



WES-PP-02: WASTE-TO-ENERGY PROGRAM FUNDING

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: ADOPT

PROPOSED POLICY: SUPPORT funding the Municipal Solid Waste-to-Energy Program.

BACKGROUND: During the 2022 Legislative Session, SB 1764 was signed into law. SB 1764 created the Municipal Solid Waste-to-Energy Program to provide financial assistance grants and incentive grants counties who operate municipal solid waste-to-energy facilities. The purpose of the program is to incentivize the production and sale of energy from municipal solid waste-to-energy facilities while also reducing the amount of waste that would otherwise be disposed of in a landfill. SB 1764 originally funded the program in the amount of \$100M annually, but the funding was removed from the bill prior to being passed by the legislature.

ANALYSIS: WTE avoids landfilling more than 6.5 million of tons of solid waste annually. By doing so, Florida WTE facilities annually reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 5.4 million tons of CO₂. That is the equivalent of taking 989,000 passenger vehicles off the road every year. In addition, Florida's WTE facilities produce 544 megawatts of electricity of baseload power. On a 24/7/365 basis, our facilities produce enough electricity to power 288,100 homes for a year. And there's a bonus, Florida's WTE facilities recycle 212,000 tons of metal a year, enough to build 156,000 cars.

FISCAL IMPACT: If the grant program is funded, counties that own or operate waste-to-energy facilities would see a positive fiscal impact. Pinellas County alone would be eligible to receive up to \$8.9M annually through the program.

FAC STAFF NOTES:

- FAC 2022 Policy Conference
 - WES-PP-02 was recommended for adoption by the Committee.
- Statutes:
 - s. [377.814](#), F.S. *Municipal Solid Waste-to-Energy Program*
 - Establishes two different grant opportunities: a financial assistance grant and an incentive grant.
 - The financial assistance program will take precedence in available funding over the incentive grant program.
 - SB 1764 initially prescribed an appropriation of \$100 million in recurring GR funds, to fund the grant program.
 - This funding was ultimately not appropriated in the 2022 GAA.
- Bills:
 - [Ch. 2022-199](#), L.O.F. (SB 1764 by Sen. Albritton) Passed
- Past FAC statements:



- WES-PP-05 (2021-22)
 - SUPPORT legislation that affords local governments that own Waste-to-Energy (WTE) facilities the opportunity for additional revenue to offset solid waste enterprise expenses and capital costs. The legislation seeks to net meter power generated from municipally owned WTE Facilities to other city/county facilities and provide a new basis for calculating individually operated utility (IOU) capacity cost avoidance.

SUBMITTING COUNTY AND CONTACT: Pinellas – Brian Lowack
blowack@pinellascounty.org (727) 464-5758

ASSIGNED COMMITTEE: WES

BOARD SUPPORT: No position

UNFUNDED MANDATE: No

PROTECTIVE OF HOME RULE: N/A