You may have heard or read on RI NPR some claims by Bill Fischer, spokesperson for Green Development, the proponent of the biomass net metering bill (H-8020) that wants to develop a biomass plant. He stated that “the plant would keep hundreds of thousands of tons of wood out of the state landfill” and “the status quo right now of 200,000 tons of wood rotting in the landfill is not a good public policy for the state of Rhode Island.” See http://ripr.org/post/ri-biomass-bill-sparks-debate-between-environmentalists-green-energy-developers (emphases added).

In an email to State Representatives, Al Bucknam, CEO of Green Development, stated that “Rhode Island throws away over 200,000 tons of clean wood annually, whether in the landfill, dropping it in the woods, or otherwise.” (Emphasis added.)

In an article on ecoRI News, Mark DePasquale of Green Development “insisted that none of the wood at his power plant will come from fresh-cut trees but mostly from the 250 tons of construction and brush debris that heads to the Central Landfill daily, along with a mix of wood chips.” See https://www.ecori.org/government/2018/4/26/wood-biomass-power-moving-quickly-through-general-assembly?rq=BIOMASS (emphasis added).

**Wondering about these numbers?** Here are some key facts and figures from the Solid Waste 2038 Rhode Island Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan of May 14, 2015 (the Plan) with details on what is at Rhode Island Resource Recovery in Johnston (the State Landfill):

- The State Landfill takes in about 6,000 tons per year of Wood. See page 2-4. “Wood Waste” is defined as “Lumber, pallets, crates, plywood, particle board, and saw dust, substantially free of contaminants. Contaminants include: lead paint, banding, bolts over 1¼ inch diameter, shingles, pipe, Formica, plastics, and preservatives.” See page A-5.

- The State Landfill composts about 39,000 tons of yard debris each year. See page 2-4.

**Where does the proponents’ 200,000 ton figure come from?**

- Perhaps it's the over 200,000 tons of C&DD that Rhode Island generates annually? See page 2-7.
- What is C&DD? Construction & Demolition Debris is “Waste building materials resulting from construction, remodeling or repairing structures or waste generated from the razing of structures.” See page A-1.

The Plan is available at https://www.rirrc.org/about/reports-data/planning.