Torrington officials must carefully examine the contract with Wheelabrator to ensure that the tipping fees will not double or triple due to "unforeseeable expenses." Wheelabrator, which is profit-oriented not community-oriented, attempts to transfer financial risk to the community in a slick contract in which the town has little real ability to negotiate.

The community of Claremont, N.H., entered into a contract with Wheelabrator and now must supply the Wheelabrator incinerator with approximately 13,000 tons of garbage per year at a tipping fee of over four times the price originally promised. The community is stuck because of the contractual obligations agreed to at the beginning of the relationship.

In Bridgeport, officials were criticized for making a bad deal with Wheelabrator. In lieu of taxes Wheelabrator pays Bridgeport $1.5 million annually. If Wheelabrator was taxed at the normal rate the City could receive $12 million per year in taxes, a difference of $10.5 million a year! Who got the better end of that deal?

In addition, Bridgeport is obligated to deliver 100,000 tons of garbage per year and pay the tipping fee which increases regularly. It costs the city over $2 million a year in tipping fees. Bridgeport, in a rush to fix its trash crisis, is losing millions of dollars.

Regardless of surrounding circumstances, Winsted should investigate the possibility of operating its own compost facility. Composting is not a complicated technology and it may potentially solve some of Winsted's waste issues and generate revenue.

Information on IPS, Wheelabrator, and Waste Management is available at the Office of The Community Lawyer in Winsted. Citizens can also write the Clean Water Fund Research and Technical Center at 317 Pennsylvania Ave., SE, Washington, DC 20003 and the Clearinghouse for Hazardous Waste, Box 928, Arlington, VA., 22216 for more information on Wheelabrator's record as a corporate citizen.

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