

## **DO NOT PUBLISH MY NAME IN THE LIST OF SUBMISSIONS**

18 May 2018

Dear Sir/Madam

### **RE: EASTERN CREEK ENERGY FROM WASTE' FACILITY SSD 6236**

I submit **my letter of objection** to the World's Largest Toxic and Poisonous Incinerator from Hell application at Eastern Creek NSW **along with facts/evidence** (proving the dangers to all human life and health).

**"Remember we have only one life and one planet, and we must start behaving as if that was the case."**

I submit, in my democratic right, the following.

I am appalled and utterly frustrated that I am yet again required to make another submission against the Incinerator from hell. Is no one listening to the people of Western Sydney? I cannot believe that even though the Incinerator has been rejected by the Health Department, the EPA, Blacktown Council and the NSW Planning Department, which we were told by Liberal Tanya Davies, were the experts, this fight is still not over. **I honestly believe that had this Incinerator been proposed for the Northern, Eastern or Inner Suburbs this disgusting proposal to build the World's Largest Toxic Dump of an Incinerator would have been shelved/dumped immediately.**

What hold has the proponent got over the Liberal Party? The proponent has breached so many laws and yet his application is still being considered? Donations to the Liberal Party should not be a precedence for favours in return as lives are more important than donations and expecting or granting favours by a Party for donations received is both corrupt and morally wrong.- this is against the law. Yet the application continues to be considered!!!!

I am in total opposition to this Toxic Incinerator, that is preposterously being considered for Western Sydney, less than 800m from our homes, being built at Eastern Creek - a death trap in the heart of hard-working families. How can this be happening in Australia - a country that constantly riddles the likes of China for polluting the air and now this Liberal State Government is not only harming the environment but killing the people of the West by considering building a Toxic Dump of an Incinerator from hell at Eastern Creek. Behaving worse than China! Do the lives and health of the people of Western Sydney not matter? We are not second class citizens.

A criminal is listened to more than what we are being listened to at the moment. The judge tries the criminal, passes sentence - case over. Yet we have had to submit 3 times and even though each time the preposterous idea was rejected we continue to fight against this poisonous Incinerator which will spew deadly gases over us - we now wait for a committee to either sentence us to ill-health and death or reject this application once and for all - and we can again live without all of this unnecessary stress - we can live in a happy, safe and non-toxic environment the way God and nature intended.

We have sent in our letters of objection, signed petitions (12,000) and submitted reports from doctors, toxic networks, videos from people living near Incinerators showing how they have become gravely ill through the carcinogenic air which they breathe in on a daily basis and toxic dust that settles on their bodies, hair, clothes, doors, windows, cars etc. and how the areas surrounding these toxic incinerators from hell have become cancer cluster areas, and yet here we are once again having to show why we do not want this Incinerator built near our homes! Unbelievable!

In 2014, *Miami New Times* tracked down residents who grew up under Miami's Incinerator Old Smokey's ash plume, and quickly discovered many of them developed respiratory problems, sinus issues, chronically itchy eyes, and pancreatic cancer. Residents have since filed a class-action law suit claiming "Plaintiffs have been exposed to greater than normal background levels of various toxic chemicals including but not limited to arsenic, lead, and dioxins **in addition to other toxic contaminants,**" reads the suit. The group's members say they have suffered from cardiovascular issues, diabetes, high blood pressure, chronic bronchitis, asthma, fertility problems, seizures, cancer, and leukaemia. According to the suit, those issues can be **traced to exposure to the various toxic chemicals** that Old Smokey blasted into the air for years. The suit says both kinds of ash contain toxic heavy metals, including lead, mercury, chromium, arsenic, cadmium, and beryllium, as well as polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), high in toxicity, and polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), which come from burnt biofuels and have been linked to skin, lung, bladder, liver, and stomach cancers. Fly ash tends to be more harmful to human health — floating through the air and into people's lungs. (This will be the case here in Western Sydney if this ridiculous idea goes ahead!!! - is anyone listening?)

For the next 30 years, 24 hours a day 7 days a week Sydney will be breathing in these toxic poisonous emissions from this dangerous Incinerator from hell. How can you allow this to happen? How can you ignore the suffering that people will endure if you allow this toxic dump of an Incinerator to go ahead? Can you honestly say that you did the right thing BY THE PEOPLE? If you really cared, you would not allow this to go ahead and cancel this application immediately. I hope you choose life and health for us.

As you are aware, The EPA, Health Department, The NSW Planning Department have all rejected this proposal to build an incinerator and have said it should not be allowed - very sensible people indeed! This proposal makes no sense at all - our lives and health now hang in the balance at the hands of a Parliamentary Assessment Committee/Independent Planning Commission, even though thousands have rejected this proposal and sent in documentation to support their reasons including support from Government Departments - do our opinions out West not matter? Thousands of lives and health now hang on every word that will come from your mouths - Does anyone care? How would you all feel if this Toxic Incinerator was planned for your areas - if it was 800m from your homes? Does anyone within your Committee have a heart and conscience? I honestly hope so - the dangers and threat to health and life that will occur for all of us living so close to this Toxic Dump if this mad proposal is given the green light will be catastrophic! I ask that you all please reject it and cancel this application once and for all. Choose life for humans over profits for the proponent.

Nelson Mandela said: "To deny people their human rights is to challenge their very humanity". This speaks true about this Incinerator - we do not want it here near our homes, yet we are being ignored - our human right to life is being threatened and this is Morally Wrong.

While John F Kennedy said: "Children are the world's most valuable resource and its hope for the future" and this Incinerator will obliterate the lives of our young because they will become so ill. How can you allow this to happen? We are trying to safeguard our children and families, are you?

This is also against the Geneva Convention, The Stockholm Convention and Human Right to Life. As, I am sure that you are aware of, Australia is a signatory to the Stockholm Convention, which obliges us to reduce, and eliminate sources of dioxins and furans. Permitting an incinerator such as this in Australia so close to residential areas contravenes the intent of this obligation. The World Health Organisation as well as GreenPeace also opposes Incineration.

Where globalization means, as it so often does, that the rich and powerful now have new means to further enrich and empower themselves at the cost of the poorer and weaker, we have a responsibility to protest in the name of universal freedom (Nelson Mandela).

“If we let ourselves be led by people who only speak the language of corruption, we are done for,” Pope Francis has warned.

Pope Francis also said “great business interests” “There is so much damage done by this ... thing that infects everything,” he said. “And it’s always the poorest and the environment that get the short end of the stick.”

"The ideology surrounding environmental issues is too tied to a capitalism that doesn't want to stop ruining the environment because they don't want to give up their profits," Cardinal Oscar Rodriguez Maradiaga said.

All these quotes are FACTS and true to what is happening out in Western Sydney. Will you take up this responsibility and cancel this application by listening to the pleas of the people in Western Sydney? We do NOT want this Incinerator here. Or will you allow the rich and powerful to fill their pockets with profits over our health and wellbeing?

The proponent is well known to have breached many EPA laws, changed his 'truth' facts (juggled numbers!!!) regarding emission data in his booklet 3 times (3 times now surely this is a red flag and you cannot believe what he has said or written), illegally dumped asbestos, left sites uncleaned and with horrendous stench, fined by the EPA - I could go on and on but I believe that you already know this about the proponent. In my opinion it will make for him lots of money - and you cannot equate people's lives and health with profits. He even offered residents solar panels and when asked on Television by a journalist if this was to get people to vote for the Incinerator he did not answer!!! - another red flag!

**Please be aware that A wide area will be poisoned by this Incinerator from Hell:**

**Parramatta is only a 10 minute drive and Olympic Park a 15 - 20 minute drive from Eastern Creek on the M4,** so the area that will be affected and threatened by this Toxic Incinerator is huge.

Thousands of people are relying on you to cancel this application once and for all and allow people out west and beyond to breathe in a healthy environment and not toxic, poisonous gases that will emit from the stacks of this Incinerator from Hell.

What is shocking to me is that although thousands of people have already objected to this Incinerator, along with the EPA, Health Department and Planning Department, this one man, one proponent who has breached so many environment laws, illegally dumped asbestos, written untruths in his booklet, (the list goes on), this very ONE man has so much clout because he donates to the Liberal Party - makes one wonder just what is going on here? A lady at the meeting on Monday mentioned the brown paper bag - is this what life has become - a favour for a favour? There are so many mistakes and red flags concerning the proponent and yet we are the ones fighting for our families. Makes no sense at all!

What ever happened to core values, integrity and honest conscience? This entire plan regarding this Incinerator was so underhand - not being told about the application (thanks to the Greens we heard about it), not notifying all homes in the areas, our battle to have this stopped, our constant requests to show and prove why this is a danger to us, no notifications of meetings (thanks to the No Incinerator group for getting the messages out), - so I hope and pray that every one of you committee members will see the truth in all the facts which we have submitted, and the reasons why this Incinerator is a hazard to human life and that we do not want this Incinerator so close to our homes. **There is no money in it for us, we are fighting for our health and life for all.**

One day one of your children or grandchildren may be living out west - never say this will not happen - many people who now live out west moved from the inner city, Bondi, North Sydney for cleaner air, a bigger home, a family environment and open spaces. How would you feel if one of your children or future grandchildren moved out West? By granting this application you would have paved the way for them and their families to begin a journey of ill health.

It takes a person of strong character who has the health, well-being and safety of the people to stand up and say no to this preposterous proposal. I hope and pray you are members of character, integrity, honesty and will see the dangers for all if this mad idea of an Incinerator is given the green light.

You just cannot take the risk and this application by a proponent who, in my opinion, is neither truthful nor sincere, must be stopped and rejected once and for all. Do the right thing by everyone please - I appeal to you all in the Parliamentary Assessment Committee/Independent Planning Commission, to

- consider wisely our health and wellbeing before profits,
- consider the \*Healthy Alternatives listed in the following pages instead,
- acknowledge that building a Toxic Incinerator will not solve our waste problem but merely put thousands of lives and the health of residents of Sydney at risk of disease and premature death
- get the NSW government to legislate that Incinerators must not be built near residential areas ever and
- back the Greens Bill to get it legislated.

I hope and pray that all you Members will

- not be swayed by the Minister for Energy's comments
  - nor the proponent's attempt to show that this is good for Sydney
- but that each and every one of you will make decisions based on
- your honesty,
  - your integrity
  - your conscience,
  - common sense
  - the truth along with all the facts which are being presented to you, and
  - the health and well-being of all the residents in Western Sydney.

Please do not treat us like second class citizens - we have a voice that needs to be heard. Please listen to the people and STOP this Incinerator from going ahead. Do the right thing and cancel the application immediately. You have more than enough facts and truthful evidence to prove that what we have written and submitted is correct and honest and, unlike the proponent, not a guessing game nor a juggling of numbers. Incineration does not and will not work and will never be safe for human health and life..

Remember benefactors come and go but our health and lives are ALL we have. It is *Immoral* to equate people's health and lives with profits for a Liberal party benefactor.

Burning Waste is definitely not the answer.

Our health and lives and a change to Healthy Alternatives OR the proponent's profits? Which will it be?

I Thank you all.  
God Bless



## **This proposal fails to meet many Government Policies as follows:**

### **The NSW Energy from Waste Policy Statement has overarching principles including:**

- 'Mass burn' disposal outcomes are avoided
- Air quality and human health are protected - not protected as too close to families and very toxic poisonous emissions will spill 24/7 for 30 years!!!!
- Scope is provided for industry innovation - making companies accountable
- Community acceptance - the community objected to this from the start
- This application fails to meet all of the basic principles of the NSW Energy from Waste Policy Statement

### **The Renewable Energy (Electricity) Act 2000**

- The waste to energy incinerator would burn plastic and industrial waste. The Act specifically excludes fossil fuel based materials such as plastics.
- Burning waste fuels based on petrochemicals (which are fossil fuels) and burning plastics derived from fossil fuels does not create 'green' energy – it is simply burning fossil fuels in another form.

### **The European Human Rights Convention are being contravened**

- Waste to Energy Incinerators presently contravene basic human rights as stated by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights
- The foetus, infant and child are most at risk from incinerator emissions: their rights are therefore being ignored and violated, which is not in keeping with the concept of a just society. Nor is the present policy of locating incinerators in deprived areas where their health effects will be maximal

### **The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants**

Waste to Energy Incinerators are known to produce Persistent Organic Pollutants such as Dioxin and Furans, which are Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). <http://www.ntn.org.au/wp/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/10-reasons-why-burning-waste-to-make-energy-is-a-bad-idea.pdf>

- The Stockholm Convention is a legally binding international instrument that aims to eliminate or restrict the production and use of [persistent organic pollutants](#) (POPs).
- Waste to Energy Incineration goes directly against the directive of the Stockholm Convention by releasing POPs into the environment.

POPs concentrate in living organisms through another process called bioaccumulation. Though not soluble in water, POPs are readily absorbed in fatty tissue, where concentrations can become magnified by up to 70,000 times the background levels. Fish, predatory birds, mammals, and humans are high up the food chain and so absorb the greatest concentrations.

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2004/unep204.doc.htm>

### **Doesn't meet the fit and proper person test under section 83 of the Protection of the Environment Operations Act**

- The proponent has had 18 EPA breaches of associated companies since 2005.
- The owner of The Next Generation has contravened environment protection legislation such illegal dumping of asbestos

### **Current Government Website confirms health concerns**

Waste to Energy Incinerators are known to produce ultra-fine particulates (diameter less than 0.1µm) in high amounts. <http://www.ntn.org.au/wp/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/NTN-waste-to-energy-incineration-report-2013.1.pdf>

- Exposure to fine particle pollution has been linked to a variety of health problems including increased respiratory symptoms (e.g. irritation of the airways, coughing or difficulty breathing), heart problems and premature death in people with heart or lung disease." <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/air/air-pollution/particles-as-pollution>

- “May cause people with heart disease to experience symptoms like chest pain, and shortness of breath. Particle pollution can aggravate existing respiratory diseases such as asthma and chronic bronchitis”. <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/air/air-pollution/indicators-we-monitor>
- **The Next Generation's own EIS confirms “Ultra fine particulates will increase as a result of this project”**

**These FACTS should not be ignored.** The health and well-being of all citizens, particularly those living so close to this toxic incinerator that is being proposed for Eastern Creek must come first before profits for the proponent, - this application must be cancelled in order to protect the health, lives and dignity of all people in Western Sydney.

There are other healthy alternatives that must be considered.

### **\*The healthy alternatives to Incineration**

Renewable energy is attainable through

1. Wind turbines - safe and effective ways to save lives and the environment and produce safe energy - a huge incentive for us to consider and one that will be welcomed.
2. Solar panels - excellent alternative
3. Recycling (creates more jobs than incineration) - the West already recycles 75%
4. Zero Waste programs (making companies accountable for what they design - everything must be biodegradable and/or recyclable)
5. Compositing

“Zero Waste is a goal that is both pragmatic and visionary, to guide people to emulate sustainable natural cycles, where all discarded materials are resources for others to use. Zero Waste means designing and managing products and processes to reduce the volume and toxicity of waste and materials, conserve and recover all resources, and not burn or bury them. Implementing Zero Waste will eliminate all discharges to land, water, or air that may be a threat to planetary, human, animal or plant health. (Zero Waste International Alliance)

Australia could lead the world in using Energy Alternatives instead of Incineration - the latter emits poisonous gases harming the health of the people - whilst Renewable Energy will make Australia one of the most sustainable and healthy countries in which to live.

”For the proponent to call this *Energy from Waste is false advertising*: Remember **Industrial waste and who knows what else** will be burnt by the proponent - (the company's illegal dumping of asbestos will lead to the illegal burning of asbestos - too enormous a risk to ignore), and a real threat to human life! The proponent was heard to say that 1 in 3 people die from cancer anyway!!!! Really does he honestly care - definitely not - in my opinion all the proponent sees is the profits that he will make at the expense of human life - immoral.

**Calling it Energy from Waste is false advertising because**

- **Incinerators make waste more toxic.**
- **They do not eliminate waste, but change the form of waste into hazardous air emissions and toxic ash.**
- **They convert a large percentage of the waste burned into toxic ash.**
- **They spread hazardous contamination worldwide; contaminating air, soil, and water.**
- **They are a major source of 210 different dioxin compounds, plus mercury, cadmium, nitrous oxide, hydrogen chloride, sulfuric acid, fluorides, and particulate matter small enough to lodge permanently in the lungs.**

## **Would you live close to an Incinerator knowing that it was spilling out these harmful toxins everyday?**

- **Quote:** "Incinerators release carcinogenic (cancer-causing) and toxic chemicals from their smoke stacks, including heavy metals (such as arsenic, lead, cadmium, mercury, chromium and beryllium); acid gases, including hydrogen fluoride; [1,pg.11] partially-burned organic material such as polyvinyl chloride (PVC), herbicide residues, and wood preservatives; other organic chemicals, including polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs); and dioxins and furans.[3] One recent analysis identified 192 volatile organic compounds being emitted by a solid waste incinerator.[4] Several PAHs and dioxins and furans are known or suspected human carcinogens. Dioxins were named as "known" human carcinogens by the World Health Organization in 1997.[5] Now a series of reports from around the world have cast even more doubt on the safety of solid waste incineration." Unquote: (Rachel.org)

**You cannot ignore these findings** - they are facts and life-threatening. Our children, the elderly, families lives and health are at stake. How can you ignore this threat to our right to human life?

### **Incinerators are NOT "waste-to-energy" facilities (from energy Justice Network)**

There is no such thing as waste-to-energy. **"Waste-to-energy" is a public relations term used by incinerator promoters**, but is not an accurate term, scientifically, as there is no such thing. In the bigger picture, **they're waste-OF-energy facilities..**

Incineration is the most expensive and polluting way to make energy or to manage waste. It produces the fewest jobs compared to reuse, recycling and composting the same materials. It is the dirtiest way to manage waste - far more polluting than landfills. It is also the dirtiest way to produce energy - far more polluting than coal burning.

### **Dirtiest way to manage waste**

The cleaner you make the air (with more pollution controls), the more toxic you make the ash (as the highly toxic fly ash caught in the controls is mixed with the bottom ash before landfill). Incineration makes landfills more toxic by dumping highly concentrated toxic ash into the landfill instead of the less-toxic larger volume of unburned waste. Air emissions from incinerators far exceeds air pollution from landfills, and groundwater contamination from ash landfills is likely to be worse than from landfills full of unburned trash due to toxic metals being more available, and due to new pollutants having been created during combustion.

### **Dirtiest way to produce energy**

To make the same amount of energy as a coal power plant, incinerators release 28 times as much dioxin than coal, 2.5 times as much carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), twice as much carbon monoxide, three times as much nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>), 6-14 times as much mercury, nearly six times as much lead and 70% more sulfur dioxides.

### **Is incineration safe? - Definitely NOT**

The incredible fact that simply by burning household trash we make the most toxic substances that we have ever been able to make in a chemical laboratory: polyhalogenated dibenzo para dioxins and furans (PCDDs, PCDFs, PBDDs, PBDFs etc) called "dioxins" for short. There are literally thousands of these substances. Can you imagine what the numbers will be for Industrial waste?

The problem with incineration is two-fold:

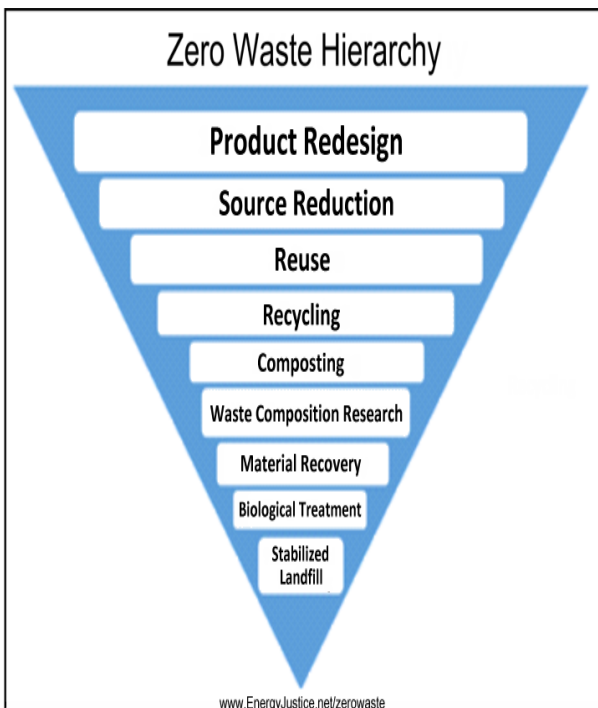
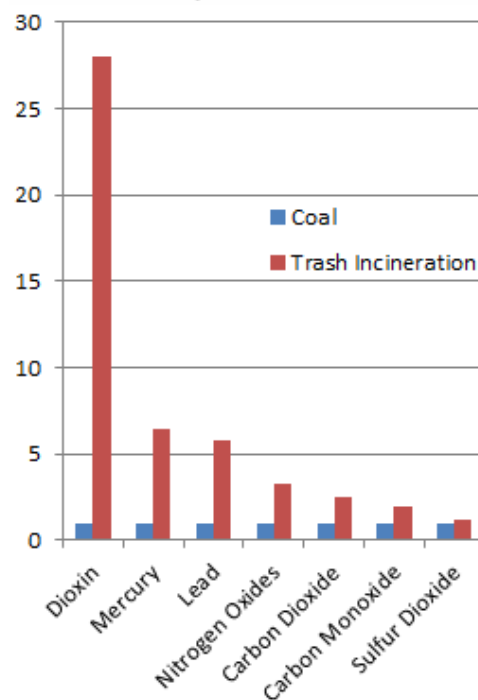
- Because every object in commerce is likely to end up in an incinerator, any toxic element used in these products is likely to end up in the nanoparticles. The nanoparticles from incinerators are the most dangerous of any common source
- There are NO regulations in the world for the monitoring nanoparticles from incinerators. In most countries the particles regulated are 10 microns and above. In some countries they regulate particles at 2.5 microns. But neither standard comes closer to monitoring nanoparticles. We are flying blind on this crucial issue.

Have a look at these 2 graphs - one shows just how harmful incineration is compared to coal and the other shows how we can reduce waste.

I know which one I would follow - definitely the Zero Waste triangle.

You cannot ignore the fact that incineration is BAD for the planet and more particularly extremely HAZARDOUS for our health and lives.

**Number of times more polluting trash incineration is compared to coal**



*"if we can't reuse it, recycle it or compost it, industry shouldn't be making it." Today this approach is called the Zero Waste 2020 strategy. (Paul Connett PHD)*



## Alternative Energy 'says' the following in their report

### **Human Health Concerns**

Waste incineration systems produce a wide variety of pollutants which are detrimental to human health. Such systems are expensive and do not eliminate or adequately control the toxic emissions from chemically complex MSW. Even new incinerators release toxic metals, dioxins, and acid gases. Far from eliminating the need for a landfill, waste incinerator systems produce toxic ash and other residues. The waste-to-energy program to maximize energy recovery is technologically incompatible with reducing dioxins emissions. Dioxins **are the most lethal Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)** which have **irreparable environmental health consequences**. The affected populace includes those living near the incinerator as well as those living in the broader region.

People are exposed to toxic compounds in several ways:

- **By breathing the air which affects both workers in the plant and people who live nearby;**
- **By eating locally produced foods or water that have been contaminated by air pollutants from the incinerator; and (Remember this incinerator is less than 5km from our water supply, and all the food chains (Aldi, Coles, Woolworths and even Lite 'n Easy) are within 1km from this Toxic Incinerator - so the fresh fruits and meats will be laced with dioxins and EVERYONE in Sydney and the wider community will be affected - we just cannot take the risk)**
- **By eating fish or wildlife that have been contaminated by the air emissions.**
- **Dioxin is a highly toxic compound which can cause cancer and neurological damage, and disrupt reproductive systems, thyroid systems, respiratory systems etc.**

### **Environmental Issues**

The incineration process produces two types of ash. Bottom ash comes from the furnace and is mixed with slag, while fly ash comes from the stack and contains components that are more hazardous.

Emissions from incinerators can include heavy metals, dioxins and furans, which may be present in the waste gases, water or ash. Plastic and metals are the major source of the calorific value of the waste. The combustion of plastics, like polyvinyl chloride (PVC) gives rise to these highly toxic pollutants.

Toxins are created at various stages of such thermal technologies, and not only at the end of the stack. These can be created during the process, in the stack pipes, as residues in ash, scrubber water and filters, and in fact even in air plumes which leave the stack.

There are no safe ways of avoiding their production or destroying them. Their ultimate release is unavoidable, and if trapped in ash or filters, these become hazardous wastes themselves.

The pollutants which are created, even if trapped, reside in filters and ash. Such projects disperse incinerator ash throughout the environment which subsequently enter our food chain.

Incinerator technological intervention in the waste stream distorts waste management. Such systems rely on minimum guaranteed waste flows. It indirectly promotes continued waste generation while hindering waste prevention, reuse, composting, recycling, and recycling-based community economic development. It costs cities and municipalities more and provides fewer jobs than comprehensive recycling and composting and also hinders the development of local recycling-based businesses.

## **No need for incinerators, Greenpeace tells local authorities**

**Greenpeace has made it clear to local authorities that Landfill Directive targets can be met by kerbside recycling schemes and composting and said that incinerators are not an answer to the waste crisis.**

Even under ideal conditions, incinerators emit toxic heavy metals like mercury, lead, cadmium and arsenic. Whenever chlorinated plastics like PVC are burned, dioxins, furans and other toxic organochlorines are emitted.

**Cancer, birth defects, reproductive dysfunction, neurological damage and other health effects are known to occur even at very low exposures to these emissions.**

Incinerators require landfills as well because of the hazardous ash they produce. The toxic substances reappear in the form of leachate, a concentrated toxic fluid that will eventually leak from landfills. Greenpeace fears that not only household garbage, **but also toxic waste from industry** (which will be the case for Eastern Creek's World's Biggest Incinerator from Hell!.) and hazardous waste from hospitals could find its way into the planned incinerator. We just cannot take the risk!!!

Incinerating waste causes major problems, because plastics tend to produce toxic substances and industrial waste even more toxins, such as dioxins, when they are burnt. Gases from incineration cause air pollution and contribute to acid rain, while the ash from incinerators contain heavy metals and other toxins. Because of these problems Greenpeace is against waste incineration.

### **Incineration is not sustainable**

Every time a community builds an incinerator it sets back the real solutions by 25 years - the time it takes to pay back the massive investment involved. Every time you burn something you have to go back to the beginning of the linear society:

*(extraction - manufacture - consumption - waste)*

After 25 years you are no closer to sustainability. All you are left with is a pile of ash of the trash that was burned. Promoters claim that incineration produces energy and fights global warming. **This is utter nonsense.** Three to four times more energy is saved by recycling the same materials. One European company estimates that a combination of recycling and composting reduces global warming gases some 46 times more than incineration generating electricity (AEA, 2001).

The social costs of incineration are staggering, as the huge amount of money spent on incineration goes into complicated machinery (over half the capital cost is needed for air pollution control) and most of it goes into the pockets of the companies that build these monsters.

In Nova Scotia, a province of Canada, after sensibly rejecting an incinerator, they have created over 3000 jobs in the handling of the discarded resources and in the industries using these secondary materials. So incineration is neither sound for the planet nor for the economy.

This Incinerator is Wrong - so very Wrong - to even consider building one in the heart of residential areas is unbelievable - you might as well take everyone and place them in a room filled with poisonous gases and deadly toxins and tell them that this is now their home for the next 30 years.

## Problems with Incinerators: Economics

- ❖ Capital Intensive (Expensive)
- ❖ Requires long-term monopoly contracts "Put-or-Pay" contracts including "put or pay" clauses that punish local governments if they recycle / compost
- ❖ Competes with zero waste AND energy alternatives Competes with wind and solar in Renewable Portfolio Standards\*
- ❖ Economic incentives encourage burning more dangerous wastes (getting paid to take waste vs. paying for fuels)
- ❖ Competes with Recycling
- ❖ Needs paper and plastics (and wood and tires) to burn effectively
- ❖ Must be fed enough waste
- ❖ Waste contracts are designed to punish recycling

## Dioxin Facts

- ✓ Dioxins and furans are the most toxic chemicals known to science. They are highly toxic even in miniscule amounts.
- ✓ Dioxins cause infertility, learning disabilities, endometriosis, birth defects, sexual reproductive disorders, damage to the immune system, cancer and more.
- ✓ 93% of dioxin exposure is from eating meat and dairy products. ([www.ejnet.org/dioxin](http://www.ejnet.org/dioxin))
- ✓ Makes landfills more toxic (from ash or slag dumped) ...*or worse*, they try to reuse them
- ✓ Liquid wastes (more common to fuels conversion technologies)
  - Air Pollution Organic pollutants (Dioxins/furans, Volatile Organic Compounds / PAHs)
  - Toxic metals (mercury, arsenic, lead, cadmium, etc.)
  - Acid Gases (Hydrogen Fluoride, Hydrochloric Acid, Sulfuric Acid)
  - Particulate matter
  - Nitrogen Oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>), Sulfur Oxides (SO<sub>x</sub>)

## Trash Incinerator Health Impacts

- Increased dioxins in blood of incinerator workers
  - Increased cancers, especially: laryngeal and lung cancers
  - childhood cancers
  - colorectal
  - liver
  - stomach
  - leukaemia
  - soft-tissue sarcoma
  - non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
  - Increases in babies born with spina bifida or heart defects
  - Increases in pre-term births

There have been so many accidents at Incinerators around the world. A recent study by The Small Area Health Statistics Unit has revealed an area in Dundee, Scotland, near a waste incinerator **has one of Europe's largest cancer clusters**. There were 81 more cases of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma than average and evidence of clustering for myeloid leukaemia, around the incinerator.

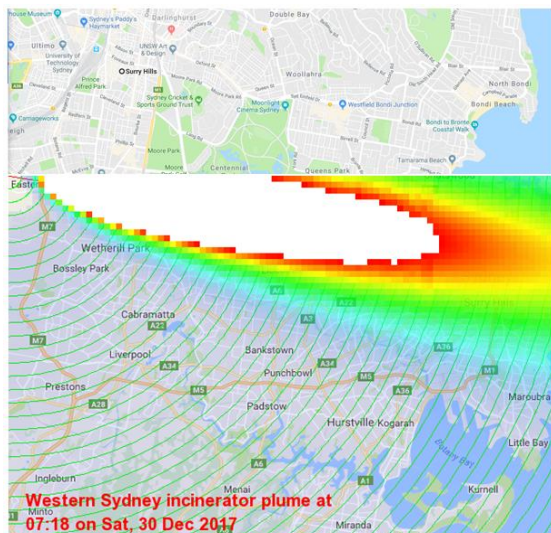
Health Researcher Michael Ryan on the UK comments that it must be very annoying for incinerator promoters to find that people are **dying prematurely in a consistent and predictable pattern around incinerators** and other industrial sources of PM<sub>2.5</sub> air pollution when they (proponents) and their "experts" are telling us that incinerators are safe



Map of Incinerator Site (Yellow) showing surrounding communities and Prospect Reservoir, which forms part of our drinking water catchment for 4.5 million people in Greater Sydney.

## Sydney's Basin shape would trap Incinerator pollution

- Sydney's Basin shape traps pollution
- In summer cool overnight air drains off the mountains and moves towards the sea picking up air pollution.
- Morning sea breezes then push it back over urban Sydney areas collecting more pollution and creating Sydney' smog.
- The Incinerator Plume Plotter report attached confirms; on completion, Eastern Creek Incinerator would have one of the largest emissions plumes in the world.
- The Incinerator Plume Plotter report attached confirms emissions will travel a radius of up to 40km from the site depending on wind direction
- Sydney's Basin shape makes Sydney an unsuitable site for a waste to energy incinerator
- As you can see below on the 30/12/2017, if the Incinerator was running the emissions would of travelled from Eastern Creek through the Sydney CBD then out to Bondi. The white area shows concentrations above  $0.9\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  of  $\text{NO}_2$  or  $1.29\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  of  $\text{NO}_x$ .



## **What is Zero Waste?**

“Zero Waste is a goal that is ethical, economical, efficient and visionary, to guide people in changing their lifestyles and practices to emulate sustainable natural cycles, where all discarded materials are designed to become resources for others to use.

Zero Waste means designing and managing products and processes to systematically avoid and eliminate the volume and toxicity of waste and materials, conserve and recover all resources, and not burn or bury them.

**Implementing Zero Waste will eliminate all discharges to land, water or air that are a threat to planetary, human, animal or plant health.”** (Source: Zero Waste International Alliance,)

### **Zero Waste Hierarchy**

#### **Redesign**

1. Make products durable, recycled and recyclable
2. Use materials which are more environmentally sustainable
3. Reduce Toxins Use Reduction
4. Reduce amounts of toxic chemicals in production
5. Replace toxic chemicals with less toxic or non-toxic alternatives
6. Consumption Reduction Use less
7. Buy less (reduce advertising)
8. Buy stuff with less packaging
9. Avoid disposables & non-recyclables
10. Packaging Reduction includes styrofoam bans and single-use paper/plastic bag bans and taxes

#### **Reuse/Repair**

- a) Thrift stores
- b) Charity collections
- c) Dumpster diving
- d) Freecycle
- e) Paint blending
- f) Repair centres for bikes, computers/peripherals, furniture, appliances, etc.

#### **Recycle**

1. source-separation, not single stream
2. seek the highest end-use and avoid "downcycling"; segregate office paper from lower paper grades and other recyclables, to keep quality high
3. buy recycled; create market for glass so that glass collected for recycling is actually recycled, not dumped in landfills

#### **Compost**

- Curb-side collection of organics (weekly), which can be done while decreasing the collection of trash and recyclables to biweekly (the smelly stuff in trash is the compostable stuff, so this encourages people to compost if they don't want trash smelling).
- Ban clean organics (not sewage sludge!) from landfills. Sewage sludge, even after being digested, does not belong on farm fields or in urban gardens.
- Clean compost from food scraps and yard waste can be used in gardening or landscaping.

#### **Research**

- ❖ on a regular basis,
- ❖ do a waste sort and see what remains in the waste and feed that into Extended Producer Responsibility campaigns, product bans and other measures to eliminate these residual materials from the waste stream, ensuring that they're dealt with further up in this hierarchy ([www.energyjustice.net/zerowaste](http://www.energyjustice.net/zerowaste))