

Saugus WTE of Wheelabrator Technologies for completing its thirtieth year of service to the people of Massachusetts



Wheelabrator's Saugus Waste-to-Energy facility is the first commercially successful Waste-to-Energy facility in the U.S. This WTERT Service Award recognizes the men and women working at the Saugus facility, and the pioneer efforts of Wheelabrator over the past 30 years in the areas of finance, technology, operations and the environment.

The Saugus plant is located on Boston's north shore and processes 1500 tons of trash each day to generate 40 megawatts of electricity for sale to local utility.

The Saugus facility pioneered a method of project financing that has allowed the WTE industry to grow by committing only a portion of private equity to total financing. Nearly 25% of the total project cost was private equity, and 75% was project financed. This successful financing model has been emulated in the financing of many subsequent facilities.

The Saugus facility was one of the first plants to take European technology and make it work in America. The Europeans at the time has significant redundancy in their operations, and often when something broke, they could bring another unit on-line. Several years before promulgation of the EPA MACT standards- and the \$1 billion in equipment retrofits spent by the U.S. WTE industry to implement MACT-Saugus was retrofit with scrubber/baghouses.

Now Saugus is pioneering in the environmental area, particularly with regard to greenhouse gas emissions reductions. The facility was the focus of an extensive study using EPA methodology that examined the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by WTE facilities, in comparison to landfilling.