

Environmental activists



The team from the Park City Magnet School, including, from left, Brian Keller, Kristen O'Neill, Marina Tassi, and Melanie Morales, received the Environmental Agriculture Award at the Wheelabrator Symposium for Environment and Education in Florida. Pages 4-5.

Not stuck in neutral

Wheelabrator plays key role in reducing CO₂ emissions

BY PAUL HALLORAN

In an age when global warming has gained international attention and scrutiny, there has been a concerted effort to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, which are believed to contribute to a worldwide change in climate.

"Carbon neutral" refers to a net of zero carbon release into the atmosphere, which is brought about by balancing the amount of carbon released with the creation of a commensurate amount of carbon emissions reduced or avoided.

Waste-to-energy technology, such as that employed by Wheelabrator Bridgeport, has proven to be even better than carbon neutral. Here is

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Energizing Connecticut for 20 years and counting

BY DAVID LISCIO

When the boilers are fully cranking at the Wheelabrator Bridgeport waste-to-energy plant more than 60,000 kilowatts of electrical energy - enough to supply the electrical needs of 75,000 Connecticut homes - is created and offered for sale to the United Illuminating Co. (UI), the local utility.

Wheelabrator Bridgeport Plant Manager Vin Langone said the plant is

Wheelabrator Bridgeport produces enough electrical energy to power more than 75,000 Connecticut homes.

negotiating the terms and conditions of a new waste-disposal contract with the Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority (CRRA), which represents many communities in southwestern Connecticut.

"I'd say we're pretty much there in terms of a new contract," said Langone, acknowledging that the free market allows communities to choose their waste-disposal

option. Connecticut's landfills are full to the

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Committed to the communities we serve



Vin Langone

Safe. Reliable. Community-conscious. Employee-friendly.

Those are some of the attributes of our plant in which we take great pride, highlighted in this edition of *Wheelabrator Bridgeport News*, in which we take great pride.

As of July 1, our plant has been providing safe, efficient, environmentally sound waste disposal and generating clean, renewable electricity for residents of southwestern Connecticut for 20 years. As you read on page 1, the plant produces enough electrical energy to meet the needs of 75,000 homes, a significant amount.

Thanks to a group of dedicated and conscientious employees, our plant is up and running 24/7. Our record of reliability is unparalleled in the industry. Waste haulers know that when they show up with their loads at Wheelabrator Bridgeport, they can be assured that we will be ready to process



their material and get them on their way as quickly as possible. This high level of efficiency benefits everyone involved in the process of waste disposal.

In this edition, you will meet some of our veteran employees, many of whom have been at the plant since it became operational in 1988. The fact that they have remained for such a long period speaks volumes not only about their loyalty to the company, but also the type of working environment we try to

foster.

We take seriously our commitment to the community and are happy to support a number of organizations that provide a wide variety of services to residents of Bridgeport and the surrounding cities and towns. One initiative we are extremely proud of is our participation in the Wheelabrator Environmental Symposium (pages 4-5). This year, a team of students from Park City Magnet School represented our plant at the symposium in Florida. The students and teachers spent many hours preparing their project, which showed in the professionalism of their presentation.

We hope you enjoy this edition of the *Wheelabrator Bridgeport News* and wish you a relaxing and safe summer.

Vin Langone is plant manager at Wheelabrator Bridgeport.

Seeing “Stars”

Plant earns VPP recertification

BY DAVID LISCIO

Three years after it first achieved “Star” status for its overall workplace safety, Wheelabrator Bridgeport has again been awarded the prestigious Voluntary Protection Programs (VPP) certification by the federal government.

In January, inspectors from the U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) scrutinized the facility’s operational and safety procedures to recertify the facility under the VPP program. The result was a glowing report card.

As of June 30, there were no accidents that required lost work time at the plant for 652 consecutive days.

“Employees and management at the Bridgeport plant are to be congratulated on their effective and ongoing commitment to workplace safety and health,” said Marthe B. Kent, OSHA’s regional administrator for New England, who presented the Bronze Star plaque for 2007 to denote the exemplary performance. “Their joint efforts have resulted in a high-quality safety and health program, and injury and illness rates well below the industry average.”

Wheelabrator Bridgeport, which employs 67 people, first achieved VPP Star status from OSHA in December 2004. Its renewal came after an OSHA team’s on-site review, which included interviews with employees and a complete tour of the worksite, found the facility’s safety and health programs consistent with the high quality expected of VPP participants, according to OSHA spokesman Ted Fitzgerald.

The VPP program recognizes worksites that are committed to effective employee protection beyond the requirements of OSHA standards, he said, noting that the program encourages cooperative relationships among labor, management, unions and government.

Through VPP, employers and employees have experienced significant decreases in fatalities, injuries and illnesses. Positive changes in company culture and attitudes toward safety and health were also noted, as was the average injury rates 50 percent lower than other companies in their respective industries.

The Bridgeport plant is one of fewer than 2,000 worksites in 270 industries nationwide, including seven Wheelabrator

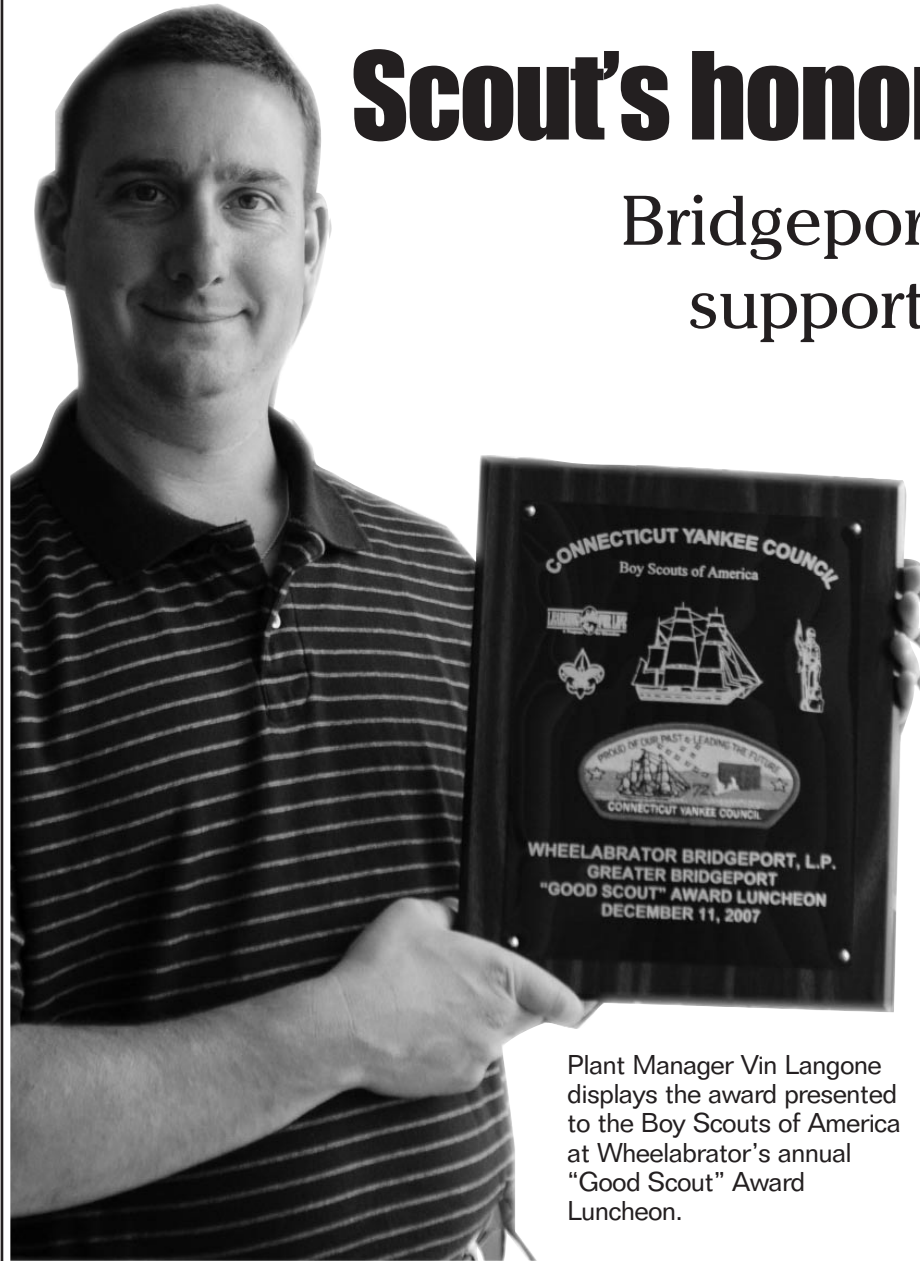


Wheelabrator Bridgeport Safety Committee member Tom Mills is shown in front of a sign recognizing the plant’s safety record. The days without a lost work-time injury now number more than 650.

sites in New England, that have earned entry into the VPP.

John Walker, a mechanic at Wheelabrator Bridgeport and the plant’s Safety Committee chairman, is proud of the OSHA recertification. “Safety is the

No. 1 priority to us in Bridgeport. We all have families that count on us to return home safely,” he said. “I know for myself working here for more than eight years that safety is more than useful at work. I have implemented it into my life.”



Plant Manager Vin Langone displays the award presented to the Boy Scouts of America at Wheelabrator's annual "Good Scout" Award Luncheon.

Scout's honor: Wheelabrator cares

Bridgeport plant recognized for its support of community causes

BY DAVID LISCIO

When it comes to reaching out to the community, Wheelabrator Bridgeport extends itself in many different directions.

One of the more than two dozen organizations to benefit from Wheelabrator's support is the Boy Scouts of America, which recognized Wheelabrator Bridgeport for sponsoring its annual Good Scout Award.

Plant Manager Vin Langone, who has a seat on the Good Scout Award Steering Committee, said the plant's support of the Boy Scouts is in line with the company's philosophy of giving back to the local community.

"We make a good number of donations to a wide variety of community groups throughout the year," he said.

Wheelabrator Bridgeport takes part, as do other Wheelabrator plants, in an annual environmental symposium that sends local seventh- and eighth-grade students into the field for further study on projects that they chose. The students then gather to present their accomplishments at a Wheelabrator-

hosted gathering in Florida that is entirely funded by Wheelabrator. A team from Park City Magnet School participated in this year's symposium (see pages 4-5).

"We also team with the Longfellow School and sponsor an after-school program and a Christmas gift program," said Langone, adding that employees David Hall and Glenn Lockhart recently assisted in a segment of the hit TV show "Extreme Makeover."

Wheelabrator Bridgeport also participates in programs such as City Sweep, and donates to many other organizations, including the American Red Cross, Give to the Troops, Girl Scouts, American Cancer Society, American Diabetes Association, PT Barnum Foundation, and Goodwill Charities.

The company helps fund or otherwise sponsor Swim Across the Sound, the Black Rock Community Council, the Connecticut Sports Foundation, the Warren Street St. Patrick's Day Parade, Black Rock Elementary School and the annual Bluefish Festival.

Record of reliability is second to none

BY DAVID LISCIO

When the residents of more than 75,000 homes in the Bridgeport area turn on their lights or electrical appliances, they probably don't think about the nearby Wheelabrator waste-to-energy plant, but perhaps they should. After all, the plant creates enough energy to

meet the demands of Bridgeport residents, and it does it so consistently it has been recognized with an industry award. In a word, Wheelabrator Bridgeport is reliable.

"We're online 99 percent of the time and that's a very big deal," said Vin Langone, the plant manager. "That means we're basically always up and running, and only down briefly for scheduled maintenance. So when we say we'll be online, we'll be online."

In 2007, the Bridgewater plant set a company-wide record for reliability, and in turn received a Summit Award from Waste Management, the parent company of Wheelabrator Technologies, Inc. The plant also won the company's Best in Class Award, given by Wheelabrator in recognition of overall performance, excellence in safety and environmental compliance, and smooth operational and financial performance.

"What that really boils down to is customer service," Langone said. "Based on what we process at this plant, which is about 740,000 tons of trash each year, we produce 500,000 megawatt hours of electricity, and that's enough to satisfy the electricity needs of more than 75,000 homes."

Langone said the three boilers operated at the Bridgeport facility are among the most efficient and dependable in the industry.



Waste Management President and Chief Operating Officer Larry O'Donnell congratulates Wheelabrator Bridgeport's Jon Walker on the plant's sterling record of reliability.



Wheelabrator Bridgeport employees show off the Summit Award, which was presented to the plant by Waste Management for setting a company-wide record for reliability.

Bridgeport's environmental activists

Park City Magnet symposium team recognized at annual competition

By MEAGHAN CASEY

Students at Bridgeport's Park City Magnet School were all abuzz in preparation for the Wheelabrator Symposium for Environment and Education.

The symposium, held annually in May, challenges middle-school students to participate in a six-month learning project to identify an environmental challenge in their community and develop a long-term solution. The goal of the symposium is to foster environmental and social awareness in the youth.

"The symposium has been held for 14 years, and every year the students continue to amaze me," said Linda Sapienza, director of community relations for Wheelabrator Technologies. "Sponsoring and coordinating the symposium is all part of Wheelabrator's philosophy of giving something back to our communities, so it's a really wonderful thing to see the enthusiasm and dedication these students bring to the

event year after year."

Bridgeport's team, under the leadership of teachers Juliana May and Frank Rodrigues, presented on the topic of Honey Bee Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) and its affect on the pollination of our food supply. The students concluded that the disappearance of more and more bees is due to a combination of mites, pesticides, small hive beetles and cell phone towers. Without change, the pollination of fruit will decrease, crops will diminish and the cost of food will rise.

Locally, students have pledged to raise awareness, inform the community, continue research, build partnerships with local beekeeper associations and plant a bee-friendly garden. For their commitment, they were presented with the Environmental Agriculture award at a recognition dinner held at the conclusion of the symposium presentations.

Ten schools, representing Florida, New England and the mid-Atlantic region, traveled to Sunrise,

Fla., for the three-day symposium event, with all expenses paid by Wheelabrator Technologies. Participants gathered at the Crowne Plaza Hotel at Sawgrass Mills. Each school sent a team of 10 students who were required to present their topics, using computer graphics and visuals, in front of a VIP panel of Wheelabrator representatives, parents, students and teachers.

Applying lessons learned in the classroom to real-life issues, the students showed tremendous insight and poise.

"Their presentations really reflected the amount of work they put into their projects in the months leading up to the symposium," said Sapienza.

Throughout the year, the Bridgeport team met regularly with John DiDonato, assistant superintendent and veteran beekeeper, as well as advisors from Wheelabrator Bridgeport. Additionally, they visited Wheelabrator's landfill in Lisbon for a workshop with beekeeper Jay Falcone. In addition to Lisbon, Wheelabrator maintains beehives at its landfills in Shrewsbury, Mass., and Saugus, Mass.



Top, Wheelabrator's Linda Sapienza, far right, presents the Park City Magnet School team with the Environmental Agriculture Award. Above, beekeeper Jay Falcone puts protective head gear on student Daniel Scisuco as plant manager Vin Langone looks on. At right, Scisuco makes a presentation at the symposium.



Above, students watch as beekeeper Jay Falcone suits up to open the hive. At left, Falcone lifts out honey comb with bees at the Putnam Landfill. Below, from left, Kristen O'Neill, Marina Tassi, Melanie Morales and Brian Keller.



At left, the Park City Magnet School environmental symposium team, seated from left, Marina Tassi, Daniel Scisuco, Samantha Baronavski, Melanie Morales, and Juliana May. Standing from left, teacher Frank Rodrigues, Brian Keller, Andre Escaleira, Kristen O'Neill, Marlene Kinchen, and Bridgeport Public Schools assistant superintendent John DiDonato.

Wheelabrator plays key role in reducing CO₂ emissions

CARBON FOOTPRINT: from Page 1

how waste-to-energy is playing a key role in the fight against global warming: The trash that is burned by waste-to-energy facilities is comprised primarily of biomass organic material — i.e. food, wood and paper. The combustion of that type of material counts as zero carbon emissions.

Trash that is sent to waste-to-energy plants also includes plastics, textiles and other materials made from petroleum. They create carbon dioxide when burned, but only a small percentage of waste-to-energy's direct emissions fall into that category.

Waste-to-energy plants such as Wheelabrator Bridgeport help avoid release of greenhouse gas emissions in three ways. First, waste-to-energy plants generate electricity by using the heat from the combustion of the trash to create steam in high-efficiency boilers. The steam in turn powers electric generators. Producing electricity with trash avoids the greenhouse gas emissions associated with conventional electric power plants, which typically burn coal or oil.

Second, the trash that is converted into energy in a waste-to-energy plant, having already been subjected to recycling by households and businesses, would either go to a waste-to-energy plant or landfill. Waste that is placed in a landfill decomposes over time, creating methane gas, which is 23 times as potent a greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide. Even well controlled landfills that collect the gas and use it to create electricity are not able to collect 100 percent of the methane. This uncaptured methane, however small a quantity, would be released as a greenhouse gas emission.

Finally, waste-to-energy plants also avoid greenhouse gas emissions by

recovering ferrous metals, such as iron and steel, from ash residue left after combustion of the trash. These metals are sent off to recycling facilities. Making new iron and steel from that recycled material results in less carbon dioxide emissions.

The net effect of waste-to-energy technology when it comes to greenhouse gas emissions is that for every ton of municipal solid waste that is converted into electricity at a waste-to-energy plant, approximately one ton of greenhouse gases, i.e., carbon dioxide, is avoided or offset. That figure was arrived at by researchers at universities and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Using this rule of thumb, in 2007, Wheelabrator Bridgeport was responsible for the avoidance of approximately 725,000 tons of greenhouse gas emissions. Company-wide, Wheelabrator-operated waste-to-energy plants were responsible for avoiding the production of more than two million tons of greenhouse gases.

According to the EPA, of all the solid waste management options, waste-to-energy does the most to reduce greenhouse gas releases into the atmosphere. Industry wide, waste-to-energy plants annually prevent the release of more than 30 million tons of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide.

The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports a seven percent reduction in greenhouse gases from 1990 levels by 2012 and recognizes waste-to-energy technology as a means to achieve that goal. Also, the Global Roundtable on Climate Change has identified waste-to-energy as a means to reduce carbon dioxide emissions as well as methane emissions from landfills.

Being even better than "carbon neutral" is another example of how Wheelabrator and waste-to-energy are helping to protect the environment.



Ed Gusciora, environmental health and safety manager, conducted a week-long series of air testing.

Energizing Connecticut for 20 years and counting

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brim and trucking trash out of state can prove a much more costly alternative.

"Every year, even after all the waste disposal facilities in the state have done their jobs to capacity, Connecticut still has a surplus of approximately 400,000 tons that goes out of state, to places like Ohio, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Given the price of diesel fuel these days, I don't even want to calculate what that costs," Langone said.

Since the CRRRA was established in 1973, the volume of trash generated by communities in the Bridgeport area has soared, exposing a problem with which the communities must grapple when

negotiating contracts with Wheelabrator and other trash-disposal companies.

Wheelabrator Bridgeport processes up to 2,250 tons per day - and 740,000 tons annually - of municipal solid waste from southwest Connecticut. It is one of six in-state resource recovery facilities that convert waste into energy. The six facilities manage 57 percent of the state's waste. There are also two landfills.

Towns that do not deliver their waste to the two landfills or the six resource recovery facilities, either directly or from solid waste transfer stations, must ship their waste to out-of-state landfills.

Just how much trash does Connecticut generate? The Department of Environmental Protection estimates that the state generated 3.8 million tons

of waste in 2004 (the last year for which they have data). Almost 30 percent, or more than 1 million tons, of that waste was recycled. Of the remaining trash, just over two million tons was processed in Connecticut's six resource recovery facilities, 152,000 tons was buried in landfills in the state, and more than 325,000 tons was sent out of state for disposal.

What does it all mean? Basically, Connecticut is generating more waste than the disposal facilities currently operating in the state can handle. That means more trucking waste out of state, an increasingly expensive option. Despite recycling efforts, the population is growing and consumption is increasing, all of which leads to a heavier waste stream.

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Every year, Connecticut has a surplus of 300,000 to 400,000 tons (of waste) that goes out of state.

Vin Langone
Plant manager

Providing energy for your home



and a clean environment for theirs.

Preserving the environment has been part of the goal
at Wheelabrator Bridgeport for the past 20 years.



 **Wheelabrator Technologies Inc.**
A Waste Management Company

We are family

Longtime employees feel at home at Wheelabrator

BY DAVID LISCIO

Like family, many of the employees at Wheelabrator Bridgeport have known each other for years, and in some cases, decades.

Nine current employees and a recent retiree were recognized for their longtime service to the company. The common denominator: 20 years or more on the job.

Among those honored for their years of dedication to Wheelabrator were: Jim Brakewood, maintenance foreman from Shelton; Bob Cushing, maintenance manager from Monroe; Joe Hardy, purchasing agent from Bridgeport; Jamie Rodriguez, assistant plant operator from Bridgeport; Luis Rullan, crane operator from Bridgeport; Andy Salva, heavy equipment payload operator from Bethany; Mike Tomasko, first-class mechanic from Seymour; and Willie Williams, labor foreman from Bridgeport.

Jerry Laing, a first-class mechanic who lives in Bridgeport, will reach the 20-year milestone later this year, while Ed Ek, a former maintenance planner, recently retired after marking 20 years on the job.

Plant Manager Vin Langone said that employees stay with the company for several reasons, among them the fact that it provides a safe work environment and competitive wages.

Wheelabrator Bridgeport 20-year employees include, back row, from left, Luis Rullan, Bob Cushing, Jim Brakewood, Willie Williams, Mike Tomasko and Joe Hardy; front row, Jerry Laing, left, and Andy Salva.

PHOTO: DAVID LISCIO