

# Solid Waste Department

**Department Purpose:** Provide all citizens with solid waste services that are safe and environmentally-focused, which includes providing educational information enabling citizens to make more responsible choices concerning their solid waste creation/disposal.

## **Performance Summary:**

- The Solid Waste (SW) Master Plan is complete. Recommendations were shared with the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) in February, and the BCC provided their consensus to move forward. Recommendations have been incorporated into the department's Work Plan and CIP Budget.
- Projected life of landfill is the primary outcome for the department. The 30-year master plan goal is "Zero Waste to Landfill." Landfill life was reduced this past year primarily due to increased diversions from the Waste-to-Energy (WTE) facility as the \$243M capital reinvestment program continues.
- WTE facility availability continues to be at an all-time high, a direct result of capital reinvestments.
- The cost to recycle electronics through a third-party is over \$300K per year. There is also the risk of personal information theft. The alternative is to incinerate (70-100 tons per year). To do so effectively, an enhanced metals recovery facility needs to be installed at the WTE. A pilot study was conducted which indicated that \$1M+ per year can be recovered in the existing waste stream.
- The Business Waste Assessment "Return to Compliance" rate is a Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) unfunded mandate, assessments of businesses generating hazardous waste and are conducted at least once every five years. Increased compliance would indicate the effectiveness of the inspection, follow-up, education, and resources.
- Solid Waste is responsible for ongoing landfill closure regulatory compliance and stands ready to support any interest in development of Toytown. There are four current interests: (1) Visit St. Petersburg Clearwater (VSPC) for sports/events; (2) Duke Energy for solar farm; (3) Utilities/SW - new Regional Resource Recovery Facility (RRRF); and (4) SW for possible composting program.
- Staff has solicited a proposal from HDR to further evaluate the possibility of WTE ash reuse. Technology exists to use ash to construct mechanically stabilized berms (MSB), which effectively increase the side slope of the landfill, creating more capacity.
- The BCC directed the Technical Management Committee (TMC) to investigate the feasibility of constructing/operating a regional Materials Recycling Facility (MRF). On behalf of the TMC, staff has procured a recycling materials market research study, due in June.

## **COVID-19 Performance Impacts:**

- Under the emergency order, Scalehouse operations went to 100% electronic payment only.
- Closed Household Electronics and Chemicals Collection Center (HEC3) and Swap Shop.
- Cancelled HEC3 mobile collections for the months of April and May.

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- Cancelled site tours and education speaking engagements.
- Closed remote recycled mulch sites; only the Solid Waste campus remains open.
- COVID-19 has delayed the County Administrator's discussion with Duke Energy regarding negotiation of the Power Purchase Agreement.

## Opportunities for Efficiencies:

- Currently converting Scalehouse invoices from paper and USPS delivery to electronic delivery. Postage savings ~ \$2K annually.
- Enhanced Metals Recovery pilot project; potential additional revenue source.
- Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) as a possible revenue source.

## Potential Threats:

- Power Purchase Agreement expires 12/31/24 (loss of primary revenue source, requiring tipping fee increases).
- Recycled material market decline; pressure on revenues/expenditures; potential to increase volume at WTE and Landfill.
- Municipal solid waste (MSW) tends to be proportional to economy (reduction in overall tipping fee revenue); WTE service agreement includes minimum MSW tonnage for processing.
- Need to increase Industrial Water Treatment Plant (IWTP) capacity to avoid future FDEP fines/penalties.

## Budget Summary:

### Solid Waste Operating and Capital Funds

Pinellas County							
Standard Revenues - Rollup							
Fund: FHSOL Solid Waste Funds							
Program : Total Program							
	FY17 Actual	FY18 Actual	FY19 Actual	FY20 Budget	FY20 Estimate	FY21 Request 100%	FY21 Adjusted
Intergovernmental Revenue	0	51,280	165,478	1,433,470	1,307,205	0	0
Charges for Services	100,058,951	104,962,439	107,997,579	109,912,430	111,840,745	118,829,827	116,102,190
Interest Earnings	1,536,229	2,196,126	5,864,765	3,420,090	3,420,090	1,907,835	1,812,440
Rents, Surplus and Refunds	176,959	29,912	15,729	9,500	18,002	10,000	9,500
Other Miscellaneous Revenue	17,523	15,059	37,386	10,260	30,627	10,774	10,770
Transfers from Other Funds	30,000,000	30,000,000	30,000,000	30,000,000	30,000,000	30,000,000	30,000,000
Non-Operating Revenue	3,343	0	101,708	0	0	0	0
Beginning Fund Balance	213,788,072	191,403,182	149,127,351	184,214,280	202,169,320	220,330,660	220,330,660
Report Total	345,581,077	328,657,998	293,309,996	329,000,030	348,785,989	371,089,096	368,265,560

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Proposed Budget

HYP02- C Revenues - Rollup to Major Category

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## Pinellas County

### Standard Expenditures by Fund, Center and Program - Rollup

Entity : CHC4340 Solid Waste Department

Fund : Solid Waste Funds

Program : Total Program Total Program

	FY17 Actuals	FY18 Actuals	FY19 Actuals	FY20 Budget	FY20 Projected Estimate	FY21 Total Request
Personal Services	5,572,516	5,608,728	5,645,823	7,000,190	6,283,179	7,020,540
Operating Expenses	56,937,352	68,196,133	65,045,108	67,540,910	64,726,907	66,244,480
Capital Outlay	1,532,073	307,966	105,591	251,260	124,850	743,260
Grants and Aids	499,164	496,327	497,342	500,000	500,000	500,000
Transfers to Other Funds	30,000,000	30,000,000	30,000,000	30,000,000	30,000,000	30,000,000
Reserves	0	0	0	122,346,080	0	152,876,760
<b>Total</b>	<b>94,541,106</b>	<b>104,609,154</b>	<b>101,293,863</b>	<b>227,638,440</b>	<b>101,634,936</b>	<b>257,385,040</b>

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Proposed Budget

HYP01- C Expenditures - Rollup to Object Category

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## Pinellas County

### Standard Expenditures by Fund, Center and Program - Rollup

Entity : CHC4320 Utilities and Solid Waste Capital

Fund : Solid Waste Funds

Program : Total Program Total Program

	FY17 Actuals	FY18 Actuals	FY19 Actuals	FY20 Budget	FY20 Projected Estimate	FY21 Total Request
Personal Services	242	0	0	0	0	0
Operating Expenses	5,785	39,743	0	0	0	0
Capital Outlay	74,574,222	44,149,478	34,857,632	53,752,820	26,121,620	28,970,400
Reserves	0	0	0	46,865,020	0	81,170,230
<b>Total</b>	<b>74,580,249</b>	<b>44,189,221</b>	<b>34,857,632</b>	<b>100,617,840</b>	<b>26,121,620</b>	<b>110,140,630</b>

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HYP01- C Expenditures - Rollup to Object Category

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## Lealman Solid Waste Fund

NOTE: This fund accounts for the revenues and operating expenditures associated with the Lealman Municipal Service Benefit Unit (MSBU). The Lealman MSBU was established to provide for residential waste collection and disposal services within the unincorporated Lealman area. A non-ad valorem special assessment is levied on Lealman MSBU property owners' tax bills annually to provide funding for these services.

**Pinellas County**  
**Standard Revenues - Rollup**  
**Fund: F1093 Lealman Sw Collect&Dispos**  
**Program : Total Program**

	<b>FY17 Actual</b>	<b>FY18 Actual</b>	<b>FY19 Actual</b>	<b>FY20 Budget</b>	<b>FY20 Estimate</b>	<b>FY21 Request 100%</b>	<b>FY21 Adjusted</b>
License and Permits	1,284,142	1,275,326	1,297,979	1,261,880	1,244,114	1,328,302	1,261,880
Excess Fees - Constitutional Officers	8,478	8,186	8,355	7,910	8,211	8,328	7,910
Interest Earnings	7,930	13,412	34,723	6,220	9,999	5,486	5,210
Beginning Fund Balance	443,260	534,938	607,353	600,940	691,600	620,330	620,330
<b>Report Total</b>	<b>1,743,810</b>	<b>1,831,862</b>	<b>1,948,409</b>	<b>1,876,950</b>	<b>1,953,925</b>	<b>1,962,446</b>	<b>1,895,330</b>

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**Pinellas County**  
**Standard Expenditures by Fund, Center and Program - Rollup**  
**Entity : CHC1007 Lealman Solid Waste Department**  
**Fund : Lealman Sw Collect&Dispos**  
**Program : Total Program Total Program**

	<b>FY17 Actuals</b>	<b>FY18 Actuals</b>	<b>FY19 Actuals</b>	<b>FY20 Budget</b>	<b>FY20 Projected Estimate</b>	<b>FY21 Total Request</b>
Operating Expenses	1,183,200	1,199,013	1,230,847	1,306,030	1,306,511	1,374,470
Constitutional Officers Transfers	25,673	25,502	25,959	27,470	27,080	27,470
Reserves	0	0	0	543,450	0	493,390
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,208,873</b>	<b>1,224,515</b>	<b>1,256,806</b>	<b>1,876,950</b>	<b>1,333,591</b>	<b>1,895,330</b>

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## Staffing Summary:

	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21
<b>Total FTE</b>	78	80	80	80	78

## Budget Highlights:

- Revenues (Solid Waste F4021/F4023)
  - Tipping fees include 6.0% increase for municipal solid waste, commercial waste, and yard waste (per resolution #19-14, passed 3/12/19).
  - Tipping fees include \$1 proposed increase for each of the flat rate fees for passenger vehicles (from \$3 to \$4) and unmodified pickup trucks and vans (from \$10 to \$11). This proposed increase allows for recovery of costs associated with transition to 100% electronic payments (no cash or check payments in person).
  - Whole tire tipping fees include proposed increase from \$75 to \$110 per ton. This proposed increase brings Pinellas County's fees closer to others in the region and discourages tire disposal from out-of-county customers.
  - Tipping fees also include revision to Out-of-County surcharge. Proposed change allows for surcharge to whole tires.
  - Interest earnings are consistent with Solid Waste Forecast (1.0% of beginning fund balance).
- Expenses (Solid Waste F4021/F4023)
  - Personal Services increase of 0.3% (\$20.4K) is due to full year impact of filled FY20 vacancies, exempt phase of Evergreen study, and reduction of two FTE.
  - Operating Expenses decrease of 1.9% (-\$1.3M) is driven by the following.
    - Operating Technical Recovery Plan (TRP) project completions attribute to a decrease of \$1.7M.
    - Utilities services increase of \$485K primarily due to City of St. Petersburg sanitary sewer rate correction. City was erroneously billing us at older/lower rate.
    - Decrease of \$437.3K to better align with historical spending trends related to various types of repairs and maintenance items.
    - Consulting expenses increase of \$325K due to Regional Resource Recovery Facility (RRRF) feasibility study (w/ Utilities) and waste composition (as a result of Master Plan).
    - Intergovernmental charges increase of \$299K primarily due to Risk cost plan allocations (property insurance premium increase, discontinuation of insurance carrier credits, and increase in Workers' Compensation claims).
    - Elimination of the Eco Fun Fest (EFF), advertising reductions due to reduced mobile collection events, and reduction to the number of publications of Annual Recycle Guide resulted in a decrease of \$105K.

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- Chemicals decrease of \$101K for process and cleaning chemicals at the IWTP due as a result of shift to chloramine during pilot study.
- Revenues (Lealman Solid Waste F1093)
  - Service assessment revenue maintains current franchised collection rate of \$16/month (\$192/year) for each residential unit.
  - Anticipates customer count totaling 7,100 (allowing for potential addition of mobile home parks).
- Expenses (Lealman Solid Waste F1093)
  - Operating Expenses increase of 5.3% due to hauler CPI and fuel cost increases per their contract.
- COVID-19 Impact on Revenues
  - FY20 Estimate reduction in Tipping Fees of \$43.1K due to temporary waiver of flat rate fees.
  - Total YTD tonnages received are approximately 1% lower than the same point in time last year. At present, FY20 and FY21 tonnages are projected to remain flat when compared to FY19. No tipping fee revenue reductions for FY20 or FY21 at this point. Staff will continue to analyze and will make recommended changes as needed.
- COVID-19 Impact on Expenditures
  - FY20 Estimate includes overtime and benefits decrease of \$9.2K due to reduction in HEC3 mobile events.
  - FY20 Estimate includes Operating Expense increase of \$8.1K for increased facility cleanings and purchase of protective supplies.
  - FY20 Estimate includes Operating Expense decrease of \$288.8K primarily due to reduced contract costs for disposal of electronics items, batteries, chemicals, etc. in HEC3. Also included are reductions in department training and travel (trainings are either postponed to FY21 or canceled).
  - FY21 Request includes Operating Expense increase of \$93.4K primarily due to additional costs associated with increased credit card transactions. Department trainings and travel that are postponed to FY21 are also included.

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## User Fee Changes:

Fee	FY20 Adopted	FY21 Proposed	Change	Note
Municipal Solid Waste Disposal (Tipping) Fee	\$39.75	\$42.15	\$2.40	6% increase recommended by Technical Management Committee and approved by BCC on 3.12.19, rate resolution 19-14.
Commercial Waste Disposal (Tipping) Fee	\$39.75	\$42.15	\$2.40	6% increase recommended by Technical Management Committee and approved by BCC on 3.12.19, rate resolution 19-14.
Yard Waste Disposal (Tipping) Fee	\$39.75	\$42.15	\$2.40	6% increase recommended by Technical Management Committee and approved by BCC on 3.12.19, rate resolution 19-14.
Whole Tires Disposal (Tipping) Fee (loads containing 5 or more tires are not eligible for flat rate)	\$75.00	\$110.00	\$35.00	This rate increase brings Pinellas in line with Hillsborough and the City of Tampa, which should discourage tire haulers from driving across the bridge to our facility.
Passenger Vehicle Flat Rate Disposal (Tipping) Fee	\$3.00	\$4.00	\$1.00	Recovery of increased credit card transaction fees associated with transition to 100% electronic payments.
Unmodified Pickup Trucks and Vans Flat Rate Disposal (Tipping) Fee	\$10.00	\$11.00	\$1.00	Recovery of increased credit card transaction fees associated with transition to 100% electronic payments.
Out-of-County Waste (per ton, twice the per ton tipping fee for Municipal Solid Waste, Commercial Waste, Yard Waste)	\$79.50	DELETE	DELETE	Deleting this one and replacing with Out-of-County Surcharge (below) for clarity of application.
Out-of-County Surcharge (per ton) to be added to current tipping fee for Municipal Solid Waste, Commercial Waste, Yard Waste, and Whole Tires)	N/A	\$42.15	NEW	Surcharge to our regular tipping fee to any material that is generated outside of Pinellas County.

## CIP:

Solid Waste CIP projects are reflected in two different programs: Recycling & Education Programs and Site Operational Programs.

- Recycling & Education Programs
  - FY20 Adopted Budget: **\$3.5M**; FY20 Estimate: **\$3.3M** (Decrease \$200,000)
  - FY21 in Current 6 Year CIP Plan: **\$2.6M**; FY21 Proposed: **\$810,000** (Decrease \$1.8M)
    - Construction of HEC3 Satellite Site-South was pushed into FY22.
  - Current 6 Year Total CIP: **\$6.1M**; Proposed 6 Year Total CIP: **\$6.8M** (Increase \$700,000)
- Site Operational Programs
  - FY20 Adopted Budget: **\$50.2M**; FY20 Estimate: **\$22.8M** (Decrease \$27.4M)
    - Significant decrease due to construction of Industrial Waste Treatment Clarifier, Scale Replacement, Sod Farm Slurry Wall, and other various projects being pushed into outer years.

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- FY21 in Current 6 Year CIP Plan: **\$26.0M**; FY21 Proposed: **\$28.2M** (Increase \$2.2M)
  - Construction of Sod Farm Slurry Wall beginning.
- Current 6 Year Total CIP: **\$104.4M**; Proposed 6 Year Total CIP: **\$108.7M** (Increase \$4.3M)
- Proposed changes to current projects
  - PID 003347A Industrial Waste Treatment Facility Clarifier budget increased by \$3.9M based on project scope increase. Clarifier doubled in size.
  - PID 002135A Stoker, Gates, Boilers, and Combustion Control project increased by \$1.8M based on adding 9 additional boilers to the original project scope.
  - PID 001593A Mechanical Systems Technical Recovery Program project was not significantly completed in FY19 like originally budgeted, so budget was increased by \$485,000 in FY20 and \$300,000 pushed out into FY21.