

HEFTY ENERGY BAGS: BURNING PLASTIC IS NOT RECYCLING

Dow Chemical, with the help of partners **Systech** (subsidiary of the world's largest cement manufacturer), **First Star Fiber**, and **Hefty** are rolling out a program to collect "hard to recycle plastics" in orange bags to be burned in a cement kiln called **Sugar Creek Cement** outside of Kansas City, MO. They are calling this program "recycling."



BURNING PLASTIC IS DANGEROUS TO HUMAN HEALTH

- Plastic incineration has been known to release **dioxins and furans**, some of the most carcinogenic chemicals known to science, & other toxic chemicals.
- According to a 2013 EPA ruling, cement kilns that burn solid waste (including plastics) are **subject to weaker emissions regulations and monitoring than incinerators**.
- Some health effects of waste and plastic incineration emissions include **cancer** and **cardiovascular disease**.

SUGAR CREEK CEMENT CLEAN AIR ACT VIOLATIONS

- In 2010 Sugar Creek Cement was part of a settlement from the EPA for **violating the New Source Review provision of the Clean Air Act** and was ordered to install equipment to control its nitrogen oxide emissions.
- The plant was previously labelled "**high priority violation**" of the **Clean Air Act** for sulfur dioxide emissions, which can lead to respiratory illness and other health complications.

WHAT'S AT STAKE IF THIS PROGRAM MOVES FORWARD?

- **Business as Usual:** Allows plastic industry to continue to use fossil fuels to produce throwaway plastic and evade producer accountability.
- **Environmental Injustice:** Exports Omaha residents' plastic to be burned in another town's backyard, exposing them to potential harm.
- **Setting a Precedent:** DOW is planning to expand to 50 other sites in 5 years, making this greenwashing "recycling" program common practice nationwide. They are currently fielding grant applications for two new sites.