

Waste-to-Energy (WtE) Incineration: Wasted Time, Energy, and Resources

EVERYTHING THAT'S WRONG WITH WASTE-TO-ENERGY INCINERATION

A.k.a. waste-to-energy, energy from waste, gasification, pyrolysis, and advanced thermal treatment

Expensive



Estimated cost

**USD 190 million
to USD 1.2 billion**

to build an incinerator that
can process 1 million tonnes
of waste per year

COST OF WTE INCINERATION VS. OTHER ENERGY SOURCES



SOLAR

nearly 4 times more



WIND

nearly 4 times more



NATURAL GAS

more than twice



COAL POWER

25% more

Perpetuates inequality

In the U.S.

**8 out of 10
incinerators**

are built in **low-income
communities &
communities
of color.**



Harmful to health

Incinerators produce heavy
metals and POPs such as dioxin
that can cause health issues:
congenital
anomalies,
infant deaths,
miscarriages,
and cancer.



Bioaccumulation

Toxins absorbed by
the body are passed
on by women to
generations through childbirth.

Non-renewable energy

- ❗ As declared by the Intergovernmental Panel on climate Change
- ❗ The European Union removed subsidies for WtE
- ❗ Asian Development Bank: only organic fractions of municipal waste which can be treated through composting and Anaerobic Digestion can be considered renewable energy

**Locks-in the
community to decades
of burning, creating
obstacle to zero waste**

Bad for the climate

Burning one tonne of plastic
waste in incinerators emits

**900kg CO₂e
even with energy recovery.**



In a year, a 1,000-tonne
incinerator will emit

328,500 tonnes of CO₂e

That's roughly equivalent to
71,413 cars running in a year.



SOLUTIONS

Zero waste...



- ✔ allows for resource conservation and management
- ✔ recovers and reloops finite materials
- ✔ is people oriented or puts people and the community at the center
- ✔ creates green jobs
- ✔ promotes social and environmental justice



25TH ANNIVERSARY
2000-2025