



## Senate Bill 451

### *Save skilled union jobs and protect a valuable renewable energy and recycling resource*

The Marion County Energy-from-Waste (EfW) facility provides reliable, renewable energy for **9,000** homes by efficiently converting **500+** tons of garbage each day into electricity. Operating since 1987, the facility employs 45 people including **33 skilled union jobs** – jobs with full health care and retirement benefits.

Reflecting Oregon’s recycling ethic, the EfW facility complements the County’s innovative recycling program, which is one of the most successful in the state and more akin to leading programs in Europe than to those in the United States. The EfW recovers more than **8,000** tons of ferrous metal annually – the equivalent of **6,500** cars.

Energy-from-Waste is a **sustainable alternative** to fossil fuel-fired energy and is recognized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the European Union, and California regulators for mitigating greenhouse gases. EfW technology has been recognized as renewable in federal law for over 30 years and is defined as renewable in 31 states.

***Without SB 451 to clarify an ambiguity in current Oregon law, the Marion County facility, dozens of family-wage jobs and valuable renewable energy production are at risk.***



## ISSUE BACKGROUND:

- In 2010, the Oregon Legislature endorsed legislation allowing Renewable Energy Credits (REC's) generated by *new or expanded* Energy-from-Waste facilities (EfW) to count toward the state's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS). In 2010, the only EfW operating in Oregon was the Marion County facility – and remains so today.
- In 2016, the Oregon Legislature granted the Marion County EfW facility full renewable status, making it eligible to sell Renewable Energy Credits as authorized under the 2010 RPS law.
- The 2016 law did not specifically address a requirement that the Marion County facility be registered with the Western Renewable Energy Generation Information System (WREGIS) prior to a 2011 deadline. The facility did not register because it had not been explicitly eligible to sell REC's under the original 2010 law.
- Despite the Marion County EfW facility outperforming landfills from an environmental perspective, landfill gas is currently included in Oregon's RPS. **SB 451** will put EfW on a level playing field with landfills and allow the facility to compete.
- **SB 451** will clarify and fix this registration ambiguity leftover from the 2016 legislation. It will allow the Marion County facility to qualify for Renewable Energy Credits (RECS's) under the state Renewable Portfolio Standard and allow the facility to compete with landfills which are included in the Oregon RPS. ***SB 451 clarifies existing law and does not establish a new policy.***

***SB 451 authorizes state renewable energy certificates for the Marion County facility that have been accruing since 2013 – saving jobs, protecting a sustainable alternative to fossil fuel-fired energy, and avoiding more landfills.***

## WITHOUT SENATE BILL 451:

- ✓ ***Lost family-wage jobs:*** 33 skilled union manufacturing jobs lost
- ✓ ***More landfill waste:*** 500+ tons of waste added to landfills every day
- ✓ ***More truck traffic:*** 9,800+ additional semi-trucks on I-5, I-84 each year
- ✓ ***More costly:*** Higher county garbage rates, fewer recycling options
- ✓ ***More landfills:*** 45 acres of new landfill land needed
- ✓ ***More pollution:*** Increased greenhouse gas emissions from truck traffic and landfills

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