

Lee County Title V Open House

Title V Air Permit Renewal — Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Lee County Waste-to-Energy Facility?

For more than thirty years, Lee County's Waste-to-Energy facility has been a key part of responsible solid waste management. The facility uses a controlled, environmentally regulated system to convert waste into electricity and recover metals, reducing the volume of material sent to the landfill by up to 90%. As a result, Lee County reduces its reliance on landfills, minimizes environmental impacts and turns everyday waste into a useful resource.

What is Lee County's Integrated Waste Management System?

It is a comprehensive, coordinated approach designed to manage the community's entire waste stream efficiently. Rather than treating waste as a final discard, the system maximizes resource recovery at every stage—from curbside recycling and vegetative waste composting to construction material reclamation and metal recovery via waste-to-energy conversion. The maximum amount of material is reclaimed and the amount landfilled is minimized.

How well does this approach work for Lee County?

Exceptionally well! Lee County ranked **second statewide for recycling excellence** with an **87% recycling rate in 2025**. For over five consecutive years, the county has proudly maintained its position among Florida's top five counties for recycling performance.

How does Lee County's Waste-to-Energy facility benefit the community?

The Waste-to-Energy facility generates about 60 megawatts of clean energy which is enough to power roughly 30,000 homes. Converting post-recycling waste into energy reduces the volume of waste requiring landfill disposal by about 90%. Advanced magnets also recover valuable metals such as steel and aluminum from residual ash so they can be recycled into new products, conserving natural resources and keeping reusable materials out of the landfill.

Is maintaining clean air in the community a key focus?

Yes! Protecting the air we all share is a top priority. The facility uses extensive air pollution control systems and operates under strict oversight from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Emissions are monitored continuously, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, to ensure the facility consistently meets all federal and state air emission requirements.

Why did Lee County choose Waste-to-Energy for managing garbage?

Lee County chose Waste-to-Energy instead of relying on traditional landfilling because it provides a more sustainable and longer-term solution for managing garbage. It significantly reduces the volume of waste that would otherwise require landfilling and preserves limited landfill space.

Waste-to-Energy is sometimes misunderstood as simply another disposal method or as something that conflicts with recycling or zero waste goals. In fact, it is positioned between recycling and landfilling in EPA's waste management hierarchy. Its role is not to replace recycling, but to responsibly manage what remains after all higher value recycling options have been used.

To receive updates from Lee County Government, sign up for the newsletter here: www.leegov.com/resources/newsletters. Follow Lee County Government on Facebook, www.facebook.com/leecountyflbocc.

For more information regarding the Title V Air Permit Renewal public meeting, please scan the QR code:

