

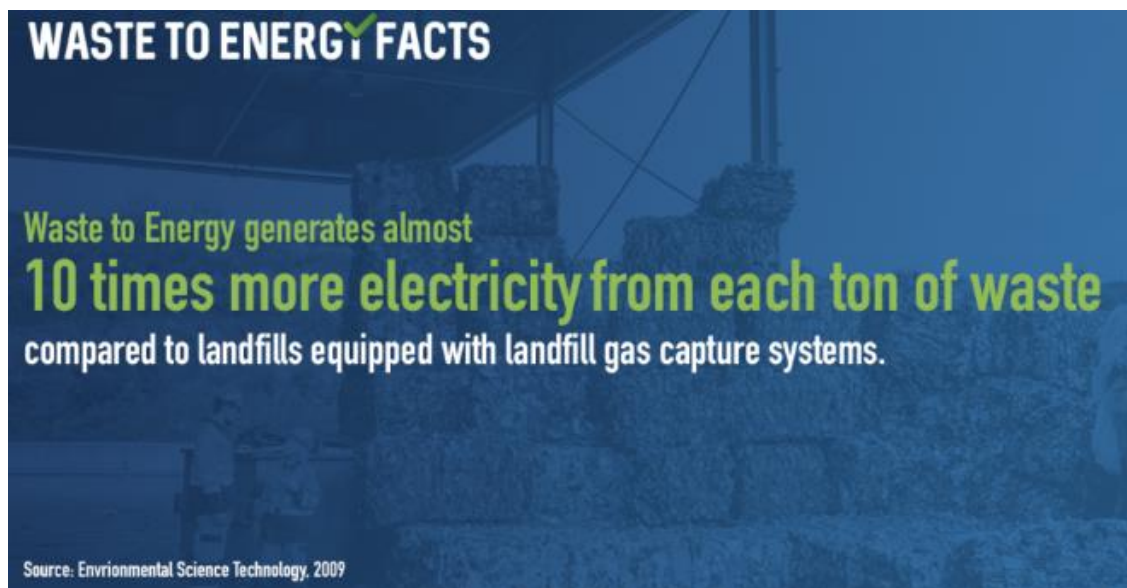
## Support HB 4049 Allow Waste to Energy to Work for Oregon

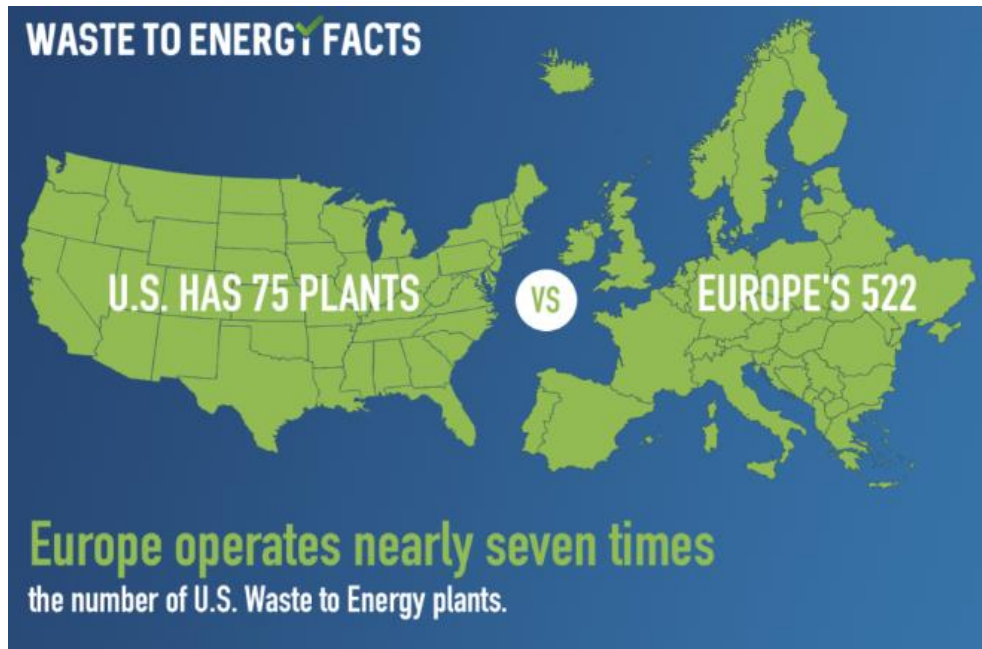
The Marion County Waste to Energy plant is part of the **solution to address climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions**, processing 550 tons of waste per day and generating 13 megawatts of renewable energy. The Environmental Protection Agency labels this progressive energy technology as a preferable alternative to landfills and NASA recently identified landfills as super emitters of methane, a greenhouse gas that is 84 times more potent of a climate-warning gas than CO<sub>2</sub>. The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that for every one ton of waste processed at a Waste to Energy plant - **up to one ton of greenhouse gas emission could be avoided.**

Marion County and Covanta have maintained a strong partnership since 1987, providing residents in Marion County with innovative waste reduction and recycling programs, including **safe prescription drug disposal** that prevents pollution in our water supply. Through the Fishing for Energy program, the Marion County Waste to Energy plant has **collected and eliminated 240,000 pounds of broken, degrading or obsolete fishing gear from the Oregon coast**, saving marine animals and preventing damage to fishing vessels.

The Marion County Waste to Energy plant also provides good-paying union jobs for the community. **The plant supports more than 40 skilled union jobs** with full health care and retirement benefits and support dozens of local families.

The Marion County Waste to Energy plant **belongs in Oregon's renewable energy portfolio** in order to compete with less efficient landfills that currently receive Renewable Energy Credits in Oregon. To allow Waste to Energy to play a role in combating climate change, legislation is needed to allow this technology to qualify for Renewable Energy Credits, as initially enacted by the Oregon legislature in 2010 through the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS).





## ISSUE BACKGROUND

- In 2010, the Oregon legislature enacted legislation (SB 1547) allowing Renewable Energy Credits generated by *new or expanded* Waste to Energy facilities to count toward the state's RPS. In 2010 the only Waste to Energy plant operating in Oregon was the Marion County plant – which remains true today.
- In 2016, with bipartisan support, the Oregon legislature granted the Marion County Waste to Energy plant full renewable status, making it eligible to sell Renewable Energy Credits as authorized under the 2010 RPS law.
- The 2016 law, however, failed to specifically address a requirement that the Marion County plant 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.

## LEGISLATIVE SOLUTION: ALLOW WASTE TO ENERGY TO WORK FOR OREGON

HB 4049 will bring clarity and once again allow Waste to Energy (from the direct combustion of biogenic material) to qualify for Renewable Energy Credits under the RPS program. The ability to qualify for these credits is critical to continue Marion County's more than 30-year-long partnership with Covanta, and to prevent raising waste rates for local residents.

### For additional information contact:

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