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.