

## PRESERVING AND ENHANCING ENERGY REVENUES FROM A SMALL RRF IN A DEREGULATED ENVIRONMENT

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### ABSTRACT

Restructuring of the electric utility industry has received much attention in the national media as higher electric rates have been experienced this year in major population centers such as San Diego, CA and Westchester County, NY. Further, the lack of adequate electric capacity (and/or the ability to transmit the electricity) has continued to plague major metropolitan areas such as Detroit, MI and Silicon Valley. What role does waste to energy have in helping solve these problems? This paper will discuss the real life experience of a waste to energy project (Bristol, CT Resource Recovery Facility) in the rapidly changing world of electric deregulation. When Connecticut passed its restructuring legislation in 1998 (Public Act 98-28), no one realized how much effort would have to be spent at the agency level to preserve and protect existing power purchase agreements, especially those with "above market" pricing structures. In a state such as Connecticut where the adopted legislation was considered very favorable to private power producers such as waste to energy, many surprises have occurred during the implementation of the legislation. Understanding how Connecticut's electric restructuring legislation has been implemented will help those with interests in any waste to energy, landfill gas, biomass or other renewable power source be better prepared to manage similar state and federal legislative initiatives.

### INTRODUCTION

Established in 1988, the Bristol Resource Recovery Facility Operating Committee (BRRFOC) administers an integrated solid waste disposal program for 14 Connecticut cities and towns with an estimated population of 300,000. The BRRFOC's integrated waste management system includes: public education on source reduction; source separation, recycling and household hazardous waste collections through its sister agency, Tunxis Recycling; and a waste-to-energy facility in Bristol, Connecticut (owned by Ogden Martin Systems), which safely and efficiently burns approximately 650 tons of solid waste daily, reducing the volume of waste in member communities by 90% and producing enough electricity to serve about 15,000 homes. In addition, since our Board is comprised of Mayors, Selectmen and Town Managers, we also represent the direct interests of our taxpayers, both residential and commercial. Energy sales from the waste to energy facility comprise over 35% of the region's revenues.

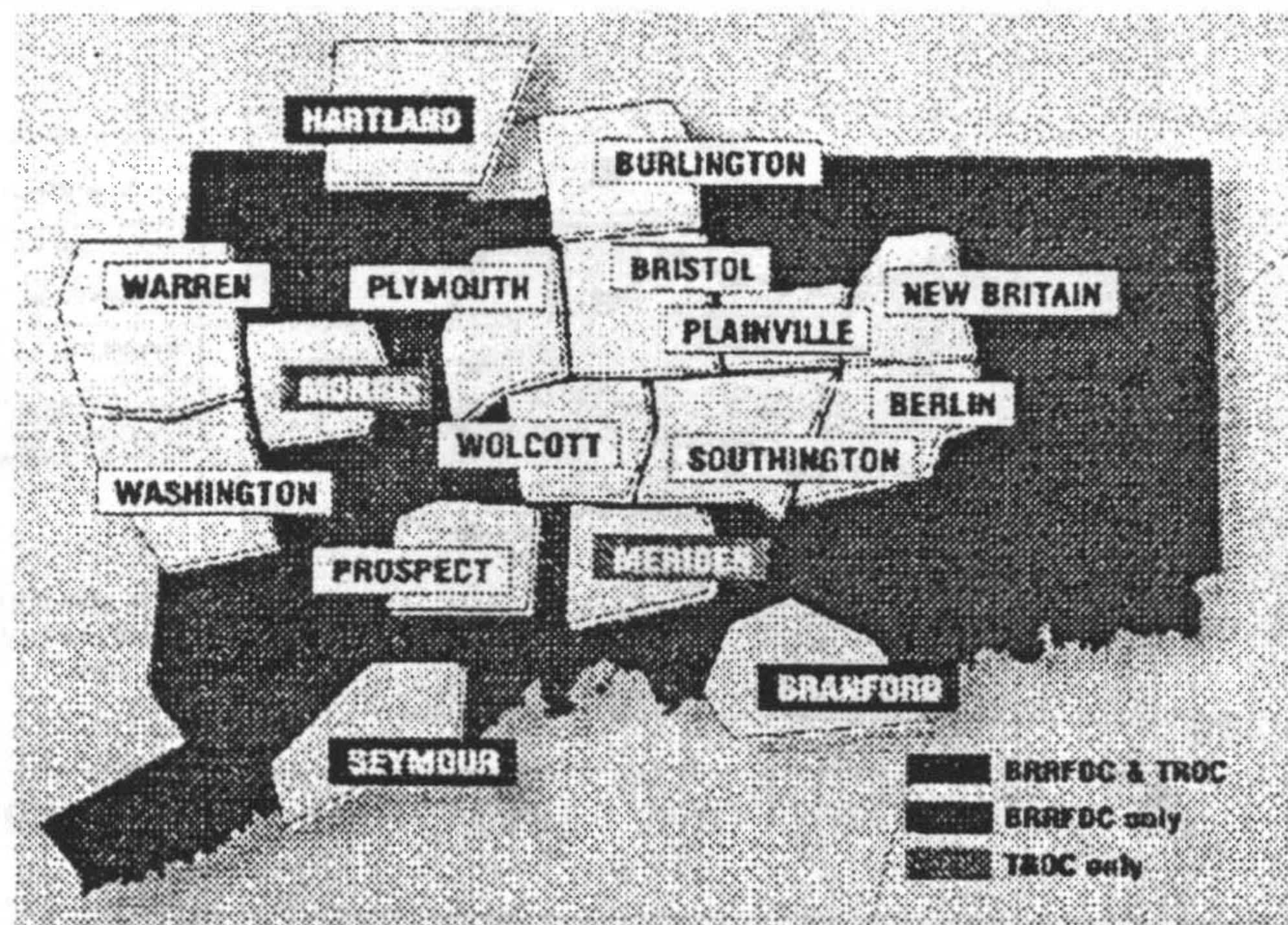


Figure 1: Bristol Resource Recovery Facility Operating Committee Service Territory