



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 3275

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. **Project/Program Description**

A pilot initiative in partnership with the Florida public sector, with DEP contracting advanced Cerawave microwave plasma technology to gasify biosolids and solid waste, converting them into synthesis gas to allow for transformation into clean power, fuels, and chemical outputs. This process significantly reduces landfill dependency and greenhouse gas emissions, promoting energy resilience, job creation, and economic growth through public-private collaboration, advancing sustainable waste-to-energy solutions for municipalities and industries.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds**

State Agency contacted?

6. **Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2025-2026**

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	2,000,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	2,000,000

7. **Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 (including matching funds available for this project)**

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	2,000,000	25%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	6,000,000	75%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	8,000,000	100%

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?**

If yes, provide the most recent instance:

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		

9. **Is future-year funding likely to be requested?**

a. **If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.**

b. **Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.**

Private capital



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Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

10. Status of Construction

a. What is the current phase of the project?

- Planning
 Design
 Construction
 N/A

b. Is the project "shovel ready" (i.e permitted)?

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

e. What funding stream will be used for ongoing operations and maintenance of the project?

11. List the owners of the facility to receive, directly or indirectly, any fixed capital outlay funding. Include the relationship between the owners of the facility and the entity.

12. Details on how the requested state funds will be expended

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Funds will support the deployment of the first waste-to-energy system through a public-private partnership. Expenses include equipment procurement, system installation, supplies, contracted services, and research studies to assess commercial feasibility. This pilot project will establish a scalable model for waste reduction and energy resilience.	2,000,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		2,000,000

13. Program Performance

a. What specific purpose or goal will be achieved by the funds requested?



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Funds will directly address Florida's critical need for improved management and reduction of municipal solid and biosolids waste through deployment of Cerawave microwave plasma technology, supported by UF's Institute for Food and Agricultural Sciences. The initiative targets significant reductions in environmental contaminants and landfill usage, enhances energy independence, and converts waste streams into valuable fuels, energy, and chemical products. It establishes a proven pathway for sustainable biosolids disposal, generates regional economic benefits, and serves as a scalable model for future statewide waste-to-energy applications.

b. What activities and services will be provided to meet the intended purpose of these funds?

Activities include deploying and operating Cerawave microwave plasma waste-to-energy technology, conducting feasibility studies on converting municipal solid and biosolids waste into usable energy, fuels, and chemical feedstocks, and providing technical training for system operation. Services include installation, demonstration, and evaluation of the technology, research support from UF's Institute for Food and Agricultural Sciences, collaboration with municipal and industry partners to optimize waste management solutions, and assessment of scalability and environmental impacts.

c. What direct services will be provided to citizens by the appropriation project?

Citizens will benefit directly from improved municipal solid and biosolids waste management services, leading to reduced landfill usage and lower environmental contamination risks. The project will also provide enhanced community energy resilience through local production of clean fuels and chemical products. Additionally, it will stimulate local employment opportunities in advanced manufacturing, technology operation, and technical training, fostering long-term economic development and environmental health for Florida residents statewide.

d. Who is the target population served by this project? How many individuals are expected to be served?

The target populations served include municipalities, public utilities, local industries, and research institutions involved in municipal solid waste and biosolids management across Florida. Over 800 individuals, representing local government officials, municipal workers, industry personnel, academic researchers, and technical trainees, are expected to directly benefit from the project's implementation, collaboration, and knowledge-sharing activities.

e. What is the expected benefit or outcome of this project? What is the methodology by which this outcome will be measured?

The project will significantly reduce landfill and biosolids waste, lower greenhouse gas emissions, enhance energy resilience, stimulate local economic growth, and advance waste-to-energy innovation statewide. Success will be measured through metrics including tons of waste gasified, reduction percentages in emissions and pollutants, energy and fuel production outputs, economic indicators (jobs created, operational cost savings), scalability validation, adoption rates by municipalities and industry partners, and documented research advancements by UF IFAS.

f. What are the suggested penalties that the contracting agency may consider in addition to its standard penalties for failing to meet deliverables or performance measures provided for in the contract?

Return of funds

14. Is this project related to mitigation, response, or recovery from a natural disaster? No

a. If Yes, what phase best describes the project?

- Mitigation (reducing or eliminating potential loss of life or property)
- Response (addressing the immediate and short-term effects of a natural disaster)
- Recovery (assisting communities return to normal operations, including rebuilding damaged infrastructure)

b. Name of the natural disaster (or Executive Order # for events not under a federal declaration):

15. Has the entity applied for or received federal assistance for this project?

- Yes, Applied



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- Yes, Received
- No
- No, but intends to apply

a. If yes, provide the FEMA project worksheet ID#:

b. Provide the total project cost listed on the FEMA project worksheet:

16. Has the entity applied for or received state assistance for this project (other than this request)?

- Yes, Applied
- Yes, Received
- No
- No, but intends to apply

a. If yes, specify the program and state agency (ex. Local Government Emergency Bridge Loan, Department of Commerce):

17. Requester Contact Information

- a. First Name Last Name
- b. Organization
- c. E-mail Address
- d. Phone Number Ext.

18. Recipient Contact Information

- a. Organization
- b. Municipality and County
- c. Organization Type
 - For Profit Entity
 - Non Profit 501(c)(3)
 - Non Profit 501(c)(4)
 - Local Entity
 - University or College



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Other (please specify) State Agency

d. First Name Last Name

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number Ext.

19. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number

The information provided will be posted to the Florida Senate website for public viewing if sponsored by a Senator.