

**Incineration: The Burning Debate
and the Need for a Comprehensive
Waste Management Policy in
Ontario**

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Overview

- What is CIELAP?
- The Incineration Debate in Ontario
- An Overview of Incineration Technologies
- The Current Regulatory Regime and Proposed Initiatives
- Incineration in the context of Waste Management
- European Experience
- Recommendations

What is CIELAP?

- **Canadian Institute for Environmental Law and Policy**
- **Independent, not-for-profit environmental law and policy research and education think-tank**

What we do...

Areas of focus

- 1. Waste management policy (e.g. electronic waste)**
- 2. Sustainability of innovative technologies (e.g. nanotechnology)**
- 3. Water (e.g. pharmaceuticals in water)**
- 4. Land use planning (e.g. Greenbelt)**
- 5. Public and citizen engagement (e.g. NPR1)**

The Incineration Debate in Ontario

- **Polarized History**

- 1991 the NDP banned new incinerators for municipal solid waste (MSW)
- 1995 the Progressive Conservative government lifted the ban

- **Current Context**

- Region of Peel has the only incinerator processing MSW
- EA processes in Niagara Hamilton, Durham/York
- Pilot projects
- City of Toronto purchase of Green Lane Landfill



An Overview of Incineration Technologies

- **Recent technologies**
- **Health concerns**
- **Comparing relative emissions levels and environmental impacts of different waste management technologies**

The Current Regulatory Regime and Proposed Initiatives

- *Environmental Protection Act*
- *Environmental Assessment Act*
- **Facilitating Waste Recycling and New and Emerging Waste Management Technologies**
- **New Environmental Assessment Process for Waste Management**
- **Impact of Regulatory Initiatives on Incineration**

Incineration within the Context of Waste Management

- *Waste Diversion Act*
- **60% Waste Diversion Goal**
- *Life Cycle Analysis*
- **Municipal Tools for Waste Management**

Experience with Incineration in Europe

- **Common use**
- **EU Legislative Framework**
- **Waste hierarchy**
- **Sweden**

A Policy Perspective and Recommendations

- **The Role of Incineration**
- **The Need for a Provincial Waste Management Policy**
- **Considerations:**
 - life cycle analysis
 - promotion of waste prevention and reduction
 - high environmental standards
 - public involvement

Recommendation #1

The Ontario government should fund an independent, fair, and impartial study of the true costs of incineration and a scientific assessment of the risks and benefits of incineration technologies currently available in order to raise public awareness and inform decision-making.

Recommendation #2

The Ontario government should evaluate incineration technology primarily on the basis of whether or not it is an appropriate means of waste disposal rather than as a means to provide energy.

Recommendation #3

The Ontario government should establish a strong, effective and comprehensive provincial waste management policy that includes enforceable reduction targets and timetables, and develops provincial regulations and coordinated regional approaches to using the best available technology for dealing with residents



Recommendation #4

The Ontario government should make use of life cycle analysis methods to consider all of the environmental, economic, and social costs implicit in the various options for managing waste.

Recommendation #5

The Ontario government should strive for as near 'zero waste' as possible, by establishing short and long term reduction targets for waste generation to guide policy work towards the prevention of waste creation, improve recycling rates and challenge consumer choices.

Recommendation #6

The Ontario government should introduce strong policies and regulations on extended producer responsibility requiring industry to take responsibility for managing consumer-generated waste itself, and should strengthen the powers of Waste Diversion Ontario through amendments to the *Waste Diversion Act* to increase the role of industry stewardship in reducing and recycling waste.



Recommendation #7

The Ontario government should develop and implement strict packaging regulations to prevent and reduce consumer goods packaging.

Recommendation #8

The Ontario government should consider introducing a regulatory requirement for municipalities to use economic and other tools to promote waste reduction in Ontario, including garbage bags fees and limits on the number of garbage bags collected.

Recommendation #9

The Ontario government should ensure the development of progressively higher regulatory standards, monitoring and enforcements, regardless of the disposal options pursued, to address environmental and human health impact concerns and pursue a goal of virtual elimination of dioxins and furans and toxic pollutants. In connection with this, the government should review Guidelines A-7 and A-8 in light of current regulatory standards in the US and the EU.

Recommendation #10

The Ontario government should ensure that the public is meaningfully informed about and engaged in the development of provincial waste management policies and regulations. Public consultation should be designed to encourage public commitment to waste policies adopted, improve public awareness and knowledge of waste management issues, be open to all for real participation and build trust and understanding.

Recommendation #11

The Ontario government should provide to the public an annual summary of the volumes and weights of municipal and industrial wastes, household hazardous wastes, and hazardous industrial wastes. The summary should include information about the end disposition of the wastes by different methods, whether by reuse, recycle, landfilling or incineration.



Thank you...

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