

## WASTE-TO-ENERGY: A RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCE

- The **U.S. EPA** states that waste-to-energy facilities are a “**clean, reliable, renewable source of energy**” and waste-to-energy facilities produce electricity with “**less environmental impact than almost any other source of electricity.**” (*Letter to IWSA from Marianne Horinko and Jeffrey Holmstead, U.S. EPA, 2/14/03*)
- The **U.S. Department of Energy** recognizes **waste-to-energy** as a **renewable energy source** and includes it in their tracking of progress toward achieving the Federal Government’s renewable energy goal established by Executive Order 13123, and codified by the Energy Policy Act of 2005.
- The **Energy Policy Act of 2005** included **waste-to-energy** as an eligible technology in the Section 45 renewable energy production tax credit. Further, section 203 of the Act stipulates that electricity from waste-to-energy plants is renewable for purposes of satisfying the federal government’s renewable purchasing requirements.
- The **Federal Power Act** defines renewable electric energy as electric energy produced by a renewable energy facility which produces electric energy solely by the use, as a primary energy source, of solar energy, wind energy, **waste resources, biomass resources**, geothermal resources, or any combination thereof.
- The **Public Utility Regulatory Policy Act** definition of small power plant production facility is as follows: The term renewable energy means electricity generated from **biomass, waste**, renewable resources to include wind and solar, geothermal resources, or any combination thereof.
- The **Federal Energy Regulatory Commissions Regulations** (18 CFR.Ch. I, 4/96 Edition, Sec. 292.204) defines **biomass energy** as Any primary energy source which, on the basis of its energy content, is **50 percent** or more biomass shall be considered biomass.
- The **Biomass Research and Development Act of 2000** signed into law on June 20, 2000 defines **biomass** as any organic material that is available on a renewable or recurring basis, including agricultural crops and trees, wood and wood wastes, plants, grasses, residues, fibers, animal wastes, **municipal wastes**, and other waste materials.
- The **federal Pacific Northwest Power Planning and Conservation Act** defines renewable resource to include power generated through the use of biomass.
- The fuel used in waste-to-energy plants to produce clean electricity is municipal solid waste. **Trash is both sustainable and indigenous - two basic criteria for establishing what is a renewable energy source.**
- **Twenty-three states define waste-to-energy as renewable power** including Alaska, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Hawaii, Iowa, Indiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin.