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Despite Green Claims, Incinerator Industry Just Blowing Smoke

New report explains how waste incineration is harmful to people, the climate, and the economy

Boston, Massachusetts; San Francisco, California; Berkeley, California; June 15 – Seven groups released a report today - illustrating the negative impacts of new waste incineration technologies. [**An Industry Blowing Smoke**](#) concludes that new incineration technologies, like older-style burners, are expensive, inefficient and contribute to both climate change and serious public health impacts.

“Trash incineration is more carbon-intensive than coal power and a leading source of dioxins in the United States,” stated Sylvia Broude Lead Organizer for the Toxics Action Center in Boston, an environmental and public health non-profit. “Coming up with new ways to burn garbage is just another assault on public health and the climate.”

In recent months, companies like Covanta, Casella and Waste Management have launched massive lobbying campaigns aimed at convincing state and federal governments to include waste incineration as a renewable source of energy in the Renewable Electricity Standard in the Waxman-Markey climate bill – a legislative tool used to help utilities transition from greenhouse gas-intensive power generation to renewable energy such as wind and solar. The waste industry, which relies heavily on government subsidies and tax credits, is misleadingly marketing a new generation of incinerator technologies as green technologies. The new report debunks industry efforts to greenwash gasification, pyrolysis and plasma incineration, pointing to more sensible directions that should be considered by decision makers.

“Our communities need comprehensive zero waste plans that would help stabilize the climate, reduce toxic pollution and create jobs, not more incinerators in disguise,” said Bradley Angel, Executive Director of Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice. Based in San Francisco, Greenaction has helped dozens of communities across the country stop new incinerators and landfills and promote safer, more economical options of recycling and composting. Recently, San Jose, Los Angeles, Santa Cruz County and Sacramento turned down gasification and plasma arc incinerator proposals.

According to *An Industry Blowing Smoke*, waste incineration competes with, and undermines the huge potential of green-collar job creation through recycling programs. According to Dave Ciplet - author of the report - recycling, re-use and composting create six to ten times the number of jobs than both waste incineration and landfills. “These new, expensive incinerators would keep much-needed funding and resources from being invested in real solutions,” said Mr. Ciplet. “We could be creating millions of jobs nationwide by turning waste into work!”

“We can take immediate action on both the climate and economic crisis by rapidly moving towards a materials and energy efficient economy that does not involve burning or burying garbage,” said Monica Wilson, International Co-Coordinator for the Global Anti-Incinerator Alliance, “Recycling literally works.”

The full report can be downloaded at www.no-burn.org/industryblowingsmoke

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Organizations Co-releasing the Report:

Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives: www.no-burn.org

Toxics Action Center: www.toxicsaction.org

Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice: www.greenaction.org

Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League: www.bredl.org

Energy Justice Network: www.energyjustice.net

California Communities Against Toxics: www.stoptoxics.org

Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice: www.environmental-justice.org

Clean Water Action: www.cleanwateraction.org

Members of the Press:

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