

Solid Waste Data Guideline Document

Introduction

This document is intended to provide directions to users for the selection and application of solid waste data to support the evaluation and appraisal report (EAR)-based amendments for the 24 municipalities in Pinellas County. Solid waste information is part of an overall infrastructure element, referred to as a “general sanitary sewer, solid waste, drainage, potable water, and natural groundwater aquifer recharge element” by Section 163.3177(6)(c), *Florida Statutes*. Only the problems and issues for solid waste collection need to be described within the element. The disposal facilities are the sole responsibility of Pinellas County, a responsibility that is explained under the heading “Operational Responsibility for Solid Waste Disposal Facilities” on Page 2.

The *Florida Administrative Code* (F.A.C.) establishes the minimum criteria for preparing each element of the comprehensive plan. The purpose of the solid waste sub-element is to provide the necessary public facilities and services correlated to future land use projections.

Solid Waste Data

Section 9J-5.011(a) – (e), F.A.C., requires specific data for each service that is provided within a local government’s jurisdiction. The following data is required for solid waste facilities within your jurisdiction:

- (1) For each disposal or resource recovery facility, identify the governmental authority or agency that has operational responsibility and what proportion of capacity within the system is allocated to serve your jurisdiction if it is a shared facility.
- (2) In addition, the following data is to be included for each solid waste facility within your jurisdiction: a geographic service area map; the predominant land uses served by the disposal facility; the design capacity of the facility; the current level of demand; and the level-of-service provided.

NOTES:

Each comprehensive plan already contains data and analysis for the solid waste portion of your plan. Use that data as you follow the directions in the following steps.

- (1) Review the existing solid waste data in your plan within the infrastructure element and compare with the data requirements of Section 9J-5.011(a) – (e) F.A.C. The infrastructure element in your plan may be titled “Infrastructure,” or “Public Facilities and Services,” or other similar wording.
- (2) Make sure that a summary of the operational responsibility for the overall system disposal system is included in your plan. Include the following paragraph, or similar information, if not presently in your plan:

Operational Responsibility for Solid Waste Disposal Facilities

Solid waste disposal facilities are operated by Pinellas County under the 1975 *Solid Waste Disposal and Resource Recovery Act*, codified as Chapter 106 of the Pinellas County Code. “The Act provides the authority and responsibility for countywide disposal of solid waste to Pinellas County.”¹ The County “uses an integrated approach to solid waste management that includes waste reduction, recycling, combustion with energy recovery, and landfilling. The capacity of the County’s Resource Recovery Plant and landfill has been designed to meet the disposal needs of the entire County.”² As part of the disposal system, the County “manages a countywide electronic and chemical waste collection program, an artificial reef program for the disposal of certain construction debris, a metals recovery operation, and various recycling and public education programs.” A Technical Management Committee was created through the 1975 act and includes representation from all of the municipalities as well as the county. This committee reviews and makes recommendations on rates, fees, policies, programs, integration of new technologies, selection of consultants, and provides an on-going communication channel between the cities and the county.³

Collection of Solid Waste

NOTES:

- (1) Because the County is not responsible for the collection of the solid waste, make sure that an explanation of the collection method within your jurisdiction is included in your plan. For many of the municipalities, solid waste collection is a franchise arrangement between the city and a collection service. The remaining cities provide municipal collection services.
- (2) If the solid waste facilities are the same as those described in the current adopted plan, update the plan by including current level of demand on that system and existing land use data contained in the future land use element. This can be done by contacting either the collection service or your city’s public works department for data concerning the amount of solid waste collected per year and calculating the pounds of waste collected on a per capita basis. Use the following formula:

$$\text{Annual tons of garbage (2000 pounds = 1 ton) / 365 days / population (include both permanent and seasonal) = pounds per capita per day}$$
- (3) The pounds per capita per day that is currently collected may now be compared to the adopted level-of-service. This level-of-service should also be compared with the county’s adopted level-of-service:
*Pinellas County level-of-service for solid waste is 7.1 pounds per person per day.*⁴

¹ Pinellas County. *Service Delivery in Pinellas County*, Page 4.

² Ibid, Page 4.

³ Ibid, Page 4.

⁴ Pinellas County, *Compendium*, Page 151.

- (4) Consider modifying your adopted level-of-service if it is greater than 7.1 pounds per person per day to be consistent with the county standard.

How to Use the Data for Analysis

Section 9J-5.011(1)(f), F.A.C., requires that the solid waste facilities be analyzed as follows:

- (1) Analyze surpluses and deficiencies in capacity considering existing conditions and current demand;
- (2) Analyze the facility capacity for both the 5-year and 10-year planning period based on projected demand at the current level-of-service, using the population forecasts, permitted development, and land uses and available surplus capacity;
- (3) Analyze the general performance and adequacy of the current level-of-service, condition and life of the facilities, and impact of facilities on adjacent natural resources; and
- (4) Analyze problems and opportunities regarding facility replacement, expansion, and new facility siting.

NOTES:

- (1) Because the disposal facilities are the responsibility of Pinellas County, this information does not need to be provided. Instead, state that the responsibility for disposing of solid waste legally remains with the County through the 1975 *Solid Waste Disposal and Resource Recovery Act*.
- (2) Use the documents listed in "Data Sources" below as the supporting documentation.

Data Sources

The data sources listed are located on the Pinellas Planning Council web site under the heading "Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR)-Based Amendments Resource Page" (www.pinellasplanningcouncil.org/state/earba.htm).

Pinellas County Planning Department. *Compendium of the Comprehensive Plan*. February 17, 1998, as amended through April 4, 2006.

Pinellas County Planning Department. *Evaluation and Appraisal Report*. November 2005.

Pinellas County Planning Department. *Service Delivery in Pinellas County: An Inventory and Assessment of Service Delivery Agreements*. January 29, 2004.