood products, Gregory Wood Products and Pallet One, are already part of the complex and its shared use of by-products. Biodiesel fuel research through Appalachian State University will soon begin, using crops grown on landfill property. Many other cooperative efforts are planned for the future of the Complex.

Officials with General Electric toured the Complex earlier this summer and were so impressed with it that they called contacts at CNN and suggested the cable network produce a feature on the Complex.

"We were actually unaware of CNN's interest until we got a call from them on July 17," said Jack Chandler, assistant director of the Catawba County Department of Utilities and Engineering. "One of their producers asked if we would help them with videotaping at the EcoComplex and arrange interviews with various people involved with the EcoComplex. Lynn Lail, vice-chair of the Catawba County Board of Commissioners, Barry Edwards, the county's utilities and engineering director, and others spoke with CNN's Reynolds Wolf on July 20."

The Catawba County EcoComplex won the 2007 Thomas H. Muehlenbeck Award for Excellence in Local Government.