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Florida Solid and Hazardous Waste Regulation Handbook: Local Government Structuring¹

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What Do I Need to Know about Local Governments?

The laws of local governments are called ordinances. These local laws have the authority of the state behind them and you can be prosecuted for violating them, much the same as state laws. Local governments have procedural protections similar to those of the state, but these may vary among the local governments. The legislature can also affect local policy and issues through the passage of special laws that apply only to a certain locale.

What Is the Structure of Local Government?

The structure of local government varies. Counties and cities are usually headed by elected commissions. These commissions are the authority of the local government. Just as the state and federal legislatures delegate the details, so do local commissions. Usually, running the day-to-day aspects of government is delegated to a professional manager and local agencies. As a result, these agencies may have the power to make decisions.

How Are Local Governments Involved in Waste Management?

Local governments are very involved in waste management. They frequently administer collection and disposal facilities. In addition, each county:

- has a resource recovery and management program.
- performs hazardous waste assessments on a regular basis.
- maintains records of small quantity generators.
- is involved with a Regional Planning Council (RPC), (RPCs coordinate on many issues, including waste management).

Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPs) are not directly involved with local governments but do play an important part in waste management. LEPs are responsible for:

- developing emergency plans for dealing with spills.

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- coordinating local and state authorities under federal and state right-to-know laws.

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This handbook is designed to provide an accurate, current, and authoritative summary of the principal Florida laws that directly or indirectly relate to agriculture. It should provide a basic overview of the many rights and responsibilities farmers and farmland owners have under Florida laws. The reader is provided information about these rights and responsibilities and the appropriate contacts for more detailed information. However, the reader should be aware that because the laws, administrative rulings, and court decisions on which this publication is based are subject to constant revision, portions of this publication could become outdated at any time. Many details of cited laws are also left out due to space limitations.

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