



ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

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Court of Appeals backs Arizona Corporation Commission “Waste to Energy” program

The Arizona Corporation Commission’s innovative “Waste to Energy” initiative took a significant step forward after the Arizona Court of Appeals ruled the Commission acted lawfully.

The Court of Appeals reversed a lower court ruling challenging whether the Commission had the authority to approve a program that lets an electric cooperative burn trash and turn it into energy. The Court wrote that the Commission, “is the best-equipped branch of government,” to evaluate this issue.

The energy would count toward the Commission mandate that 15 percent of energy production come from renewable sources. The Commission approved the program in 2012 to allow the Mohave Electric Cooperative Inc. to build a facility in the Phoenix area to turn trash into energy. The suit, *Sierra Club Grand Canyon Chapter v. ACC*, was brought by the Sierra Club.

“The Commission will continue to work with energy providers to ensure they meet our stringent requirements to eventually produce 15 percent of energy from renewable resources,” Commission Chairman Susan Bitter Smith said. “This is an important victory for the state and its efforts to have a balanced energy portfolio.”