

# Town of Brookhaven and Covanta Partner to Reduce Truck Traffic on Long Island

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New Trucks and Covanta Operations of the Brookhaven Transfer Station to reduce over 560,000 truck miles annually **Farmingville, NY** - Supervisor Ed Romaine has announced that the Town of Brookhaven and Covanta Hempstead Company, a subsidiary of Covanta, a world leader in sustainable waste management and renewable energy, recently reached a new 10-year agreement for the transportation and disposal of the town's municipal solid waste and the operation of the Brookhaven Transfer Station.

The agreement secures the long-term disposal of Brookhaven's municipal solid waste at the Covanta Hempstead Energy-from-Waste Facility where it will continue to be used to generate clean, renewable energy. In conjunction with this arrangement, newly-designed trucks with the ability to transport both municipal solid waste (MSW) as well as ash, have now been deployed to transport waste from the Brookhaven Transfer Station to Covanta Hempstead, and then return to the landfill adjacent to the Brookhaven Transfer Station with the residual ash residue, rather than return empty. The new trucks are designed not only to haul ash and municipal solid waste (MSW) in the same vehicle, but are also larger, providing an increased capacity of 25%.

This design eliminates the approximately 6,400 MSW loads that travel between Brookhaven and Hempstead each year, and also reduces the number of ash loads by 10 percent, or about 650 trips. Eliminating the necessity to make separate trips for waste and ash will result in the corresponding elimination of over 560,000 truck miles annually, thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions by over 1,000 tons, equivalent to the annual emissions from over 200 cars.

"This new agreement with Covanta Hempstead extends and improves a long-term mutually beneficial partnership," said Ed Romaine, Brookhaven Town Supervisor. "We are very pleased to have found a way to significantly reduce local traffic and to continue utilizing the Covanta Hempstead Energy-from-Waste facility for our waste that remains after recycling."

The contract, which went into effect earlier in 2015 with a term of 10 years, allows Covanta to assume responsibility for the transportation of Brookhaven's MSW from the transfer station to Covanta Hempstead while continuing to haul its Energy-from-Waste byproduct ash to the landfill located in Brookhaven. Significantly reducing the amount of trucks on roadways and the associated annual truck mileage (7050 trips x 80 miles), the arrangement succeeds in decreasing the overall carbon footprint of the waste hauling process.

"Prior to this new agreement, Brookhaven was responsible for bringing its waste to the Hempstead facility with Covanta transporting its ash to the landfill in Brookhaven. This process created an unnecessary amount of trucks on the roadways that were returning to their point of origin for the next pickup," stated Covanta Executive Vice President Derek Veenhof. "Fewer trucks are now needed to carry the same amount of waste and ash, decreasing truck traffic. Both Covanta and the Town of Brookhaven value responsible waste management and reducing emissions."

The Hempstead facility serves the surrounding Long Island area as a viable option for disposal of municipal solid waste in a clean and environmentally friendly manner. Recovering energy from waste after efforts to reduce, reuse and recycle is a critical component of managing waste. To date, Covanta Hempstead has processed nearly 23 million tons of municipal solid waste, enough to fill over 19 Yankee Stadiums, saving 194 acres of landfill space. On average, every ton of municipal solid waste diverted from landfilling and processed at Energy-from-Waste facilities reduces GHG emissions by the equivalent of approximately one ton of carbon dioxide. Applied to the waste processed at the Hempstead facility, the total GHG savings is equivalent to pulling 4 million cars off the road for a year.

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