



# Regional Plan Association

*... a research and planning agency supported by voluntary membership to promote the co-ordinated development of the New York- New Jersey-Connecticut Metropolitan Region.*

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## NEWS RELEASE

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REGIONAL PLAN ASSOCIATION WARNS OF IMPENDING SOLID WASTE CRISIS, SAYS  
PROPOSED WASTE-TO-ENERGY FACILITIES MAY BE COST-EFFECTIVE

Unless drastic changes are made in solid waste disposal practices, the New York Urban Region has only enough landfill capacity for 54 percent of the 200 million tons of garbage and trash expected to be generated in the 1980s, and the cost of waste disposal will undoubtedly go up, Regional Plan Association warned today.

According to Regional Plan President John P. Keith, "The Region has failed to maintain the infrastructure for solid waste disposal in the face of stricter environmental standards and federal laws prohibiting ocean dumping. Present landfills were able to handle 83 percent of the solid waste in 1980, with the rest transported out of the Region; but they will be able to handle only 63 percent of the projected waste in 1984 and only 31 percent of the projected waste in 1988. This is because many of the existing disposal sites are already at or near capacity, and 40 percent of the facilities--handling 70 percent of the Region's waste--have been identified as open dumps by the Environmental Protection Agency."

The Association issued conclusions regarding waste management policy from a research project aimed eventually at developing a regional capital budget for the tri-state Region which includes New York City and the 26 surrounding counties. This analysis, prepared by Irving L. Finley under the direction of Regina Belz Armstrong, Vice President for Economics, evaluated 10 of the 26 waste-to-energy plants now being considered in the Region.

The 10 proposed plants would be located in Bergen County; Brookhaven, Long Island; Brooklyn; Dutchess County; Mercer County; Newark, New Jersey; New Haven, Connecticut; New Milford, Connecticut; the South Bronx; and Westchester County.

The Association's evaluation of the 10 proposals was based on one chapter of a larger study entitled Economic Development and Public Infrastructure Investment for the New York Urban Region. The report was financed in part by the U.S. Economic Development Administration and the U.S. Department of Transportation.

In describing the report's conclusions, Dr. Keith said, "The track record of resource recovery in this Region has been poor so far, but the plants currently under consideration employ much simpler technologies than the two which failed at Bridgeport and Hempstead. Assuming technical difficulties can be overcome, there appears to be good reason to expect that the proposed waste-to-energy plants would be cost-effective before the decade is over and able to make a significant contribution to the Region's efforts to deal with the solid waste crisis."

Regional Plan Association is a nonprofit civic organization which has been planning for the coordinated development of the tri-state Region for more than 50 years.

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A copy of the Association's publication on solid waste disposal is attached.

mbs/Attachment  
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