



# CONNECTICUT RESOURCES RECOVERY AUTHORITY

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Media inquiries: Paul Nonnenmacher -- (860) 757-7771 or [pnonnenmacher@crra.org](mailto:pnonnenmacher@crra.org)

## **CRRA to Offer New Trash Disposal Deal to Southwestern Connecticut Towns**

**New Agreement Should Lead to Lower Trash Fees for Participating Municipalities**

HARTFORD, Conn. – Twelve or more cities and towns in southwestern Connecticut should see their costs of getting rid of garbage drop starting Jan. 1.

The Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority has provided for a renewal of its agreement with Wheelabrator Bridgeport L.P., operator of the privately-owned Bridgeport trash-to-energy plant, and is now asking members of the original Bridgeport Project, which will expire Dec. 31, to validate the renewal with CRRA.

Under the proposed municipal service agreements (MSAs), participating cities and towns would pay CRRA \$61 per ton of trash, plus a \$2-per-ton administrative fee. Currently, Bridgeport Project towns

**Towns expected to participate:  
Bethany, Bridgeport, Easton,  
Fairfield, Milford, Monroe,  
Orange, Shelton, Stratford,  
Trumbull, Westport and  
Woodbridge.**

pay \$98 per ton (including transportation from the transfer station to the plant and operation and maintenance of the transfer stations). The fee was \$84 per ton in fiscal year 2008, \$78 in fiscal 2007 and \$74 in fiscal 2006. The big jump this year was necessitated by the need to accrue funds to cover the costs of ending the Project, including the costs of the closure and post-closure monitoring and maintenance of Project landfills in Shelton and Waterbury.

The new contract's fees include neither the cost of transporting trash from the town or regional transfer station to the Bridgeport plant nor the costs of operating and maintaining the eight regional transfer stations which are currently part of the Bridgeport Project system. When the Bridgeport Project expires, the Project transfer stations will become the property of the towns in which they are located. While transportation and transfer station-related costs will vary from town to town, CRRA estimates the towns will pay an additional \$7 to \$12 per ton for these items, bringing the total cost to an estimated maximum of \$75 per ton.

“The towns asked us to negotiate a new agreement with Wheelabrator, and we believe this is a very positive outcome,” said Thomas D. Kirk, CRRA president. “We believe the towns that take advantage of this agreement will be paying market-rate or below-market rates for their trash, which will result in significant savings for the towns and their residents and businesses.”

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The Bridgeport Project currently consists of 18 cities and towns, but several municipalities in lower Fairfield County are pursuing other options. CRRA anticipates that Bethany, Bridgeport, Easton, Fairfield, Milford, Monroe, Orange, Shelton, Stratford, Trumbull, Westport and Woodbridge will commit to the new arrangement. Other towns may consider it as well.

The renewal agreement carries an initial term of five and one half years, with an expiration date of June 30, 2014, with options to extend for three additional five-year periods.

The disposal cost of \$61 per ton will increase annually by an adjusted consumer price index. Wheelabrator is responsible for negotiating host community benefits with the City of Bridgeport.

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’s four solid waste projects serve 118 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>.