

Do You Know That Two Huge Incinerators Are Proposed For Your Area?



Biffa wants to build an EfW (Energy from Waste) incinerator on the landfill site in Ware to burn toxic industrial and commercial waste.

Hertfordshire County Council wants to build another incinerator in New Barnfield in Hatfield to burn domestic waste.

As you live within 15 or so miles of the two sites you are likely to be affected. Emissions leave the incinerators and will fall where the wind and the rain decide.

Towns and villages for miles around will suffer this double whammy. Hertford, for instance, is less than 2 miles from the Ware site and just 7 miles from New Barnfield.

Despite assurances from government agencies it is the tiny, invisible emissions from incinerators which cause the greatest threat to people and their environment. These are too small to be filtered out and monitored.

"Every incinerator ever built emits a whole cocktail of chemicals every hour of its operational life." Ralph Ryder (Citizens Against Toxics)

"Very little is known about the health effects associated with exposure to the by-products produced from the combustion of hazardous wastes." Stephania Cormier PhD

"Heavy metals which can be toxic at very minute levels are liberated in the form of tiny particles or gases, which ... vastly increase the potential surface area of contact between themselves and the environment." Dr Paul Connett PhD

"Our stance on incinerators is very simple. We cannot endorse a technology which will inevitably lead to lives being lost. We cannot support a technology that produces environmental degradation ... we see no place for incineration in a modern waste system that respects human life." The Health Effects of Waste Incinerators, 4th Report of the British Society of Ecological Medicine, Moderators: Dr Jeremy Thompson and Dr Honor Anthony

Biffa's record as a landfill operator is poor. There are no guarantees that the public would be informed of accidental emissions or safety issues on the Westmill site.

Still Not Convinced?

Incinerators operate for over 25 years, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 52 weeks a year.

Carbon dioxide, a major greenhouse gas and the main cause of climate change, is expelled from the stack.

Chemicals such as thallium and cadmium have a cumulative toxic effect in soils and do not break down.

Incinerators need to be constantly 'fed' with waste from increasingly longer distances around the site.



Acidic substances formed from sulphur contribute to acid rain.

Lorry loads of industrial, commercial and domestic waste will be brought along local roads to the incinerators.

By-products include highly toxic fly ash which will be taken away by road to specialised landfill sites.

Local water in the environment will be polluted with many particulates and chemicals.

An incinerator is a quick fix, a convenient but highly polluting way of making waste disappear by burning it.

Could there be a better way?



Incineration of waste does not 'get rid' of waste, it burns potentially useful resources and discourages recycling.

Landfill is not the only alternative, there are better ways to deal with our waste.

Every tonne of waste incinerated creates 71 tonnes of waste in the process to replace it.

Recycling the waste means that the material can be used again and the energy to create the new product is saved.

When you add the energy used to make a product, the energy used to transport the discarded product and the energy used to burn it, the residual energy created is minimal. Most of the energy derived from incineration is used to burn more waste. Currently the maximum practical energy contribution to the UK from EfW incinerators is a paltry 0.88% of current energy use.

Three times more energy could be saved by encouraging and expanding recycling.

What can you do about it?

Until Biffa has formally submitted its plans, which we believe will be in the summer of 2010, there is nothing to which you can object.

You can join the Burning Issue Group contact list now and when the time is right we will let you know the grounds upon which you can object and how you go about raising your objection.

To join the Burning Issue Group contact list e-mail your name, address and phone number to us at:

info@burningissuegroupware.co.uk

Burning Issue Group

Read more about Biffa's plans on the B.I.G website

www.burningissuegroupware.co.uk



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