

Composting Facility

To the Editor:

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Torrington is about to enter a relationship with IPS and its new parent, Wheelabrator Technologies Inc. A proposed composting facility is touted as a benefit to the city. Perhaps so, but I urge citizens to review and question the deal.

IPS, a Connecticut-grown company with sound environmental goals, provided composting technology to communities and the guidance to build and operate composting facilities. IPS was purchased by Wheelabrator earlier this

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year. Wheelabrator is owned by Waste Management Inc., the largest waste management business in the country.

Prior to a Wheelabrator presence, IPS assisted the town of Fairfield in developing its own compost facility. Fairfield had several problems to address: exorbitant tipping fees to dispose of its sewer sludge and no space in its landfill to dispose of tree stumps, leaves and other yard waste. Now there are no more tipping fees, a use for yard waste, and plenty of compost to cover the landfill and sell for profit. Fairfield officials are extremely satisfied with the decision to own and operate the facility.

The emphasis is on owner/operator. Fairfield controls its facility and is accountable to citizens for its operation. Wheelabrator will be the owner/operator of the compost facility located in Torrington, accountable only to its shareholders.