

WHY

INCINERATION

IS WORSE THAN

LANDFILLING

IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE HEALTH OF PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT WE NEED TO **END INCINERATION**

THE NATION'S LARGEST INCINERATOR IS IN CHESTER, PA

WORSE FOR HEALTH

When waste is incinerated, it releases particulate matter, heavy metals, dioxins, lead, mercury, and nitrogen oxides. These toxins are dangerous to human health, leading to asthma, heart disease, miscarriage, stillbirth, kidney disease, high blood pressure, lung disease, and increased risk of death from Covid-19. Landfills can also lead to negative health effects; however, incinerators have been found to be much more hazardous. 85% of incinerators are located directly in low-income and/or communities of color.

38.5% OF CHILDREN IN CHESTER, PA HAVE ASTHMA. **5X** THE NATIONAL AVERAGE.

Health costs are 23 times higher when Delaware County's waste is incinerated instead of landfilled

Delaware County Office of Sustainability
Lifetime assessment per lb of waste - 2023

DelCo's waste is primarily incinerated in Chester, PA, a low-income, predominantly black city of over 30,000 people. Rolling Hills Landfill, the alternative for DelCo's waste, is located in a rural area, approximately 6 miles from the nearest town. It is clear that landfilling is preferable in order to protect human health.

Climate costs are 69% higher when Delaware County's waste is incinerated instead of landfilled

Delaware County Office of Sustainability
Lifetime assessment per lb of Waste

WORSE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Both incinerators and landfills emit greenhouse gases, contributing to global warming. However, when trash is burned, materials release gas into the environment that would not otherwise be able to. For example, plastics and tires only release their global warming gasses when they are burned. As a result, even though landfills emit potent methane, incinerators are estimated to be about 80% worse than landfills for the climate.



Trucking trash to Rolling Hills Landfill is 5x further than trucking trash to the incinerator in Chester. However, even when these emissions are taken into account, it is still far better for the environment to landfill than incinerate DelCo's trash

Incinerator companies argue that they're eco-friendly because they generate "renewable" energy, reducing the amount of fossil fuels burned, however...

INCINERATORS EMIT 68% MORE GREENHOUSE GASES PER UNIT OF ENERGY THAN COAL PLANTS

JOIN THE FIGHT FOR JUSTICE IN CHESTER!



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ZERO WASTE IS THE SOLUTION

LANDFILLING IS BETTER THAN INCINERATION, BUT WE MUST REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF WASTE THAT MUST BE DISPOSED AT ALL



THE PLAN

While landfilling is far better than incineration, it is still hazardous to the environment and human health. We need to rethink the way that materials are produced, used, and discarded to truly protect people and the planet. The zero waste hierarchy looks at the full life-cycle of waste to reduce it before it ever has to reach the landfill.

ZERO WASTE

“Zero Waste is the conservation of all resources by means of responsible production, consumption, reuse, and recovery of products, packaging, and materials without burning and with no discharges to land, water, or air that threaten the environment or human health.”
- Zero Waste International Alliance

PREVENT

Design and purchase products/materials from reused, recycled or sustainably-harvested renewable, non-toxic materials to be durable, repairable, reusable, fully recyclable or compostable, and easily disassembled.

REDUCE

Minimize quantity and toxicity of materials used.

RECYCLE

Support and expand systems to keep materials in their original production loop and to protect the full usefulness of the materials.

DISPOSAL

Examine materials that remain and use this information to refine the systems to rethink, reduce, reuse, and recycle in order to prevent further discards. Biologically stabilize materials prior to landfilling.

REUSE

Maximize reuse of materials and products.

RECOVER

Maximize materials recovery from mixed discards and research purposes after extensive source separation.

UNACCEPTABLE:
ALL INCINERATION AND “WASTE-TO-ENERGY” OR “WASTE-TO-FUELS” SCHEMES.

All definitions are from the Delaware County Office of Sustainability



ABOUT US

Chester Residents Concerned for Quality Living (CRCQL or “circle”) has been defending the health of the Chester community from industrial pollution since 1992.

CRCQL is organizing with groups across Delaware County and PA to shut down the largest trash incinerator in the nation and the #1 polluter in Chester - Covanta.

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