



Local Government
Solid Waste Management Survey

**Florida Legislative Committee
on Intergovernmental Relations**

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Florida Legislative Committee on Intergovernmental Relations

(As of January 2009)

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The Florida Legislative Committee on Intergovernmental Relations (LCIR) is a legislative entity that facilitates the development of intergovernmental policies and practices. The Florida LCIR strives to improve coordination and cooperation among state agencies, local governments, and the federal government.

What Issues Have Been Addressed by the LCIR?

The LCIR completes several publications annually, including the Local Government Financial Information Handbook, Finalized Salaries of County Constitutional Officers and Elected School District Officials, and Intergovernmental Impact Report (Mandates and Measures Affecting Local Government Fiscal Capacity). In addition, the LCIR has addressed the following issues:

- Municipal Incorporations and Annexation
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction. Each year, Florida disposes of more than 35 million tons of solid waste. Although some of the waste is recycled, the majority of it is disposed of in landfills. Consequently, Florida currently has approximately 292 active landfills, 500 inactive landfills, and an unknown number of old dumps.

Under Ch. 403, F.S., Florida's Solid Waste Management Act, the collection, reprocessing and disposal of solid waste is the responsibility of Florida's local governments under the guidance of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Waste Management. As a result, in most counties, solid waste related costs account for the county's second largest budgetary expenditure.

In this era of limited resources, local governments are reviewing their solid waste management plans to improve cost efficiency while protecting and preserving their local environment. In March 2009, LCIR staff surveyed Florida's local governments concerning current solid waste management practices and their consideration of future solid waste proposals. The objective of the survey was to identify common issues faced by Florida's local governments concerning solid waste management practices and to determine whether and how local governments were reassessing their solid waste plans. Benefitting from the local government's first hand experience, the responses would allow LCIR staff to establish the prevalence of the issues faced and to determine the extent to which other factors, such as population and geography impact solid waste management practices.

Survey. LCIR staff surveyed all 67 counties and the majority of the 412 municipalities throughout the state. Although solid waste management responsibilities primarily rest with the county government, some municipalities do manage their own solid waste operations and facilities. Initially, the LCIR received responses from 25 of the 67 counties. Upon further review however, only 18 of the counties provided sufficient information for analysis. Though the survey response rate was inadequate, the counties and municipalities that did respond provided valuable information to allow staff to identify common solid waste issues and concerns.

A review of the survey responses yielded the following:

- 11 of the 18 survey respondents represented coastal counties;
- Counties with populations greater than 500,000 have more complex solid waste management plans;
- 14 of the 18 county respondents indicated varying levels of solid waste management coordination, whether larger counties coordinating with their municipalities or smaller counties coordinating within the same region;
- 11 of the 18 counties indicated either that they had applied or had been awarded some type of solid waste grant, rebate or incentive;
- 14 of the 18 counties indicated that they were in the process of reassessing their solid waste management plans;
- Budgetary constraints and minimal operations were listed as reasons for not reassessing solid waste management plans;

- Environmental protection, decreasing the need for a landfill and increasing efficiency to maintain service levels were cited as the top goals for solid waste management plan reassessment; and
- Solid waste proposals included the addition of a waste-to-energy facility and development of waste-based industry parks.

Recommendations. It is important to note that the current economic conditions were cited as an answer to many survey questions. As this trend continues, there are several steps that local governments could pursue to improve and maintain their solid waste management plans. These include:

- Local governments should register with www.Grants.gov and take full advantage of all this interactive website has to offer.
- As www.Grants.gov continues to evolve, local governments should provide the website with feedback on issues that could bear improvement, such as timeframes, and uniformity of application processes and forms.
- Once grants have been identified to pursue, local government staff should develop a direct rapport with personnel from the granting agency through phone and e-mail contact whenever possible.
- Regional approaches, like the New River Solid Waste Association and the Heart of Florida Solid Waste Working Group in North and Central Florida, afford opportunities and economies of scales. Whether they take place between smaller counties or a large county and its municipalities, regional approaches to solid waste management practices and grant funding should be pursued. Local governments should identify

similarly situated local governments, and review their solid waste plans to see if anything they are doing can work for them.

- Public-Private partnerships should also be pursued in light of newly emerging solid waste disposal and processing technologies and state and federal incentive and grant opportunities for such partnerships.
- The market for recyclables and energy needs to be stimulated, so that local governments have buyers for their recyclables and renewable energy byproducts. Crafting legislation to assist growth in such markets would enable local governments to attract partners for their solid waste ventures and secure consumers for their recycled materials and energy.
- Public acceptance was listed as an obstacle to new solid waste proposals and existing programs. Consequently, local governments should continue solid waste reduction, reuse, and recycling educational programs, as well as other educational efforts to ensure public participation.
- Local governments should continue to be active participants and provide input on the FDEP's development of a draft comprehensive program to achieve the new statewide average recycling goal of 75 percent at www.dep.stste.fl.us/waste/recyclinggoal75.

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Chapter One

Introduction

A. Background

Each year, Florida disposes of more than 35 million tons of solid waste.¹ Although some of the waste is recycled, the majority of it is disposed of in landfills.² Consequently, Florida currently has approximately 292 active landfills³, 500 inactive landfills, and an unknown number of old dumps.⁴

Solid waste management includes collecting, sorting, processing, recycling and disposing the waste.⁵ Under Ch. 403, F.S., Florida's Solid Waste Management Act, these activities are the responsibility of Florida's local governments under the guidance of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Waste Management (hereafter "FDEP").⁶

Solid waste management is expensive due to the cost of labor necessary for collections, sorting and processing; in addition to the cost of the processing itself, the operations of the disposal facilities and the land necessary for these activities. Local governments, depending on size, population and solid waste plans, expend approximately 6 percent or more of their budgets on solid waste management.⁷ On a per capita basis, solid waste management costs can range from \$71 to \$146 per citizen.⁸ In most counties, solid waste related costs account for the county's second largest budgetary expenditure. Moreover, failure to comply with solid waste management regulations can further increase costs, in addition to the negative effects on the local government's public health, safety and environment.

B. Statutory Framework.

Florida's Solid Waste Management Act is contained in Ch. 403, F.S., and the regulations which implement the Act in Ch. 62, Florida Administrative Code. Section 403.076, entitled, "Local

¹ Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Waste Management, 2006 Solid Waste Annual Report, Table 4A-1: Total Tons of MSW Managed in Florida Facilities, at http://appprod.dep.state.fl.us/www_rcra/reports/WR/Recycling/2006AnnualReport/AppendixA/4A-1.pdf.

² For purposes of this report, solid waste includes: Class I Waste – household garbage; Class III Waste – includes yard trash, construction and demolition debris, processed tires, asbestos, carpet, cardboard, paper, glass, plastic, furniture-other than appliances, and other materials not expected to produce leachate; White goods - appliances. See, Ch 62-701.200 (13) and (14), F.A.C.

³ These numbers include active Class I, Class III, Construction and Demolition Debris (CDD) Disposal Facilities and Land Clearing Debris Disposal Facilities. Florida Department of Environmental Protection Division of Waste Management

⁴ Because many old dumps predate the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's regulation, the agency does not have an accurate count.

⁵ Municipal Solid Waste includes most garbage that is picked up curbside from the residential sector as well as collected from the commercial sector which also includes multi-family apartments and condominiums.

⁶ Florida Department of Environmental Protection Division of Waste Management's website can be found at <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/default.htm>.

⁷ Florida Legislative Committee on Intergovernmental Relations, Total Reported County/Municipal Expenditures (2006), at <http://www.floridalcir.gov/stwidefiscal.cfm>.

⁸ *Id.*

Government Solid Waste Responsibilities,” provides that solid waste management is the primary responsibility of county governments. A municipality may operate its own solid waste facility when approved by an interlocal agreement or special act. In order to do so, however, the municipality must demonstrate that the use of the county solid waste facility, when compared to a proposed municipal solid waste facility, places a significant and disproportionate burden on its citizens, when compared to the financial burden placed on the county’s residents.

After the 1970’s energy crisis, Florida began exploring waste-to-energy facilities as a solution to the need for both solid waste disposal and energy. In 1975, the Legislature passed the Resource Recovery and Management Act.⁹ The Act required counties to develop a resource recovery plan and conferred benefits to counties incorporating a waste to energy facility in their plan. Consequently, this Act paved the way for the construction of 16 waste-to-energy facilities in Florida over the next 30 years.

In 1988, when the Legislature passed the comprehensive Solid Waste Management Act, it recognized the need for an integrated approach to solid waste management.¹⁰ Specifically, the Act acknowledged the need to combine waste reduction, recycling, waste-to-energy facilities and landfills into a cohesive statewide approach. The Act further conferred a competitive advantage in the electrical supply market to waste-to-energy facilities. From that point on, solid waste management and energy have been linked in Florida.

In 2006, the Florida Renewable Energy Technology and Energy Efficiency Act became law. The Act sought to further diversify Florida’s fuel supply and promote conservation. This Act created the state’s Renewable Energy and Energy-Efficient Technologies Grant program, a 4-year \$100 Million plan to achieve these goals. More recently, in 2008, the Legislature unanimously passed Florida’s Energy, Climate Change and Economic Security Act.¹¹ Among the many provisions, the Act sets a long-term recycling goal of 75 percent for the state by 2020. The Act directed FDEP to develop a statewide comprehensive program to achieve this goal and submit the proposed program to the Legislature by January 1, 2010.¹² The Act further requires counties to implement a plan to compost 5 to 10 percent of their organic waste by 2010. To this end, counties are encouraged to form multicounty solutions to capture methane gas from waste treatment facilities for its reuse and sale.

In support of an integrated approach to solid waste disposal, Florida has established several grant, rebate and incentive programs to assist local governments. These programs include:

⁹ See, s. 403.702, F.S.

¹⁰ See, s. 403.7061, F.S.

¹¹ H 7135, Relating to Energy, by Environmental & Natural Resources Council and Representatives Mayfield and Kreegel, Ch. 2008-227, Laws of Florida, s. 95.

¹² Preliminary draft recommendations concerning this new statewide comprehensive waste reduction and recycling program will be available for public comment in July 2009.

Small County Consolidated Grant program, which provides grants to counties with populations of less than 100,000 to assist with their general solid waste management, litter prevention and recycling and education efforts;¹³

Innovative Recycling/Waste Reduction Grant program, administered by FDEP, provides grant funding to proposals that incorporate innovative or new technology, or new use of an existing technology to reduce or recycle waste;¹⁴

Renewable Energy and Energy-Efficient Technology Grant program provides state matching funds for demonstration, commercialization, and research and development projects relating to renewable energy technologies and energy efficient innovative technologies for commercial buildings and vehicles, awarded annually by the Florida Energy and Climate Commission.¹⁵

FDEP also offers other rebate and incentive programs.¹⁶ Unfortunately, in any given year the number of applicants for these grants has always exceeded the available funding. Moreover, given the current economic climate, funding for these programs has not been consistent. For example, this year no funds were appropriated for the Innovative Recycling/Waste Reduction grants or the Renewable Energy and Energy-Efficient Technologies Grant programs.¹⁷ The federal government also has many solid waste related grants available to local governments on a competitive basis. For more information about these, see www.Grants.gov, discussed below.

Chapter Two

Data

A. Survey.

In this era of limited resources, local governments are reviewing their solid waste management plans to improve cost efficiency while protecting and preserving their local environment. In March 2009, LCIR staff surveyed Florida's local governments concerning current solid waste management practices and their consideration of future solid waste proposals. The survey sought to gather information on local governments'

- current solid waste plans;
- solid waste plan duration and the contracts involved;
- solid waste participants involved – whether other local governments or private enterprises;
- use of state and federal grant funding;
- proposed solid waste plans;

¹³ See, ss. 403.7095(3), F.S., and FDEP's Solid Waste Grant webpage at http://www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/categories/solid_waste/pages/rulemaking_62-716.htm.

¹⁴ See s. 403.7095, F.S.

¹⁵ See, s. 377.804, F.S. No funds were appropriated for these awards in 2009.

¹⁶ See, Section D, below, and fn. 29.

¹⁷ However, through the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), Florida's energy programs expect to receive \$126 million in federal grants, \$24 million of that award will be set aside for a new Renewable Energy Sectors Grant Program. Upon approval by the federal government, information on this new energy grant program can be found at www.myfloridaclimate.com and www.Grants.gov.

- proposed solid waste plan goals and criteria; and
- proposed solid waste plan impacts, benefits and obstacles.

The objective of the survey was to identify common issues faced by Florida's local governments concerning solid waste management practices and to determine whether and how local governments were reassessing their solid waste plans. Benefitting from the local government's first hand experience, the responses would allow LCIR staff to establish the prevalence of the issues faced and to determine the extent to which other factors, such as population and geography impact solid waste management practices. LCIR staff also interviewed local government staff concerning their survey responses and FDEP staff for a statewide perspective. Upon completion, the report and recommendations would be presented to the Florida Legislative Committee on Intergovernmental Relations.

B. Survey Responses.

LCIR staff surveyed all 67 counties and 412 municipalities throughout the state. Although solid waste management responsibilities primarily rest with the county government, some municipalities manage their own solid waste operations and facilities. Initially, the LCIR received responses from 25 of the 67 counties. Upon further review however, only 18 counties provided sufficient information for analysis. This resulted in a response rate of 27 percent. As for municipal responses to the survey, 10 of the counties surveyed referenced the solid waste plans of 100 municipalities within their jurisdictions. Additionally, one municipality responded to the survey. Though the survey response rate was inadequate, the counties and municipalities that did respond provided valuable information to allow staff to identify common solid waste issues and concerns.¹⁸

Chapter Three *Analysis*

A. Survey Respondents.

In reviewing the populations of the 18 survey respondents, LCIR staff found that:

- 6 counties with up to 100,000 in population responded to the survey - Group I;¹⁹
- 8 counties with populations between 100,001 and 499,999 responded to the survey - Group II;²⁰
- 2 counties with populations between 500,000 and 999,999 responded to the survey - Group III;²¹
- and 2 counties had populations over 1,000,000 - Group IV.²²

¹⁸ See, Appendix 1 - Local Government Solid Waste, Disposal, Processing & Recycling Survey Responses (March 2009), attached.

¹⁹ Baker, Columbia, Gilchrist, Levy, Okeechobee, and Sumter.

²⁰ Alachua, Citrus, Clay, Collier, Martin, Sarasota, Seminole, and St. Lucie.

²¹ Pinellas and Volusia.

²² Hillsborough and Miami-Dade.

Accordingly, a variety of different population categories were represented by the survey respondents, with a more representative sample of the counties with less than 1,000,000 in population.²³ It is interesting to note that 11 of the 18 survey respondents are coastal counties.²⁴ Coastal counties face unique solid waste management challenges in that they are typically more densely populated resulting in little available space for a landfill. Furthermore, due to their proximity to the water these counties have high ground water that makes it difficult to site a landfill under current environmental regulations.²⁵

B. Solid Waste Management Plans.

Survey respondents were asked to specify their current solid waste management plans.²⁶ As expected, the larger counties, Group IV - Miami-Dade (pop. 2,477,289) and Hillsborough (pop. 1,200,541), had extensive solid waste management plans. This is due to several reasons. First and foremost, both counties serve a greater number of residents and consequently manage more solid waste. Additionally, both counties are densely populated making the availability of land for a landfill almost impossible. Both are coastal counties, where the water table is high, making the siting of a landfill more difficult due to the propensity of leachate²⁷ to contaminate ground and surface water.²⁸ Both counties have recycling programs that recover materials from the solid waste stream. The remaining solid waste is either burned to produce energy or disposed of in a landfill.

The counties in the next population category, Group III with populations of 500,000 to 999,999, indicated similar, though smaller, solid waste management plans. Both Pinellas and Volusia counties also incorporate waste-to-energy facilities in their solid waste management plans. The role that waste-to-energy plays in their solid waste plans varies however. For example, in Pinellas County (pop. 938,461) the primary method of solid waste disposal is at the waste-to-energy facility where the solid waste is incinerated and used to produce energy. The resulting ash byproduct is disposed in a landfill after metals have been recovered. The materials recovered from recycling are sold. Although Volusia County (pop. 510,750) also uses a waste-to-energy facility to recover energy from sewage sludge, it primarily relies on its Class I and III landfill for its solid waste disposal. Methane resulting from the landfill is both flared off and used to produce electricity. This dual approach is used because the landfill produces more methane than the waste-to-energy facility can convert to electricity. The electricity produced is sold to the Florida Power & Light Company for use on the county's electrical grid.

Seven of the eight counties in Group II (with populations between 100,000 and 499,000) primarily rely on landfills to dispose of their solid waste with various methods of recycling collection and disposal. Three of the larger counties, Collier County (pop. 332,854), Seminole County (pop. 426,413), and St. Lucie County (pop. 276,585), have landfill gas-to-energy

²³ See, Appendix 2 – Florida Solid Waste Management Survey County Respondents by Population (June 2009), attached.

²⁴ *Id.*

²⁵ No survey responses from northwestern Florida were received.

²⁶ Survey respondents were asked to limit their responses to solid waste. See footnote 2 for a definition of solid waste as used in this report.

²⁷ Leachate is the liquid generated when water travels through solid waste.

²⁸ New landfills are required to have liners to protect groundwater from contamination.

capability. Collier County has a landfill gas-to-energy facility which produces electricity that is sold to suppliers. Seminole County's landfill and construction and demolition debris disposal facility is equipped with a gas-to-energy facility that is owned and operated by a private developer, Seminole Energy, LLC. Seminole County also incinerates the remainder of their mulched yard waste at the Ridge Generating Facility in Polk County where that process creates electricity. St. Lucie County bales (compresses) its solid waste in order to extend the life of its landfill. Furthermore, methane gas captured from the landfill is sold to Tropicana, Inc., an orange juice manufacturer, to partially power their nearby facility. Of note, St. Lucie County is currently in the process of developing and building the first plasma arc facility in the United States. This facility will produce electricity while eliminating their solid waste and significantly reducing the need for landfill space.

Group I's six counties, with populations under 100,000, depend on landfills for their solid waste disposal needs. Three of the 6 counties in this Group, Baker (pop. 25,890), Gilchrist (pop. 17,256), and Sumter County (pop. 93,034), treat no waste within their county. Rather, they transfer their solid waste to be processed and disposed elsewhere. Of the remaining three counties which primarily landfill their solid waste, only Okeechobee County (pop. 40,003) has a gas-to-energy facility operated by Waste Management, Incorporated.

A review of the responses to this survey shows that counties with larger population and the corresponding revenues sources have more funds to explore and operate waste-to-energy facilities and research other approaches to solid waste management. Where a county lacks the necessary population and revenues, similar results can be obtained by cooperating with other counties, as is seen by the New River Solid Waste Association used by Baker, Bradford, and Union counties, referenced below.

C. Solid Waste Coordination.

The survey asked the local governments to list the parties, whether other local governments or private companies, involved in their current solid waste disposal plans. In response, 14 of the 18 counties indicated varying examples of intergovernmental coordination among the counties and municipalities. Survey respondents, indicated that 100 municipal solid waste plans were part of the county solid waste plan. For example, Miami-Dade (pop. 2,477,289) and Pinellas (pop. 938,461) counties indicated that their solid waste plans involved 26 and 24 municipalities, respectively.

Although intergovernmental coordination is typically expected in larger counties with many municipalities, it was also evident in the smaller counties' responses. A case in point is the New River Solid Waste Association (the Association) formed by Baker County (pop. 25,890), Bradford County (pop. 29,059) and Union County (pop. 15,974). At the time of its inception, over 20 years ago, none of these counties were large enough to fund their own solid waste disposal program. The landfill, centrally located in Union County, is owned and operated by the Association which employs its own Executive Director. Two County Commissioners from each county sit on the Association's Board. The Association also contracts with Alachua, Gilchrist and Levy counties to receive solid waste. At the end of the year, dividends are paid to the member counties (Baker, Bradford and Union) by the Association. In 2008, Baker County received a \$200,000 dividend from the Association. Dividends vary from year to year.

A more recent example of intergovernmental coordination is the Heart of Florida Solid Waste Working Group. Comprised of 16 north central Florida counties, the group's goal is to find long term viable solid waste solutions for the region. The counties involved include: Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Citrus, Clay, Gilchrist, Columbia, Hamilton, Hernando, Lake, Levy, Marion, Putnam, Sumter, Suwannee and Union. The City of Ocala and the New River Solid waste Association are also members. Formalized in 2006, the participating counties have undergone Phase I of a survey concerning their current solid waste management plans and practices. In Phase II, the counties will explore what they can achieve together as a regional solid waste cooperative. Information about the Heart of Florida Solid Waste Working Group can be found at www.heartoffloridasolidwaste.org.

D. Solid Waste Grant Participation.

The LCIR has had a longstanding interest in state participation in federal grants as well as grant awareness for local governments. Several survey questions asked the local governments whether grants were part of their solid waste funding and whether they had a grant writer for such a purpose. Eleven of the 18 responding counties indicated that they had either applied or received some type of solid waste grant. More specifically, 5 of the 11 (Columbia, Gilchrist, Levy, Okeechobee and Sumter) indicated that they participated in the state's Small County Consolidated Grant Program. This program provides funds to counties, with a population of less than 100,000, for general solid waste management, litter prevention, and recycling and education efforts. In its response, Sumter County explained that the Small County Consolidated Grant program is "vital" to its facility and that losing this grant when they reach the 100,000 population limit will require them to increase costs and/or cut back on services.

Other counties indicated that they had applied for or received other solid waste related grants. For example, Sarasota County stated that it had received an Innovative Recycling/Waste Reduction Grant of \$220,000 to explore incentives to separate construction and demolition debris. Whereas, Seminole County indicated that it had applied for an Innovative Recycling Grant. Collier County provided that they had received funds for a school recycling program from FDEP and were awaiting a FEMA grant award for a leachate upgrade at its landfill. Alachua County indicated that it had applied for a state rebate for the County's first solar project under the state's Solar Energy System Incentive Program.²⁹ Pinellas County responded that it had received a small nonrecurring Recycling Demonstration Grant from FDEP. Lastly, Miami-Dade County provided that it had received an Automated Hybrid Truck Demonstration Pilot Project grant to fund 16 cubic yard capacity units that would collect waste in zero lot line and cul-de-sac communities.

Of note, some counties indicated no participation in any solid waste grant program. More importantly, two counties indicated their unfamiliarity with any solid waste grant programs. With regard to state solid waste grants, FDEP publishes information on solid waste and energy grants on its website. These include information, including application forms, for the Small County Consolidated Grants program at <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/categories/swgrants/default.htm>. Information for the Innovative

²⁹ Created in 2006, the four-year Solar Energy System Incentives Program provides partial rebate for the cost of a solar energy system to any Florida resident, including local governments.

Recycling/Waste Reduction Grants can also be found on FDEP's website at http://www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/categories/recycling/ig/grants_allyears.htm. Furthermore, information concerning the state's Renewable Energy and Energy-Efficient Technology Grants can be found at <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/energy/energyact/grants.htm>. Counties interested in applying for a Solar Project Rebate, can get information on this program at <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/energy/energyact/solar.htm>. Lastly, information concerning Renewable Energy Tax Incentives is available at <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/energy/energyact/incentives.htm>.

As for federal solid waste related grants, in 2008, the LCIR published a report entitled *Federal Grants to Florida's Local Governments*. This reports highlighted the need for Florida's local governments to be aware of the many federal grant opportunities in which they could participate. Finding grants is not as difficult as it used to be. The federal government has created an interactive website where all 26 federal agencies post available grant opportunities. The website not only allows applicants to search current grant opportunities, but also to sign up for email alerts regarding all new grant announcements, or new grant announcements meeting specific criteria. Although it is not necessary to formally register with www.Grants.gov to search for grant opportunities or receive email alerts, formal registration is necessary to apply for grants.³⁰ Tracking federal grant opportunities on www.Grants.gov can offer a local government solid waste disposal, processing and recycling options that it could not afford on its own.³¹

E. Solid Waste Plan Reassessment.

The survey further inquired whether local governments were reassessing their current solid waste management plans and the reason for the reassessment. Fourteen of the 18 counties indicated that they were in the process of reassessing their current solid waste plans. The reasons listed for the reassessment were varied. However, 5 of the 14 counties indicated that they were in the process of reassessing their solid waste plans because the current economic climate had peaked their interest in lowering solid waste operations costs and in generating revenues through solid waste processing, namely waste-to-energy facilities. The next most prevalent reason listed for solid waste reassessment was the passage of the 2008 Florida Energy, Climate Change and Economic Security Act, which sets a long-term goal for public and private entities and the general public to reduce the amount of recyclable solid waste disposed of in waste management facilities by a statewide average of 75 percent by 2020.³² The Act also requires counties to implement plans to compost 5 to 10 percent of their organic waste that would otherwise be disposed of in a landfill by July 1, 2010. Several counties indicated that their current solid waste reassessment focused on meeting these requirements. For this reason, local governments should provide input on the FDEP's development of a draft comprehensive program to achieve the new statewide average recycling goal of 75 percent at www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/recyclinggoal75. The remaining four counties, that indicated they were not reassessing their solid waste plans listed budgetary constraints and minimal solid waste operations as the main reasons for not doing

³⁰ Please note that the registration process can take 3 to 5 business days. Also, due to increased system activity related to the American Reinvestment Recovery Act (ARRA), some applications can be submitted outside www.Grants.gov but will still be posted at www.Grants.gov.

³¹ A "solid waste" query on www.Grants.gov yielded 270 solid waste related grants. (May 30, 2009).

³² See, s. 403.7032, F.S.

so. In conclusion, it is important to note that current economic conditions were cited by most counties as a reason for solid waste reassessment and by one county as a reason for not reassessing their solid waste plans.

F. Solid Waste Plan Reassessment Goals.

Local governments were further asked to identify the goals being sought in the solid waste plan reassessment. In response, 5 counties cited environmental protection as a reason for the reassessment. Decreasing the need for a landfill was the next most popular response. Several counties listed making their solid waste plans more efficient in order to maintain their level of service as a factor for plan reassessment.

G. Solid Waste Proposals.

The responses to what local governments are considering in terms of solid waste reassessment were wide-ranging. However, some common themes did emerge. The most common response included the addition of a waste-to-energy facility to the county's solid waste plan. Citrus County responded that it was in the process of permitting a gas collection system. St. Lucie County responded that after 36 months and 7,000 pages of research, plasma arc technology was the only solid waste option that met the county's goals and criteria.³³ St. Lucie County is currently in the processing of obtaining the required permits and finding purchasers for the potential electricity to be produced by the proposed plasma arc facility.

Two counties listed that they were in the process of developing a waste-based industry development: a Resources Recovery Park in Alachua County and an Eco-Park in Sarasota County. Alachua County stated that the planned Resource Recovery Park, a low impact public-private development for waste-based industries, was expected to produce revenue and/or decrease county costs. Nevertheless, Alachua County commented that the current economic climate might decrease interest in public-private partnerships. Sarasota County, which is considering developing an Eco-Park, offered that crafting legislation to stimulate partnerships between the public and private sectors would assist local governments toward achieving state goals.

Two other counties stated that they were considering proposals that would help them meet the waste reduction requirements of the 2008 Energy, Climate Change and Economic Security Act; however they were not specific as to the nature of the proposals.

³³ Plasma arc technology is a process that uses high temperature incineration of solid waste to create gas for electricity and a by-product, slag, which can be used to build roads. See Florida County plans to vaporize landfill trash, USA Today (September 6, 2006) at http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2006-09-09-fla-county-trash_x.htm.

H. Impacts, Benefits & Obstacles.

The survey requested that local governments identify the expected impacts, benefits, and obstacles to the solid waste proposals being considered.

With respect to expected impacts, most local governments cited a response that was financial in nature. Four counties stated that they expected that their new solid waste proposal would lower solid waste costs. Furthermore, when specified, these responses focused on solid waste operational costs. On the other hand, some counties responded that they expected their citizens would experience increased solid waste costs as a result of the planned solid waste proposals. Other responses included: enhanced environmental protection and preservation; reduction of waste volume and waste streams; lower greenhouse emissions³⁴; extend the life of the landfill; and reduce the local government's carbon footprint.

The expected benefits cited by the local governments were not much different. For example, 8 of the 14 counties cited reduced costs as a benefit of the new solid waste proposal. Other responses included: environmental protection and reservation; increased recycling and material reuse; and the elimination of landfills, among others.

Expected obstacles to the local governments' proposed solid waste plans also followed the same economic trend. Nine counties cited that the current economy was affecting the feasibility of their new solid waste proposals. The next most prevalent obstacle to their proposed solid waste plan was public acceptance.

Chapter Four ***Recommendations***

It is important to note that the current economic conditions were cited as an answer to many survey questions. As this trend continues, there are several steps that local governments could pursue to improve and maintain their solid waste management plans. These include:

- Local governments should register with www.Grants.gov and take full advantage of all this interactive website has to offer.
- As www.Grants.gov continues to evolve, local governments should provide the website with feedback on issues that could bear improvement, such as timeframes, and uniformity of application processes and forms.
- Once grants have been identified to pursue, local government staff should develop a direct rapport with personnel from the granting agency through phone and e-mail contact whenever possible.
- Regional approaches, like the New River Solid Waste Association and the Heart of Florida Solid Waste Working Group in North and Central Florida, afford opportunities and economies of scale. Whether they take place between smaller counties or a large

³⁴ Greenhouse gases are carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and fluorinated gases such as hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride. See, s. 403.44(1)(c), F.S. (Florida Climate Protection Act).

county and its municipalities, regional approaches to solid waste management practices and grant funding should be pursued. Local governments should identify similarly situated local governments, and review their solid waste plans to see if anything they are doing can work for them.

- Public-Private partnerships should also be pursued in light of newly emerging solid waste disposal and processing technologies and state and federal incentive and grant opportunities for such partnerships.
- The market for recyclables and energy needs to be stimulated to ensure that local governments have purchasers for their recyclables, renewable energy byproducts and energy. Crafting legislation to assist growth in such markets would enable local governments to attract partners for their solid waste ventures and secure end users for their recycled materials and energy.
- Public acceptance was listed as an obstacle to existing solid waste programs and new solid waste proposals. Consequently, local governments should continue solid waste reduction, reuse, and recycling educational programs, as well as other educational efforts to ensure public participation.
- Local governments should continue to be active participants and provide input on the FDEP's development of a draft comprehensive program to achieve the new statewide average recycling goal of 75 percent at www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/recyclinggoal75.

APPENDIX

1. Local Government Solid Waste Disposal, Processing and Recycling Survey Response Chart (March 2009) (Excel).
2. Florida Solid Waste Management Survey, County Respondents by Population (June 2009)

APPENDIX 1

Local Government Solid Waste Disposal, Processing & Recycling Survey (March 2009)

Gov't/ Pop	Current SW Plan	Duration / Parties	Grant	Reassess	Reason	Goals	Criteria	State REEET Grant	Fed Grant	Grant writer	Proposed Plan Impact	Proposed Plan Benefits	Proposed Plan Obstacles	Comment	Contact
Alachua (252,388)	County owned/ operated transfer station @ Leveda Brown Environ Pk. SW brought to transfer station, processed & transported to New River Landfill. Contract expires 2018. Tires- collected & held for pick up by RMD America. Wood waste-mulched & given to public. Metal-baled & sent to Ocala Metals for recycling. Hazardous Waste- collected at county HW Collection Ctr. CDD-disposed in Alachua County by private enterprise.	City of Gainesville, other municipalities in Alachua, private haulers & businesses. Through interlocal agreement between Alachua & Gilchrist counties, Alachua staff hauls Gilchrist SW from transfer station to landfill. Residential collection in unincorporated areas by Emerald Waste Services thru 9/09. County & City of Gainesville issuing joint RFP for next collection contract. Recycling processed through public/private partnership w/ SP Recycling.	No		Developing plan to achieve 75% discard diversion from landfill by 2020. Including composting plan for 5% of organics by July 2010. County purchased property adjacent to LBEP for Resource Recovery Park for waste-based industries.	Develop & implement composting plan for 5% organics by July 2010. Developing plan to achieve 75% diversion of discards from landfill by 2020.	Being developed locally & by FDEP.	Alachua County has applied for a state rebate for the County's first solar project.	No	No	Financial-new curbside collection increase cost per household; Environmental- no major impacts.	Financial- planned Resource Recovery Pk - produce revenue &/or decrease county costs. Environmental- decrease greenhouse emissions; increase recycling & reuse; Resource Recovery Pk low- impact development (and model development in Alachua County).	Current financial climate may decrease public/private partnership interest necessary for Resource Recovery Pk.	Member of Heart of Florida SW Working Group. More info. www.heartoffloridasolidwaste.org .	Karen J. Deter, Asst Public Works Dir., (352)374- 5213; kjd@alachuacounty.us

Local Government Solid Waste Disposal, Processing & Recycling Survey (March 2009)

Gov't/ Pop	Current SW Plan	Duration / Parties	Grant	Reassess	Reason	Goals	Criteria	State REEET Grant	Fed Grant	Grant writer	Proposed Plan Impact	Proposed Plan Benefits	Proposed Plan Obstacles	Comment	Contact
Baker (25,890)	Belong to County Landfill Consortium w/ Bradford & Union county. No curbside p/u recycling; igloos at collections stations; contract for labor to man stations; open 4 days per week		Not since State cut recycling fund.	Looking at privatizing curbside pick up	Eliminate collection centers; trash on streets	Clean up County	Cost effectiveness & public convenience	No, County Landfill Consortium handles grants.		Maurice Postal, mpostal@bakercountyfl.org	Clean up County & flow control	Eliminate dumping.	Public acceptance	Heart of Florida SW Working Group Member, more info. www.heartoffloridasolidwaste.org .	Joe Cone, County Manager, (904)259-3613; jcone@bakercountyfl.org
Citrus (142,043)	operated landfill. 6 yr. capacity left. Additional cell permitted 5 years additional capacity. Leachate treated onsite. C&D goes to private landfills. Yards waste mulched and stabilizes landfill slopes. Transfer station designed. \$20 million in SW Improvement Plan (only \$11M in reserves). Current recycling neighborhood drop off facilities, contract with local vendor.	Unincorporated. Citrus County, Inverness, Crystal River. Crystal River - own collection/recycling. Inverness - collection, no recycling. Unincorporated areas collection by user subscription.	No	Gas collection system being permitted. Regional cooperative system being considered. Will hire consultant to evaluate options & present to Board this year & 75% recycling requirement by 2020.; 5-10% composting requirement by 2010.	Tight economy. Staff prep consultant RFP. Hinckley Center for Solid & Hazardous Waste prepared an inventory.	Environmentally friendly or compliant, vertically integrated & cost effective.	Reduce landfill need; waste reduction; keeps transportation costs low; public control of process; complies federal/ state laws regulations.	No	Yes, grant to improve recycling in schools.		Increased costs; potential for overall savings; reduce potential groundwater impact; reduce methane emissions	Economy of scales w/ regional facility (must outweigh transport cost); waste reduction.	Need for additional facilities w/ tight budget public support essential; difficult implement changes in system w/ many stakeholders.	Encourage regional solutions. Give authority along w/ responsibility. Heart of Florida SW Working Group Member, more info. www.heartoffloridasolidwaste.org .	Susan Metcalfe, SW Dir., (352)527-7671; susan.metcalfe@bocccitrus.fl.us
Clay (185,168)	CDD Disposal - county owned SW transfer stations maintained/ operated by WM.; Curbside residential collection by Advanced Disposal	Unincorporated Clay County, Green Cove Springs, Orange Park, Penny Farms, Keystone Heights, Camp Blanding	No	Develop SW Plan to evaluate options. Phase I - id disposal options. Phase II - evaluate collection/ recycling options.	Upcoming expiration of SW collection & disposal contracts.	Provide cost effective SW Mgt services to citizens. Compliance with state regulations.	Reduce tipping fees & SW assessment; long term stability & predictability.	No		NR	Reduce cost & comply w/ FDEP regulations	Same	Capital cost of dev new SW facilities; environmental regs/policies = major impact on selection; public opposition m/b a factor.		Alan Altman, Clay County SW Dir., (904)284-6374, alan.altman@co.clay.fl.us

Local Government Solid Waste Disposal, Processing & Recycling Survey (March 2009)

Gov't/ Pop	Current SW Plan	Duration / Parties	Grant	Reassess	Reason	Goals	Criteria	State REEET Grant	Fed Grant	Grant writer	Proposed Plan Impact	Proposed Plan Benefits	Proposed Plan Obstacles	Comment	Contact
Collier (332,854)	Gas to energy plant at Collier County landfill. County owns/sells gas to WM, converts methane to electricity for sale to local suppliers.*	Landfill Operating Agreement w/ WM (20 yr). Gas to Energy Facility w/ WM (20 yr). School beverage recycling (renewal for additional yr). Seasonal yr round business videos. Single stream recycling program w/ Immokalee. Interlocal agreement w/ Everglades City for recycling. Adoption of recycling ordinance for Marco Island. Leachate line upgrade. Amendment to non residence recycling ordinance.	School Recycling & Seasonal Educational Recycling Videos (FDEP). Leachate upgrade - pending FEMA grant award.	Reduce soil consumption, used as cover material, by negotiating amend to the Landfill Operating Agreement to allow Posi Shell & other materials. Recycle all metals taken to landfill creating increased revenues & reduced disposal costs. Increase business recycling. Implement increased recycling in District II Immokalee through single stream recycling. Reduce rainfall it permeates Cell 6 to reduce leachate collection & subsequent wastewater disposal charges. Considering reducing hours/days of operation of Marco Island Recycling Center. Close Carnestown facility & reallocate resources to Naples Recycling Center.	In this economic period, SWMD tasked to reduce/reassess operations & business practices.	Follow the integrated SW Mgmt. Strategic Plan adopted in 2006.	Source reduction, material reuse/recycling; diversion, optimize existing assets & resources & obtaining additional facilities.	Yes	Applied for two FEMA Grants (\$330,000).	Grant Coordination Office & County divisions have at least 1 grant writer. Marlene Foord, Grants Coordination Office (6 years) Phone: (239)252-GRNT.	Financial - cost savings. Environmental - protections & preservation.	Financial - meet cost containment strategic plan of 15% reduction. Environmental - airspace savings, environmental protection, waste reduction, diversion of recycling.	Financial - reduction of tonnage=reduction of revenues. Environmental - FDEP, SFWMD permitting obstacles. Other - non participation from citizens.	Utilizing airspace savings for long term life of landfill, optimize resources for daily cover alternatives, increase public awareness & education.	Daniel R. Rodriguez, SW Dir., (239)252-2506, DanRodriguez@Colliergov.net

Local Government Solid Waste Disposal, Processing & Recycling Survey (March 2009)

Gov't/ Pop	Current SW Plan	Duration / Parties	Grant	Reassess	Reason	Goals	Criteria	State REEET Grant	Fed Grant	Grant writer	Proposed Plan Impact	Proposed Plan Benefits	Proposed Plan Obstacles	Comment	Contact
Columbia (66,121)	Class I waste disposed in lined landfill. CD, trees and Class III waste disposed unlined landfill. SW collected weekly by Waste Pro of Fla. (until 2011). Delivered to County owned/ operated SW facility. Two recycling drop off centers Materials sorted, baled & marketed.	Lake City contracts w/ Southland Waste disposed at County facility. However, no agreement between Columbia County & Lake City.	Small County Grant Funding supports several programs	No	NR	NR	NR	No	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	Heart of Florida SW Working Group participant, more info. www.heartoffloridasolidwaste.org .	William Lycan, SW Dir., (386)752-6050, bill_lycan@columbiacountyfla.com

Local Government Solid Waste Disposal, Processing & Recycling Survey (March 2009)

Gov't/ Pop	Current SW Plan	Duration / Parties	Grant	Reassess	Reason	Goals	Criteria	State REEET Grant	Fed Grant	Grant writer	Proposed Plan Impact	Proposed Plan Benefits	Proposed Plan Obstacles	Comment	Contact
Gilchrist (17,256)	SW Department is a full-transfer station, all waste removed from facility; no treatment onsite.	Alachua Cty to p/u & dispose "acceptable waste, renewable every 3 yrs. Alachua County on call basis accepts all Hazardous Waste for disposal. SP recycling on call for cardboard, plastic & paper pick up. Cumbaa Enterprises on call for tire pick up & recycling. Live Oak Recycling Ctr receives/ recycles scrap metal. SE Energy on call to pick up/recycle waste oil & filters. Watson Construction County Line Landfills dispose CDD materials. Mary's Recycling on call pick up/recycle batteries, E-Scrap. Bill Dean trucking on call to pick up/dispose leachate. GRU receives/treats leachate brought by Bill Dean trucking.	Small County Grant from FDEP.	Not necessary at this time.	NR	NR	NR	No	No	NR	NR	NR	NR	Grants provide small counties facility maintenance to insure proper disposal & recycling efforts. Heart of Florida SW Working Group member, info www.heartoffloridasolidwaste.org .	Patrick Fischer, Supervisor, (352)463-3185, recycle@gilchrist.fl.us

Local Government Solid Waste Disposal, Processing & Recycling Survey (March 2009)

Gov't/ Pop	Current SW Plan	Duration / Parties	Grant	Reassess	Reason	Goals	Criteria	State REEET Grant	Fed Grant	Grant writer	Proposed Plan Impact	Proposed Plan Benefits	Proposed Plan Obstacles	Comment	Contact
Hillsborough (1,200,541)	WTE contract w/ Covanta for 20 yrs.; SE Landfill w/ WM for site life. 3 Yard waste processing facilities, operation contract w/ Consolidated Resources. 3 franchise collection contracts w/ WM, Republic Waste, Waste Services for Residential SW & Recycling.	Interlocal agreements w/ City of Tampa & City of Temple Terrace.	No	Continual reassessment. State 75% recycling/waste reduction requirement.		Improve effective- ness & efficiency. Meet new State require- ments.	To be determined, based upon direction from State on its recycling/waste goals when finalized.	Yes.(?)	No	Yes, various staff have grant writing responsibil- ities.	Unknown at this time	Unknown at this time	Unknown at this time	Survey premature, FDEP to submit Recycling Plan in 2010.	Chris Snow, Mgr., Contract & Customer Service, (813)276- 8408, snowc@hillbroughtcounty.org
Levy (40,817)	Transfer Class I SW to New River Facility. Class III at Levy County SW Mgmt Facility. 20 mobile recycling units. Units taken to Levy County SW facility for sorting/ packaging for sale. Remainder put into waste stream.	Levy County (incorporated & unincorporated).	Small County Consoli- dated Grant	No, due to minimal operations.	NR	NR	NR	No	No	No	Increasing regulations put strain on County.	None	Increase cost for recycling if energy prices spike as in 2008.	Getting citizens to recycle not much good when no market for recyclables. Heart of Florida SW Working Group member, more info. www.heartoffloridasolidwaste.org	Andrew Carswell, County Engineer, millseng@bellsouth.net

Local Government Solid Waste Disposal, Processing & Recycling Survey (March 2009)

Gov't/ Pop	Current SW Plan	Duration / Parties	Grant	Reassess	Reason	Goals	Criteria	State REEET Grant	Fed Grant	Grant writer	Proposed Plan Impact	Proposed Plan Benefits	Proposed Plan Obstacles	Comment	Contact
Martin (143,868)	MSW - Okeechobee Landfill (30 yr contract), potential WTE. Yard waste mulched & land applied or WTE. Tire disposal by Wheelabrator Inc (1 yr). Cardboard recycled by SP Recycling, as needed. CDD is placed in landfill at Okeechobee (8 yr contract), potential recycled. White goods & metals recycled by Yorke Dollinger (1 yr contract). Single stream recycling processing (7 yr contract) w/ Recycle America. Single stream curbside collection (8 yr contract) w/ WM. East & West MSBU curbside SW & Yard Trash collection (8 yr contract w/ WM & Indiantown Co. Vegetative Processing & Disposal (Mulching) 1 yr contract.	Martin County, Town of Jupiter Island, City of Stuart, Town of Sewalls Point., Town of Ocean Breeze, Okeechobee County.	No	Yes, WTE for MSW, Recycling of CDD conversion of Methane to Energy.	Reassess current waste stream. Move toward permitted CDD recycling facility. Desire to generate energy & County revenues.	Reduce amount of materials being placed in landfill & increase recycling.	Same	No	Same	Jan Huff, Legis Affairs/ Grants Coordinator, (772)463-2893	Financial - building & equipment	Financial - potential revenue. Environmental - less in landfill. Other - more jobs.	Financial - not enough funding		Patrick Yancey, SW Adm., (772)419-6939, pyancey@martin.fl.us

Local Government Solid Waste Disposal, Processing & Recycling Survey (March 2009)

Gov't/ Pop	Current SW Plan	Duration / Parties	Grant	Reassess	Reason	Goals	Criteria	State REEET Grant	Fed Grant	Grant writer	Proposed Plan Impact	Proposed Plan Benefits	Proposed Plan Obstacles	Comment	Contact
Miami-Dade (2,477,289)	Most waste transported to WTE facility & converted to biomass/ electricity. Some waste recycled & remainder placed in landfill. Impacts relate WTE plant gas emission & leachate treatment at landfill.	Recovery waste to energy facility & North & South Dade landfills supported by 3 regional transfer stations. 20 yr disposal agmts w/ 26 municipalities (8 indefinite, others end @ varying times). WTE operational contract w/ Veolia Environ. Services thru 2023 & disposal agmt w/ WM thru 2015. Contract w/ World Waste & Waste Services for curbside recycling in area + 11 municipalities. WM processes	No	Phase I - 50 yr SW Master Plan assess existing/emerging waste processing, disposal, collection, recycling techniques.	Necessary because changes in SW industry. Want to ensure concurrency levels met, remain environmentally compliant & achieves sustainability. Current plan, approved in 1996 does not encompass latest technology.	Identify/ develop activities, programs, facilities & technology to provide sustainability, resource conservation, source reduction, recycling diversion, disposal & collection option for promotion of public health & environmental protection for future residents.	Inventory, evaluate & assess SW Water Mgmt. sys. Long term goal & priorities developed thru open public consensus process involving stakeholders.	Automated Hybrid Truck Demonstration Pilot Project. 16 cubic yd capacity units operated on paved road in zero lot line & cul de sac communities. (award announced in Feb 2009)**	Economic stimulus projects	Grants written by staff w/ asst from County depts. (Office of Grant Coordination & Dept. of Environ. Res. Mgmt.)	Financial -adequate funding for new programs/ technologies at facilities.	Financial-cost efficiency & savings. Environmental-more green operation. Other-longer landfill life w/ new disposal/process ing options.	Financial-ability to finance new programs, technologies & facilities. Environmental-proper disposal of new products (fluorescent bulbs, flat screen TVs). Other-long term project implementation, ensure adequate disposal options for pop. growth.		Kathleen Woods-Richardson, SW Dir., (305)514-6627, kbw@miamidade.gov
Okeechobee (40,003)	SW- lined landfill owned/ operated by WM. Yard waste-mulched & composted @ landfill (WM). Appliances curbside collection by WM & sold for scrap. Tires shredded & recycled @ WM facility. Recycling-curbside & drop off by WM, processed in Pembroke Pines. Gas to electricity @ landfill by WM.	City of Okeechobee Recycling Contract w/ WM. Costs assoc. w/ recycling funded by DEP Small County Consolidated SW Grant. Commercial customers contract w/ WM.	County Consolidated Grant funds curbside pickup & drop off centers for recycling. Sherriff Roadside Litter Program, Waste Tire Clean Up/ Disposal Program, illegal dump site clean up.	No, due to budget constraints & lack of public interest. Small recyclable amount does not outweigh increased costs.	NR	NR	NR	No	No	No	Possible rate increase at contract renewal.	Less financial burden by contracting w/ private co.. WM provides funding & support for environmental issues & protection.	Lack of funding to provide countywide curbside recycling pick up.	disposal of residential/ commercial SW by WM franchise agmt (expires 9/2016). Residential SW funding by SW assessment incl. in Property Tax. (City of Okeechobee not incl.). All SW is placed in landfill at site owned/ operated by WM. Recycling collect/ transport to recycling ctr owned/ operated by WM.	Russell Rowland, SW Contract Mgr., (863)763-1811; rowland@co.okeechobee.fl.us

Local Government Solid Waste Disposal, Processing & Recycling Survey (March 2009)

Gov't/ Pop	Current SW Plan	Duration / Parties	Grant	Reassess	Reason	Goals	Criteria	State REEET Grant	Fed Grant	Grant writer	Proposed Plan Impact	Proposed Plan Benefits	Proposed Plan Obstacles	Comment	Contact
Pinellas (938,461)	Primary disposal WTE facility. Ash byproduct landfilled. Metals recovered from ash sold. Materials recovered from recycling sold or properly disposed.	WTE facility, landfill, recycling & ancillary facilities. WTE facility contract expires 2025. Landfill operating contract expires 2015. Several recycling contracts (most < 4 yrs). Dispose all waste (except CD) in county, includes 24 cities & uninc. areas.	Small Recycling Demonstration Grant from FDEP (non recurring).	Expand curbside recycling pick up countywide & county funded. Instituting beach recycling program. Reassessing WTE ash use.	Increase recycling, reduce landfilled waste, potential new revenues		Minimize landfilling. Respond to county needs/ desires. Increase recycling & cost.	No, already doing it. Applying for LEED certification for many facilities.	Few applicable to us		Budget of new programs is \$65M/yr., + one time \$9M for containers.	Though recycling is net cost, will not affect us; environmental benefits accruing due to recycling & WTE facilities; minimizing landfill.	None		Robert Hauser, SW Dir., (727)464-7541; rhauser@pinellascounty.org
Sarasota (393,608)	Franchise Agmt-SW, yard, recycling collection for residential & commercial. Recycling - dual stream processing/ marketing of residential recyclables (fiber & commingled). Landfill operations Class I -garbage, sludge, asbestos buried; yard waste mulched & composted. Tires chipped & used onsite; White good processed & shipped for scrap; CDD Processing sorted/processed w/ 50% (by weight) recycled or used, remainder is placed in landfill offsite. Interlocal agmt - SW disposal by municipalities at County landfill.	SW collection - 7 yr. franchise agmt w/ WM (2004-11). Residential Recycling Processing w/ FCR, Inc., 2 yr. contract extension (2008-10). Landfill Operation by Veolia ES SW Inc. (5 yr contract; 2008-13). CDD process by WCA of Fla., Inc., 2 yr extension (2009-11). Interlocal agmts w/ Sarasota, Venice & North Port (expire when LF construction bond expires). 25 yr. SW Master Plan.	2008 FDEP Innovative Recycling Grant to explore incentives to source separate CDD materials (\$220,000). Ranked #1 for FDEP Recycling Grant to update WastCalc program.	Landfill gas to energy projects, elimination of plastic bags in yard waste, adding new materials to recycling protocol, biodiesel generation, Eco-Park planning, sludge drying, organic composting, carbon credits, increased recycling of CDD materials.	Energy recovery; reduce energy costs. Plastic bags must be removed prior to processing. Plastics #3-7 not collected, increased opportunities for public/private partnerships thru Eco-Park. Exploring CDD material reuse (i.e. wallboard to fertilizer). Extending landfill life, reduce carbon footprint.	Decrease Greenhouse gas emissions; reduce liability & risk of disposal; improve environmental & public health; extend useful life of landfill; remove hazardous/ toxic wastes from landfill; increase waste reduction; decrease recyclables collection/ marketing costs; support County's eco-tourism; effective biosolid mgmt.	Reduce carbon emissions, waste volume. Improve/ protect environment. Provide economic benefit to community, contribute to county's sustainability effort, cost effective, extend landfill life, stimulate local economy.	Developing specific project to use grant funding.	Considering application as part of Economic Stimulus package & other options.	Technical staff in each county dept is responsible grant applications.	Financial-maintain service at lowest cost, stimulate local economy. Environmental-preserve & protect environment, extend landfill life, reduce volume & waste streams. Other-preserves sustainable community & reduce carbon footprint.	Financial-economic growth, reduce operating budget, lower special assessment & tip fees. Environmental protection. Other-contribute to sustainability efforts.	Financial-rising energy, labor & other costs w/ limited resources. Environmental-too many unproven technologies. Other-unexpected consequences, overriding priorities, restriction under current SW rules.	Craft legislation tt creates incentives for public/private partnerships. Loosen organic composting rules as incentives for private entities to invest in facilities. Create markets for waste products, set realistic goals for present economy.	Gary Bennett, SW Gen Mgr., (941)861-1587, gbennett@scgov.net

Local Government Solid Waste Disposal, Processing & Recycling Survey (March 2009)

Gov't/ Pop	Current SW Plan	Duration / Parties	Grant	Reassess	Reason	Goals	Criteria	State REEET Grant	Fed Grant	Grant writer	Proposed Plan Impact	Proposed Plan Benefits	Proposed Plan Obstacles	Comment	Contact
Seminole (426,413)	owned/operated transfer station. Landfill & CDD debris landfill w/ 50 yr. capacity. Gas to energy facility owned/operated by Seminole LLC. Recyclables delivered to WM processing co. Yard trash mulched by Consolidated Resource Recovery. Mulch given to residents, used for landfill slope stabilization & burned for electricity @ Ridge Generating Facility.	Primary SW disposal @ landfill. Environmental impacts mitigated by leachate collection sys & landfill gas recovery (generates 2.2 Million KWH monthly).	Applied for an Innovative Recycling Grant.	Feasibility of constructing recyclable processing facility in county. Yard waste options in addition to mulching; option for chipping tires at landfill & reusing material.	Improve SW Mgmt.	Environmental Protection	1-Performance of environmental controls; 2-cost effectiveness; 3-eliminate illegal dumping & improper hazardous waste storage	No	No	Jennifer Bero, Grants Coordinator (2-3 yrs).	Financial-all users must contribute. Environmental-waste transport contributes to air emissions.	Financial-current plan most cost effective. Environmental-reduce threats to air/water quality.	Financial-flow control. Environmental-existing controls are effective & additional controls maybe cost prohibitive.	SW Mgmt extremely fuel intensive. Fed/State assistance for fuel efficient waste haulers or alternate fuel vehicles.	William J. Edwards, SW Mgr., (407)665-2253; wedwards@seminolecountyfl.gov
St. Lucie (276,585)	St. Lucie County, Ft. Pierce, Port St. Lucie, St. Lucie Village. MSW baled plasma gasification; future electricity steam to reduce ground/surface water contamination.	Interlocal agmts (10-20 yr); Collection agmts 5 yr w/ 5 yr extension.	No	Researching alternatives to landfill: std. gasification, anerobic digestion, plasma gasification, gasification to fermentations. After 36 months & 7000 pages of research - plasma only technology it met criteria & goals.	Negative impacts of operating a landfill.	End need for landfills.	Proven observable (no pilots); economic-ally viable; environmentally friendly.	No	No	William Hoeffner at (772)462-1100.	Eliminate need to purchase land & threat of ground/surface water contamination; greenhouse gas reduction; renewable energy.	Same	Different technology than people are familiar with		Leo J. Cordeiro, SW Dir.;(772)462-1631; cordeiro@stlucieco.org ; & Ron Roberts, Asst. Dir.; (772)462-1631; robertsr@stlucieco.gov

Local Government Solid Waste Disposal, Processing & Recycling Survey (March 2009)

Gov't/ Pop	Current SW Plan	Duration / Parties	Grant	Reassess	Reason	Goals	Criteria	State REEET Grant	Fed Grant	Grant writer	Proposed Plan Impact	Proposed Plan Benefits	Proposed Plan Obstacles	Comment	Contact
Sumter (93,034)	Contract w/ Waste Services for SW disposal until July 2015. CDD debris hauled by County to local CDD landfills. Tires hauled by county to recyclers. Certain recyclables processed onsite & sold on open market.	No other parties. No treatment of any waste by Sumter County.	Small County Consolidated Grant from FDEP.	Applied for CDD disposal permit from FDEP.	Lower cost of CDD disposal.	Lower cost.	Lower cost by avoiding disposal cost.	Daily tonnage of 65 tons insufficient to justify waste to energy cost. County funding difficult to supply.	No	No	Financial-holding costs as low as possible	Financial-having disposal agmt until 2015 allows for better projection of costs; Environmental-our recycling program, though small, makes for less SW in landfill. Other-being able to sell recyclables on open market.	Losing Small County Grant will increase citizen costs.	Sumter County has no flow control in place, no SW tax assessment. SW Dept. operates as enterprise fund. Small County Consolidated Grant vital to our facility. Losing grant when reach pop. limit (next 2-3 yrs) will increase costs & may have to cut back on services. Heart of Florida SW Working Group member, more info. www.heartoffloridasolidwaste.org .	Jimmy Wise, SW Coordinator; (352)793-3368; jimmy.wise@sumtercountyfl.gov
Volusia (510,750)	Landfills; methane recovery w/ Foristar; Waste to energy sludge processing w/ N-Viro-Soil amend product, road base. SW Recycling contract for unincorporated county in 4th yr. Contract w/ Emerald Waste Services until 12/2011. 44,000+ residents receive weekly collection/recycling/yard trash. Contract w/ GEL Corp. recover materials for processing & recycling (7/2007 - 6/2014).	16 municipalities bring SW to Volusia County landfill. Interlocal agmt. w/ Flagler & City of Palm Coast for SW; charged 1.25 est. rates. Public/private partnership w/ GEL Corp. material recovery/processing.	Not at this time	Reassessing franchise collection. Looking at solar & wind energy. Increase methane collection. Researching biofuel in conjunction w/ N-Viro sludge.	Better the environment & reduce operating cost.	Less environmental impact. Reduce carbon footprint. Increase operational efficiencies.	Same	No	No	No full time grant writer.	Financial-reduced revenue in recycling markets, loss of waste due to economic downturn. Environmental-less impact on carbon footprint.	Financial - reduce operational costs. Environment - energy savings, reuse of bi-products, less impact on carbon footprint.	Financial - reduction in waste stream due to economic downturn. Environmental - not an obstacle, but implementing new regulations for new processes.	More cognizant of energy waste, looking to save energy, alternative energy-solar, wind, programmable thermostats, cooking oil to run equipment. Develop better contracts w/ landfill methane operator to ensure efficient sys.	Leonard Marion, SW Dir, (386)943-7889; lm Marion@co.volusia.fl.us

Local Government Solid Waste Disposal, Processing & Recycling Survey (March 2009)

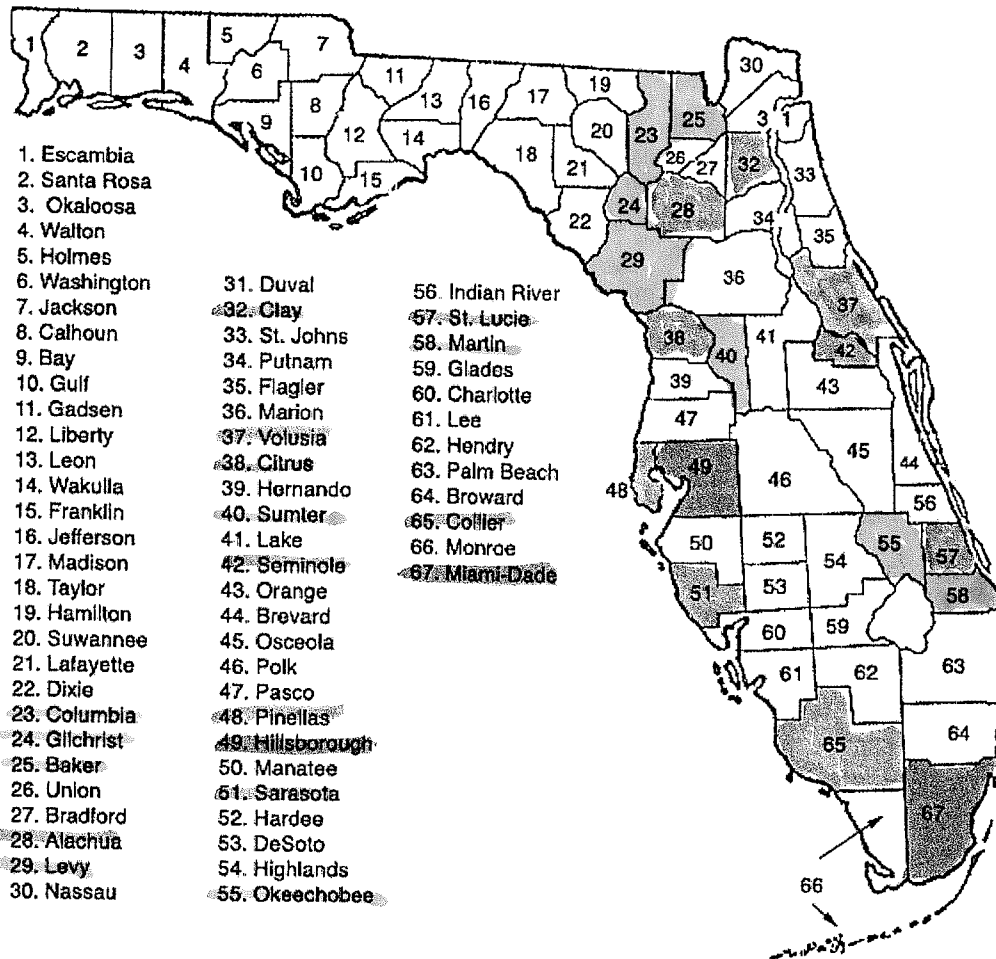
Gov't/ Pop	Current SW Plan	Duration / Parties	Grant	Reassess	Reason	Goals	Criteria	State REEET Grant	Fed Grant	Grant writer	Proposed Plan Impact	Proposed Plan Benefits	Proposed Plan Obstacles	Comment	Contact
City of Treasure Island (7,597)	Waste streams- plastic, glass, metal containers, newsprint & cardboard.	Contract 4/2007- 4/2012. City of Treasure Is. & WM.	No	Gas collection sys. being permitted. Regional cooperative sys. considered. Hiring consultant to eval options & present to Board this year. Approached by Pinellas County to have county fund portion of recycling or take it over.	County determined tt thru tipping fees & waste to energy revenues, best way to return funds to community is to pick up cost of recycling countywide.	Ensure value is achieved for Treasure Island residents.	Relative cost & quality of service.	No	No	No	None	Financial- reduction of SW disposal cost.	None		Jim Murphy, Dir. Of Public Works, (727)547- 4575, (ext 252); jmurphy@mytreasureisland.org

KEY: Population counts: Florida Legislative Committee on Intergovernmental Relations (April 1, 2008). Abbreviations: SW: Solid waste. Class I waste: household garbage. Class III waste- larger items. CDD: Construction & Demolition Debris. White goods: appliances. Leachate: liquid that drains from Landfills. State REEET Grant: State of Florida Renewable Energy and Energy-Efficient Technologies Grant Program, ss. 377.801, 377.804, F.S. WM: Waste Management, Inc. RFP: Request for Proposal. Id: identify. FEMA: Federal Emergency Management Agency. WTE:Waste to Energy facility. LEED Certification: Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design Certification Program.

APPENDIX 2

Florida Solid Waste Management Survey (March 2009)

(County Respondents)



Group I – Population under 100,000 (6 counties: Baker, Columbia, Gilchrist, Levy, Okeechobee, and Sumter).

Group II – Population of 100,000 – 499,999 (8 counties: Alachua, Citrus, Clay, Collier, Martin, Sarasota, Seminole, and St. Lucie).

Group III – Population of 500,000 – 999,999 (2 counties: Pinellas and Volusia).

Group IV – Population over 1,000,000 (2 counties: Hillsborough and Miami-Dade).

Source Florida LCIR (June 2009)