

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

**FILE NUMBER:** H.F.780  
**Version:** As introduced

**DATE:** February 28, 2013

**Authors:** Mahoney

**Subject:** Waste heat recovery

**Analyst:** Bob Eleff

This publication can be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please call 651-296-6753 (voice); or the Minnesota State Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529 (TTY) for assistance. Summaries are also available on our website at: [www.house.mn/hrd/](http://www.house.mn/hrd/).

### Overview

House File 780 allows waste heat used for heating or cooling purposes to apply towards a utility's energy savings goal, i.e., the requirement in section 216B.241, subdivision 1c, to save 1.5 percent of the previous year's retail sales amount. The bill also allows the displacement of fossil fuels by biomass-generated thermal heat to apply towards the savings goal.

#### Section

- 1 **[216B.241] Subd. 1. Definitions.** Expands the definition of "energy conservation improvement" to include waste heat recovery that is used for thermal purposes (heating/cooling buildings or water). The current definition allows only waste heat converted to electricity to be considered an energy conservation improvement.
- 2 **[216B.241] Subd. 10. Waste heat recovery; thermal energy distribution.** Specifies that natural gas or electricity displaced by waste heat recovered and used as thermal energy may count toward a utility's energy savings goal.
- 3 **[216B.241] Subd. 11. Qualifying biomass-generated thermal energy projects.** Allows the commissioner of commerce to approve the displacement of natural gas heating city buildings or college campuses by biomass-generated thermal heat to be counted toward a utility's natural gas savings goal. For a similar biomass project that displaces fuel oil or propane in a location where natural gas service is not available, the commissioner may allow an electric utility to count the energy savings realized, at a rate of one kilowatt-hour per 3,415 Btus saved.