

REFUSE REMEDIATION

Prolific entrepreneur unites businesses for trash-to-ash operation

BY MELISSA FIORENZA

WITH A MASTER'S IN BUSINESS AND finance and a doctorate in physics tucked under his belt, entrepreneur David Miller—along with the many companies of which he is a part—is determined to make the earth a cleaner, better place. Of the many efforts to reach that ultimate objective, the main goal currently in the works is turning household trash into ash—an operation that would both reclaim mined areas and tackle the troubling issue of crowded landfills in the United States.

The process starts in Needles, California, where Miller's oldest company, CA White Gold, mines for magnesite and in turn sells magnesium. "Wherever there is magnesite, there's no vegetation," Miller explains. "There are no plants growing for the desert wildlife to eat, and part of our project lies in a critical habitat area where the desert tortoise especially needs protection. So our intention is to leave the land better than when we started."

Rather than simply use dirt to fill pits

left behind by magnesite mining, Miller and his team turned to a refuse remediation process, an idea adopted from the sugarcane fields in Hawaii. "Every year, when the sugarcane is harvested, the fields are set on fire and the ash is mixed with dirt, producing topsoil for the next season," explains Miller.

Instead of sugarcane fields, Miller's company, Refuse Remediation, turns household trash to ash, all powered by Miller's solar-power-plant business, Alternative Power Resources.

"We are trying to change the way that things operate in the world," Miller says. "Our main concern is to create a better earth for our children and their grandchildren and so on." GBQ

