

Project Directors

Michael J. Heimbach, Sustainability Manager, Public Works, Solid Waste Division

Kristen Sealey, Utility Engineer IV, Gainesville Regional Utilities

Eric Neihaus, Power Planning Engineer, Gainesville Regional Utilities

Jaime Verschage, Planning Manager

Objectives:

The City of Gainesville is proposing a feasibility study to determine the best options for a food waste anaerobic digester and potential RFP to determine the following:

- Optimal size and type of an anaerobic digester for the community based on diversion expectations benchmarked against other communities
- Estimated processing fee for a facility
- Best way to turn biogas into energy for the project
- Best technology for success and energy production
- Identify best location for project
- Design RFP for project

Project Description:

The City of Gainesville proposes to conduct an economic and environmental feasibility analysis as well as develop and issue an RFP to a design team for a primarily food waste anaerobic digester which may be located in Alachua County's Eco-Loop environmental industrial park, at the City's main energy facility, Deerhaven or other suitable location based on the study.

The City has passed a significant food waste diversion ordinance but adequate infrastructure does not exist in the community. This project will help move the City's Zero Waste Goals forward while providing infrastructure for food waste diversion requirements.

The City of Gainesville Public Works Department, the Gainesville Regional Utility, and Alachua County are collaborating to pursue their mutually beneficial goals.