



2015 Federal Legislative Agenda Carbon Neutrality of Biomass

City Commission Meeting
December 18, 2014

Staff Recommendation for 2015 Federal Legislative Agenda

GRU recommends the City support the Environmental Protection Agency's assessment that electricity produced from wood waste and certain forest derived byproducts has minimal or no net atmospheric contributions of biogenic CO₂ emissions.

- *“...use of waste-derived feedstocks and certain forest derived industrial byproducts are likely to have minimal or no net atmospheric contributions of biogenic CO₂ emissions, or even reduce such impacts, when compared with an alternate fate of disposal.”*
- *“...the Agency expects to recognize the biogenic CO₂ emissions and climate policy benefits of waste-derived and certain forest-derived industrial byproduct feedstocks, based on the conclusions supported by a variety of technical studies, including the revised Framework.”*

Basis of Recommendation

- The City of Gainesville and GRU have an existing investment through the Purchase Power Agreement (PPA) with GREC, selected in part as a hedge against potential carbon regulation
- EPA's recognition of electricity generated from sustainably managed, forest-derived, biomass as carbon neutral would likely protect this investment for the utility, and therefore our customers under the proposed Clean Power Plan.

Staff Recommendation

GRU recommends the City support the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) assessment that electricity produced from wood waste and certain forest derived byproducts has minimal or no net atmospheric contributions of biogenic CO₂ emissions.