



CONNECTICUT RESOURCES RECOVERY AUTHORITY

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CRRA Suspends Ash Landfill Initiative Will Pursue Alternatives, Despite Substantially Higher Costs to Towns

HARTFORD, Conn. – The Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority today voted to suspend its efforts to develop a publicly owned ash landfill in Connecticut.

After an exhaustive three-year study of the entire state, CRRA determined that a site in Franklin, straddling the Windham town line along the Shetucket River, best met the Department of Environmental Protection's rigorous criteria for siting an ash landfill. A 16-month, \$1.5 million on-site study confirmed the property is the best location in Connecticut for an ash landfill.

However, local and state leaders have called on CRRA to find an alternative to building an ash landfill on the Franklin site. At its regularly-scheduled monthly meeting today, the CRRA Board of Directors unanimously approved a resolution that read, in part:

“Based on its understanding of the directives received from State leaders, CRRA will suspend its efforts to develop an ash landfill in the State of Connecticut indefinitely and . . . immediately focus on consideration of other environmentally sound options for long-term disposal of ash residue from its resource recovery facilities, including disposal at other in-state and out-of-state landfills and other options that the CRRA finds beneficial.”

An ash landfill is needed to support Connecticut's trash disposal system. About 80 percent of the state's garbage that isn't recycled is burned in Connecticut's resource recovery or trash-to-energy facilities, producing renewable power while reducing by 90 percent the volume of waste that ultimately goes into landfills. The by-product of the trash-to-energy process is an inert, non-odorous ash that has the consistency of wet cement.

CRRA had been delivering ash from its Hartford trash-to-energy plant, which serves the 70 cities and towns of the Mid-Connecticut Project, to the Hartford landfill. But after CRRA decided in 2005 to close the Hartford landfill, triggering the search for a new site, the Hartford landfill accepted its final deliveries on Dec. 31, 2008.

Since then, ash from the Hartford plant has been going to a privately owned ash landfill in Putnam, driving up the cost of trash disposal by 14 percent compared to the cost of a CRRA system that used a publicly owned ash landfill. CRRA has a three-year contract with the operator of the Putnam landfill and is preparing to solicit bids for longer-term contracts.

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CRRA was seeking to develop an ash landfill that would accommodate its Hartford trash-to-energy plant, as well as plants in Preston and Wallingford.

State statutes require CRRA to pay the host community \$5 for each ton of ash placed in an ash landfill. Since CRRA expected to deliver 300,000 tons of ash to the ash landfill each year, the Town of Franklin would have received annual host-community fees of \$1.5 million, more than 25 percent of its annual budget.

The Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority is a quasi-public agency whose mission is to work for – and in – the best interests of the municipalities of the state of Connecticut. CRRA’s new board of directors and new management team develop and implement environmentally sound solutions and best practices for solid waste disposal and recycling management on behalf of municipalities. CRRA serves 110 Connecticut cities and towns. CRRA also runs environmental and recycling educational programs through the [Trash Museum](#) in Hartford and [Garbage Museum](#) in Stratford. For more information about CRRA and its activities, visit <http://www.crra.org>. Computer users can also discuss CRRA at its blog, <http://crra-blog.blogspot.com>.