



# Renewable Energy and Energy-Efficient Technologies Grants Program

## ***Ocala Equine Energy***

**Recipient:** Florida Thoroughbred Breeders & Owners Association  
**Contact:** David Moore, (806) 236-3747; [dmoore@maxwesternenergy.com](mailto:dmoore@maxwesternenergy.com)  
**Location:** Marion County

**Grant Funds Request:** \$2,500,000  
**Grant Funds Awarded:** \$2,500,000  
**Cost Share Amount:** \$36,408,485

**Project Objective:** Located in the “Horse Capital of the World”, the recipient will utilize horse manure (or “muck” as it is known in the horse industry) to generate renewable energy, primarily electric and thermal energy. The project will design, build and operate a renewable energy facility, using grant funding to help purchase waste handling and processing equipment.

Currently, Marion County thoroughbreds produce approximately 500,000 tons per year of muck. The currently accepted practice is to land-apply 300,000 tons of muck and use 100,000 tons for compost at local farms. Disposal of the remaining 100,000 tons is a continuing struggle for horse owners. This project will utilize the muck in a gasification system, providing a cost-effective, environmentally-friendly solution that converts a noxious and harmful waste product into renewable “green” energy. In addition, compared to land spreading, composting, or depositing muck in a land fill, gasification eliminates the release of greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide and methane, which has 23 times the global warming impact as an equivalent amount of carbon dioxide.

**Energy Potential:** This project is expected to process approximately 50,000 tons per year of animal waste (muck) and 50,000 tons per year of wood and organic waste, producing approximately 10.5 megawatts of renewable energy.

**Economic Development:** The project will stimulate Florida’s economy by creating at least 24 permanent employment opportunities as well as retain the area’s \$3.5 billion horse industry. In addition, the project will provide a regional muck disposal system open to small and large farmers and municipalities.

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