

TWENTIETH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. 5644

**Introduced by REPRESENTATIVES LANI MERCADO-REVILLA,
BRYAN B. REVILLA AND RAMON JOLO REVILLA III**

**AN ACT
REGULATING THE TREATMENT TECHNOLOGY FOR MUNICIPAL AND
HAZARDOUS WASTES, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 20 OF
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8749, ENTITLED “THE PHILIPPINE CLEAN AIR ACT
OF 1999”**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This measure is being re-filed from the 19th Congress, where it had already secured approval on Third Reading in the House of Representatives.

The Philippines continues to face a growing waste management crisis. In 2024, the country generated 269,552 metric tons of hazardous waste, marking a nearly 13% increase from 2023.¹ Additionally, the country discards around 2.7 million metric tons of plastic waste annually, with up to 20% of that ending up in the ocean.² These figures underscore the urgent need for a sustainable, science-based approach to waste treatment.

Republic Act No. 8749, the Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999, currently prohibits incineration for the disposal of municipal, biomedical, and hazardous wastes. While this policy was intended to safeguard air quality, advancements in technology have since made available safer and more efficient treatments systems that can process waste without producing harmful emissions. Waste-to-energy facilities, in particular, offer an opportunity to not only address the country's waste management backlog but also to generate alternative energy and strengthen energy security.

This proposed “Waste Treatment Technology Act” aims to modernize the regulatory framework by:

¹ Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), as cited in *BusinessWorld*, “PHL waste management not keeping pace with growth in hazardous waste volumes,” July 15, 2025; see also *Asia News Network*, “Philippines making more hazardous waste, government can’t build enough disposal sites,” July 15, 2025

² World Bank, *Market Study for Philippines: Plastics Circularity Opportunities and Barriers* (2021), as cited in *Heinrich Böll Stiftung*, “Philippines: Reducing Plastic Waste,” January 20, 2025; see also Philippine News Agency, “DENR cites initiatives to address PH’s plastic waste problem,” April 22, 2024.

- Allowing the use of thermal and non-thermal treatment technologies that meet stringent environmental standards;
- Requiring facilities to incorporate continuous public monitoring of emissions;
- Prioritizing waste-to-energy facilities, alongside mandatory material recovery;
- Strengthening oversight by enforcing roles for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Department of Energy, Local Government Units, and other relevant agencies;
- Providing incentives for compliant investors and LGUs; and
- Holding owners and operators accountable for compliance.

By grounding its approach in both evidence and environmental responsibility, this bill seeks to deliver a more effective, enforceable, and modern waste management policy that protects public health, conserves the environment, and supports energy resilience.

Considering the country's mounting waste management crisis, the immediate passage of this measure is earnestly sought.


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2nd District of Cavite


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*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in
Congress assembled:*

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Waste Treatment
Technology Act”.

Sec. 2. *Regulation of Waste Treatment Technology.* — Thermal and other
treatment technologies for the disposal of municipal and hazardous wastes, or for the
processing of any waste material for fuel, whether for commercial use or not, shall be
designed and operated to meet the standards established pursuant to this Act
and its implementing rules and regulations. These technologies shall be fitted with
equipment that will continuously monitor, record, and make publicly available the
reported data on their emissions or air pollutant concentrations. Proposed facilities
that generate energy or waste-to-energy facilities shall be given priority over other
treatment technologies. Entities utilizing such technologies shall incorporate in their
facilities and operations the appropriate material recovery program. Thermal
treatment units shall treat wastes at a temperature of not less than eight hundred fifty
degrees centigrade (850°C).

Sec. 3. *Lead Agencies.* — The Department of Environment and Natural
Resources (DENR) shall be primarily responsible for the implementation and
enforcement of this Act, while the Department of Energy is primarily responsible over
relevant regulations pertaining to waste-to-energy facilities. Both agencies shall
promote the use of state-of-the-art, environmentally-sound and safe technologies
for the handling, treatment, thermal or non-thermal destruction, utilization, and
disposal of residual wastes. Pursuant to Sec. 15 of R.A No. 8749, otherwise known
as the “*Clean Air Act of 1999*”, the Pollution Research and Development Program
shall likewise include the continuous monitoring, evaluation, and development of
more appropriate air quality guideline values and standards for the treatment of
municipal and hazardous wastes, or for the processing of any waste material for

fuel.

Sec. 4. *Role of Local Government Units (LGUs) in Setting Up Treatment Facilities.* — The LGUs are hereby mandated to promote, encourage and implement in their respective jurisdictions a comprehensive solid waste management plan that includes waste reduction, segregation, recycling, composting, and recovery. The establishment of treatment facilities shall be facilitated by LGUs within a region, province, or strategically clustered LGUs, in consonance with their respective ten-year solid waste management plans: *Provided*, That these are consistent with the national solid waste management framework established pursuant to R.A. No. 9003, otherwise known as the “*Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000*”.

Sec. 5. *Role of the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC).* — The solid waste management plans and supplemental disposal plans of all LGUs, including those which may carry out treatment projects, shall be submitted to the NSWMC which shall render a decision within ten (10) working days from submission thereof. The NSWMC shall put in writing the reasons for either approving or denying such plans.

Sec. 6. *Role of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST).* — The DOST shall undertake the necessary verification of the technology that will be used for the treatment or waste processing projects. The verification shall be completed and reported in writing within ten (10) working days from receipt of the application, or twenty (20) working days if the application is for a new technology.

Sec. 7. *Role of the Department of Energy (DOE).* — The DOE, in addition to its powers and functions under R.A. No. 7638, otherwise known as “*The Department of Energy Act of 1992*,” shall, insofar as the establishment and operation of facilities that recover energy:

(a) Accredit and classify facilities that recover energy based on the energy output, and determine the standards, criteria and requirements applicable therefor pursuant to R.A. No. 9136, otherwise known as the “*Electric Power Industry Reform Act (EPIRA) of 2001*,” R.A. No. 9367, otherwise known as the “*Biofuels Act of 2006*,” and R.A. No. 9513, otherwise known as the “*Renewable Energy Act of 2008*,” whichever is applicable: *Provided*, That the energy generated from the facilities shall be regulated by the Energy Regulatory Commission in as far as the rates and pricing thereof;

(b) Include a waste-to-energy implementation strategy in the Philippines Energy Plan, which takes into consideration the National Solid Waste Management Framework;

(c) Make available to the public, especially to potential investors for these facilities, local and national information on the following:

(i) current and potential uses of facilities in relation to solid waste management;

(ii) inventory of existing facilities; and,

(iii) other relevant information.

Sec. 8. *Responsibility of Owner and Operator.* – Responsibility for compliance with the standards promulgated for the establishment and operation of waste treatment facilities shall rest with the owner and/or operator thereof. If, by virtue of a contract, the operator is primarily and solely responsible for compliance with the standards, the same shall not relieve the owner of the requirement to exercise due diligence to ensure the operator's compliance. In the event that the ownership of the facility is transferred to another person, the previous owner shall notify the new owner of the standards and the conditions set for the operation of said facility, and the laws and regulations that the new owner or operator has to comply with. These standards for operation of waste treatment or processing facility may be made more stringent by not more than five percent (5%): *Provided*, That the more stringent standards shall be effected ten (10) years following the commencement of the operation of the facility that is established after the effectivity of this Act.

Sec. 9. *Grant of Incentives.* — The following fiscal and non-fiscal incentives shall be granted to registered investors and hosts of waste treatment programs:

(a) *Fiscal and Non-Fiscal Incentives.* - Upon certification by the DOE, waste-to-energy projects, as defined in this Act, may be granted the incentives provided under Title XIII of Republic Act No. 8424, otherwise known as the “National Internal Revenue Code of 1997”, as amended, and any other applicable laws: *Provided*, That the inclusion of waste-to-energy projects in the strategic investment priorities plan shall be reviewed and may be extended by the BOI.

(b) *Financial Assistance Program* — Government financial institutions such as the Landbank of the Philippines, Development Bank of the Philippines, Government Service Insurance System, and such other government institutions providing financial service shall, in accordance with and to the extent allowed by the enabling provisions of their respective charters or applicable laws, accord high priority in the extension of financial services to individuals, enterprises, or private entities engaged in putting up treatment facilities: *Provided*, That these institutions shall allocate five percent (5%) of their loan portfolio to waste treatment projects.

(c) *Extension of Grants and Incentives to LGUs* – Provinces, cities, and municipalities, the treatment facilities plans of which have been duly approved by the NSWMC for adopting innovative waste treatment programs, may be entitled to receive grants for the purpose of developing their technical capacities toward actively participating in the waste treatment projects. The LGUs that host common treatment facilities shall be entitled to incentives as may be determined by the NSWMC.

Sec. 10. *Permits and Licenses.* – The procedure for the issuance of permits and licenses for all kinds of waste-to-energy facilities shall be governed by R.A No. 11234, otherwise known as the “*Energy Virtual One-Stop Shop Act*”, and R.A. No.11032, otherwise known as the “*Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018*”.

Sec. 11. *Fines and Penalties.* — Violations of the provisions of this Act, or the standards or rules and regulations promulgated for treatment facilities shall be fined or penalized under the provisions of P.D. 1586, otherwise known as the

Environmental Impact Statement System; R.A. No. 6969, otherwise known as the “*Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Waste Control Act of 1990*”; R.A. No. 8749; R.A. No. 9003; and R.A. No. 9275, otherwise known as the “*Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004*”. For waste-to-energy facilities, the penal schemes established under the Philippine Grid Code and Philippine Distribution Code pursuant to R.A. No. 9136, shall likewise apply.

Sec. 12. *Congressional Oversight Committee.* – Upon the effectivity of this Act, a Joint Congressional Oversight Committee shall be constituted to monitor its implementation by the concerned agencies and LGUs. The Oversight Committee shall be composed of fourteen (14) members, with the Chairpersons of the Committee on Ecology and Committee on Energy of the House of Representatives and the Chairpersons of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources and Committee on Energy of the Senate as co-chairpersons and an additional four members from each House, to be designated by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Senate President, respectively.

Sec. 13. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* — The DENR and DOE shall promulgate the rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act, within three (3) months after its approval.

Sec. 14. *Report to Congress.* – The DENR and the DOE shall submit to the President of the Philippines and to Congress an annual report not later than March 30 of every year following the approval of this Act, which shall include an evaluation of the implementation of this Act, and the appropriate recommendations thereon, and for any improvements or modifications to the policies enunciated herein.

Sec. 15. *Separability Clause.* — If any part or section of this Act is declared unconstitutional, such declaration shall not affect the other parts or sections of this Act.

Sec. 16. *Repealing Clause.* — Section 20 of R.A. No. 8749 otherwise known as the “Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999” is hereby repealed. The pertinent provision of R.A. No. 9003 otherwise known as the “Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000”, as amended, and other laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with any provisions of this Act shall be deemed repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 17. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,