



# WASTELINE

Your information source on municipal solid waste management

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Summer 2011

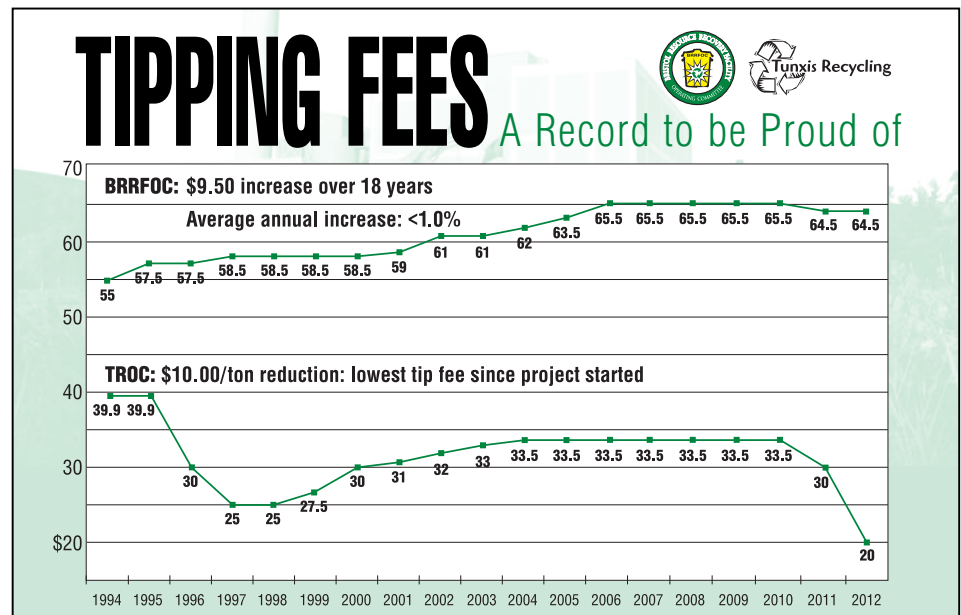
## Great Budget News for BRRFOC/TROC Communities No Increase in Tipping Fees for Municipal Solid Waste Disposal; Recycling Fees Reduced to Lowest Rate in Project History

On February 25, 2011, the Bristol Resource Recovery Facility Operating Committee (BRRFOC) adopted a \$22.91 million expenditure budget for fiscal 2011-2012 – a budget that will enable BRRFOC to hold the line on the \$64.50 per-ton tipping fee charged to the fourteen municipalities that deliver municipal solid waste (MSW) to Covanta Bristol’s waste-to-energy plant. The new budget goes into effect on July 1, 2011. “Given the state of the economy and the significant portion of municipal budgets dedicated to the disposal of MSW, BRRFOC’s ability to keep our tipping fee at fiscal 2010-2011 rates is very good news to our member communities,” said Bristol Mayor Arthur Ward, president of the BRRFOC.

“Equally impressive is the fact that over the last eighteen years, we have been able to hold the average annual increase in the tipping fee to less than one percent as a result of prudent financial planning and ongoing expense control,” added Berlin Town Manager Denise McNair, who serves as BRRFOC treasurer. “But we cannot rest on our laurels. We must continue to do everything we can to keep costs under control while maintaining the effectiveness and safety of the waste-to-energy services provided by Covanta Bristol.”

**“The financial incentive for the region to recycle is stronger than ever.”**

Following the BRRFOC board meeting, the Tunxis Recycling Operating Committee (TROC), BRRFOC’s sister agency, adopted a \$611,826 expenditure budget for fiscal 2011-2012 that will enable TROC to reduce its tipping fee for curbside recyclables processed at the intermediate processing center in Berlin by an impressive 33% – from



\$30.00/ton to \$20.00/ton. “Our fiscal 2012 tipping fee will be significantly lower than it has ever been,” said TROC Chairman Anthony A. Lorenzetti, Plymouth’s director of public works. “Our ability to significantly reduce the tip fee is the combined result of the implementation of single stream recycling initiatives in many TROC communities, the renegotiation of our contract with Murphy Road Recycling, and higher paper prices. Under single stream recycling, residents are allowed to place all recyclable glass, metal, paper and plastics in one container, making recycling easier and more cost-effective than ever before.” Lorenzetti also emphasized that the financial incentive for the region to recycle is stronger than ever. “The tipping fee for a ton of recyclable materials is less than one-third of the cost to dispose of a ton of MSW,” he said, “so it really pays to recycle.”

“Like BRRFOC, Tunxis Recycling has worked hard to reduce expenses and ensure that reserve funds are

available to support operations, if needed,” added Berlin Public Works Director Art Simonian, who serves as treasurer of TROC. “Also, with the support of BRRFOC, we will continue to administer other important environmental programs, including our highly popular household hazardous waste and e-waste collection days” (see Talking Trash).

“Both BRRFOC and TROC are in sound financial shape as we move ahead with a long-term strategic planning initiative to determine the best ways to meet the region’s municipal solid waste disposal needs for the next twenty-plus years,” concluded Mayor Ward. “That process will involve determining who will own and operate the waste-to-energy and recycling facilities after contracts expire in 2014, as well as how to best meet the ambitious recycling goals of the Connecticut DEP. I am confident that the people of the region will continue to support our efforts to address the challenges that lie ahead.”



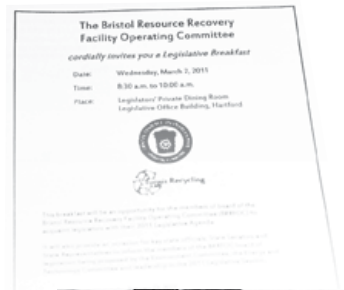
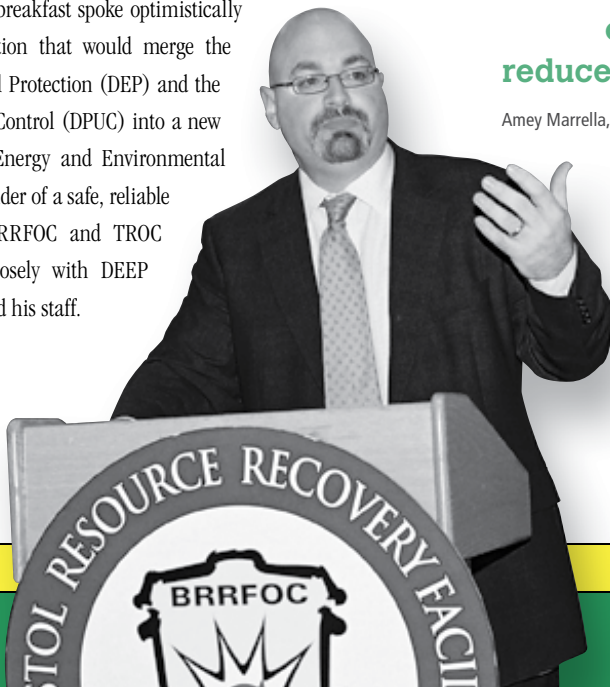
# At The Capitol

In the midst of the most serious state budget crisis in recent memory, an impressive contingent of legislators and other state officials turned out at the Bristol Resource Recovery Facility Operating Committee's (BRRFOC) annual legislative breakfast, held March 2, 2011 at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford. The meeting provided BRRFOC board members and staff an opportunity to review BRRFOC's legislative agenda for 2011. "I am pleased that, despite tough economic times, the Legislature worked closely with us this session and did not burden our renewable energy plant with new taxes that would be passed on to our constituents," said Bristol Mayor Arthur Ward, BRRFOC's president.

After introducing BRRFOC/TROC board members, Mayor Ward turned the podium over to BRRFOC/TROC executive director Jonathan Bilmes, who reiterated the importance of avoiding new taxes on waste-to-energy facilities that would simply be passed through to member towns and cities. "Since 1985, this region has worked extremely well together to provide long-term, cost-effective, and environmentally sound solid waste management services, thanks in large part to the hard work and vision of the dedicated municipal officials that sit on our boards," said Bilmes. "Another reason we have been so successful is that we have partnered with the Legislature on such important programs as the refinancing initiatives we undertook, which saved taxpayers millions of dollars at no cost to the State of Connecticut."

Before calling on guest speakers for comments, Bilmes noted that BRRFOC/TROC would support legislative efforts to enhance diversion and recycling in Connecticut, involving product stewardship initiatives under which manufacturers fund end-of-life management programs for such problem materials as paint, mattresses and fluorescent lamps. "We are especially pleased to see that the Legislature enacted a paint stewardship program this session," added Plymouth Director of Public Works Anthony Lorenzetti, president of TROC.

A number of speakers at the breakfast spoke optimistically about comprehensive legislation that would merge the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Department of Public Utility Control (DPUC) into a new agency, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). As a provider of a safe, reliable renewable energy source, BRRFOC and TROC look forward to working closely with DEEP Commissioner Daniel Esty and his staff.



**"The BRRFOC and TROC are committed to working cooperatively with our legislators to provide the leadership skills essential to sound environmental decisions..."**



Bristol Mayor Arthur Ward (right), president of BRRFOC, with State Rep. Frank Nicastro, former BRRFOC president



**"The Energy Committee always recognizes the importance of the work you do and how important resource recovery is in Connecticut."**

State Representative Vicki Nardello, 89th District

**"At DEP, we realize that if we move forward with more recycling we can help you save money, improve the environment and actually move forward on the state's plan to reduce greenhouse gases."**



Amey Marrella, Former Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection

**"...While I am impressed with your ability to control costs for your municipalities, I also am impressed that you have an impact on clean energy production and...on the health of the environment."**

Robert Michalik, Office of Congressman Christopher Murphy

# Trash Talk



Shown here is a sampling of some of the household hazardous waste items brought to the April 16 Plymouth collection.

Since 1994, Tunxis Recycling has administered a series of one-day regional **household hazardous waste (HHW) collections** to help ensure that toxic household items — such as pesticides, fertilizers, oil-based paint, paint thinners, household cleaners and disinfectants, household batteries, waste oil, gasoline and mercury (including traces of mercury found in fluorescent lights) — are disposed of in a manner that does not endanger the environment or public health. Two such HHW collections were held this spring, one on April 16 in Plymouth and one on May 7 in Plainville. Senior Solid Waste Analyst Susan Hemenway reports that residents from all ten of TROC's HHW-participating communities participated in each of the collections. "Nearly 250 residents of the region brought material to the Plymouth event," said Hemenway. "That's the largest turnout for a Plymouth collection since 2001 and nearly 50% higher than the turnout in 2009. And while participation in the Plainville collection decreased by 30 vehicles compared to last year's collection, the equivalent of 310 households participated. All in all, our HHW collections continue to be very popular."



In the seventeen years since TROC's HHW collection program was initiated, the equivalent of nearly 39,000 households have participated. Four more collections are scheduled for the fall of 2011: Southington,

Among the items brought to TROC's June 4 e-waste collection were "vintage" stereos and televisions.



Plainville Superintendent of Roadways Dominic Moschini lends a hand at TROC's May 7 household hazardous waste collection.

September 17; Prospect, September 24; Bristol, October 1: and New Britain, October 22. For more information, go to [tunxisrecycling.org](http://tunxisrecycling.org).

Despite the recent implementation of a statewide electronic waste (e-waste) program — under which all Connecticut municipalities must provide their residents with convenient, no-cost opportunities to recycle their unwanted electronics on an ongoing basis — participation in **TROC's one-day e-waste collection program** remained spirited. The June 4, 2011 event, which was once again held at GE in Plainville, saw more than 743 residents of TROC member communities bring their obsolete computers, TVs, cell phones, VCRs and other electronic devices to the collection to ensure that they were recycled and/or disposed of in an environmentally safe manner. The 2011 collection marked the ninth consecutive year TROC has administered this environmentally important program.



## In the News

### The ABC's of single stream recycling

were the focus of a highly informative article that ran on Earth Day 2011 in a special *Bristol Press* supplement. "Agencies such as TROC (Tunxis Recycling Operating Committee)... would love to take credit for reducing the amount of trash (through an increase in recycling)," noted

BRRFOC/TROC Assistant Director Mark Bobman, the author of the article. "But credit must be given to the efforts of individual towns who devote significant resources educating the public, providing convenient and reliable service, and offering alternatives other than waste disposal for bulky items, yard waste, appliances, and electronics, such as computers and TVs. People generally understand that the more residents recycle, the fewer tax dollars are needed to pay for trash pickup and disposal."

**On May 19, 2011, Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley signed a bill elevating waste-to-energy (WTE) to a Tier 1 renewable** – the same renewable energy class as solar and wind power.



The bill (Senate Bill 690) had the strong support of the Local Government Coalition for Renewable Energy, a broad-based coalition of local governments and special purpose authorities, including the Bristol Resource Recovery Facility Operating Committee. "Senate Bill 690 properly recognizes the very substantial renewable energy and environmental benefits of WTE," said a spokesperson for the Coalition in a letter to Governor O'Malley. "The Coalition strongly supports its enactment into law."



In an April 19, 2011 letter to the editor of the *Bristol Press*, Joseph Vitale of Covanta Bristol reflected on Earth Day and noted that **in 2010 the Bristol waste-to-energy plant produced 108,392 megawatt hours of clean, renewable energy – enough energy to power 9,425 homes.** "While we are very proud of our 2010 performance, we hope to do even better in 2011, while continuing to serve our community with reliable, sustainable waste disposal and clean, renewable energy generation," wrote Vitale.

An April 19, 2011 *Bristol Press* guest editorial highlighted **the working relationship between the Bristol Resource Recovery Facility Operating Committee (BRRFOC) and Covanta Bristol** as an "effective example" of a public/private partnership.





# Board News



Arthur J. Ward, Mayor, City of Bristol

**Officers Elected for 2011...**On December 10, 2010, Bristol Mayor Arthur J. Ward was elected to serve a one-year term as president of the Bristol Resource Recovery Facility Operating Committee. Other officers elected at the BRRFOC's annual meeting were Wolcott Mayor Thomas G. Dunn, vice president; Branford First Selectman Anthony J. "Unk" DaRos, secretary; and Berlin Town Manager Denise McNair, treasurer.

**"I look forward to working closely with the board and staff to ensure that the region's municipal solid waste disposal process continues to be administered in the safest and most cost effective manner possible – as it has for nearly 25 years – while generating clean, renewable energy."**

BRRFOC President Arthur Ward, Mayor, City of Bristol



Garry Brumback, Southington Town Manager

**Welcome...**Garry Brumback is the newest member of the BRRFOC board, having joined the Operating Committee upon being appointed Southington's new town manager on January 31, 2011. Brumback began his career in the U. S. Army after graduating from Virginia Military Institute, where he earned a BA in economics. His military career spanned twenty years and included several staff and command positions. He retired in 1998 and began his government career shortly thereafter as the strategic planning director in Clearwater, Florida. In 2000, he was promoted to assistant city manager. In 2007, Brumback was appointed city manager of Baytown, Texas, where he served until being named to fill the formidable shoes of Southington Town Manager John Weichsel, who retired at the end of 2010. Brumback, who also has an MA in international relations from Boston University, is joined in Southington by his wife, Jennifer.



## Congratulations!

On December 10, 2010, friends and BRRFOC/TROC colleagues gathered to celebrate John Weichsel's retirement as Southington's town manager – a position he held for 35 years – and from the BRRFOC board of directors, where he served since the Operating Committee was established more than a quarter of a century ago.



# Staff News



**Cathy Mitchell** is BRRFOC/TROC's new administrative assistant, having joined the staff in February. Cathy's diverse work experience includes a five-year stint as an administrative assistant at Cumberland Farms Headquarters in Berlin, her hometown.

Today, Cathy is a resident of Bristol, where she lives with her husband, Ronald, a commercial painter, and their two daughters, Melissa, 17, and Ashley, who is eleven years old. Outside the office, Cathy enjoys volunteering for Bristol Girls Little League Softball (both of her daughters play in the league), reading and participating in the "Relay for Life" in Bristol, which she does on an annual basis. She also enjoys vegetable gardening. "Hot peppers are my favorite," says Cathy.



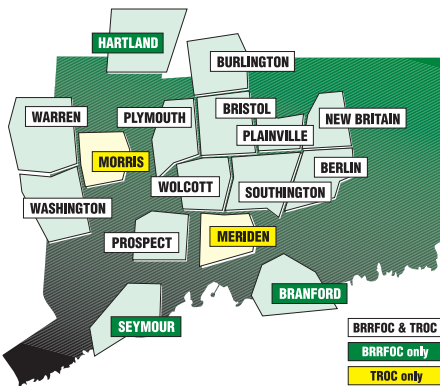
Among the new faces at 43 Enterprise Drive these days is **Luigi Porco**, BRRFOC/TROC's part-time bookkeeper. Born and raised in Montreal, Canada, Luigi spent twenty years as a comptroller in the hotel industry, a career that took him all over Canada and the United States – as well as to the Caribbean island of Antigua.

His professional résumé also includes work as an accounting professional in the food distribution, wholesale and agricultural industries and tax preparation work for individual clients. He recently became a certified insurance agent in Connecticut.

In his not so spare time, Luigi, a Waterbury resident, enjoys tennis and bowling. "I also like to dabble in good cooking," he says.



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*WASTELINE* is a publication of the Bristol Resource Recovery Facility Operating Committee. The BRRFOC is a regional organization created to manage the solid waste of its members in a cost effective and environmentally safe manner. We welcome your comments and questions. **BRRFOC, 43 Enterprise Drive, Bristol, CT 06010; Telephone: 860-585-0419; Fax: 860-585-9875; Web Sites: [www.brrfoc.org](http://www.brrfoc.org) / [www.tunxisrecycling.org](http://www.tunxisrecycling.org)**

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