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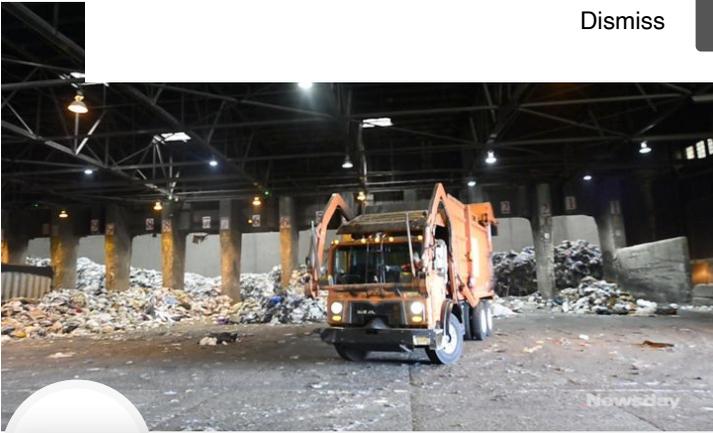
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Islip and Huntington, provide electricity for 100,000 Long Island homes, and process more than half the island's trash. Islip Town owns a plant operated by Covanta near Long Island MacArthur Airport.

The proposed policy would add a new cost-per-ton for carbon emissions onto wholesale power prices, with lower-emission power sources retaining greater pricing credits in state power markets. The policy is intended to create an incentive for power generators to

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emissions by diverting trash out of landfills, where it produces methane, one of the worst-offending greenhouse gases.

“It’s a pretty brutal policy” for waste-to-energy plants, said Scott Henderson, senior director of government relations for Covanta, which estimates the four waste-to-energy plants it operates on Long Island would incur between \$31.1 million and \$42.7 million a year in new costs as a result of the policy.

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But Nathaniel Greene, senior renewable energy advocate for the Natural Resources Defense Council, an advocacy group, said Covanta's argument doesn't take into account other potential methods for dealing with waste.

"I find it totally unconvincing that we need to protect waste-to-energy for carbon reasons when we're not doing enough" recycling or repurposing of waste. "It's a false dichotomy."

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the town to bring trash to the facility in exchange for accepting incinerated fly ash from the plant that is disposed of at the Brookhaven landfill. Covanta's 80-megawatt Hempstead plant is one of the most used plants on Long Island, with a 96.03 percent availability, Covanta said. It uses fuel-oil for a four-hour startup phase for the rare occasions it's not running, but otherwise runs on trash.

It's unclear how soon the new state carbon pricing policy will be

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