



## INCINERATION:

### How Did We Get Here?

In 1989, the Halton Region landfill was approved after a lengthy hearing. With that approval came permission to build an incinerator now called Energy From Waste (EFW). As citizens embraced recycling and disposal volume was below forecasts, the EFW was put on the shelf. The plan has now been resurrected. **The combustion of solid waste and biosolids (residue from sewage plants) is planned and will be sited at the regional landfill on Highway 25 south of Britannia Road.**



Typical Incinerator, as found in Brampton, ON

## QUESTIONS THAT NEED ANSWERS

### Do we want to burn garbage from other cities, (e.g. Toronto)?

From the Region's web site: "In addition, there is a further opportunity that the Region can explore as we develop a business case and that is to assist with the need for a province-wide waste solution and receive some of the waste from the Greater Golden Horseshoe communities to be used as a source of "clean" fuel for the EFW facility." [www.halton.ca](http://www.halton.ca)



### COST: What will taxpayers pay?

Estimates range up to \$750-800 million.

### What are the Health Effects?

"We are paying the cost of poor air quality with our lives ..." charged the OMA in a June 2005 media release. Air pollution in Ontario will result in almost 5,800 premature deaths this year and cost the province almost a billion dollars. (See their web site [www.oma.org/index.asp](http://www.oma.org/index.asp))

These startling statistics are 2 times the 9/11 tragedy but no one blinks unless their child has asthma or an older parent has breathing problems. New research shows, high temperature burning produces nanoparticles--smaller than one micron--that are not efficiently captured by pollution control devices. According to Dr. Paul Connett, Professor of Chemistry at St. Lawrence University, who has studied waste issues for over 20 years, these particles are transported over long distances and can penetrate

deep into the lungs. Worse still, because of their small size, the particles pass straight through the lung's membranes eventually reaching other organs in the body.

### Why are Chlorinated Dioxins and Furans of such concern?

Dr. Connett, in a presentation, explained why dioxins and related compounds are of concern. He noted that these substances enter the food chain, especially in the fat of grazing animals. When we eat this food the dioxins then concentrate in our fat. A woman can get rid of these dioxins by having a baby! Thus it is the fetus which gets the highest doses. This is of huge concern because dioxins interfere with critical steps in both sexual and mental development. If was for these reasons that in July, 2003 the US Institute of Medicine recommended that young girls, long before they reach pregnancy, limit their intake of animal fat.

### "Incineration" means what?

These new incinerators are never called "incinerators" ([http://www.no-burn.org/resources/library/Incinerators\\_in\\_Disguise/CaseStudies.pdf](http://www.no-burn.org/resources/library/Incinerators_in_Disguise/CaseStudies.pdf)). They go by names like "pyrolysis", or "gasification", or "plasma arc", or simply "conversion" machines. But each type proposes heating mixed waste, extracting some energy, and burying the leftovers in the ground.

Despite the grandiose claims of industry, the facts prove that "new" technologies are in reality "incinerators in disguise" that heat the waste materials, and then burn the waste gases and emit dioxin and other pollutants into the air.

## BETTER ALTERNATIVES

According to Dr. Connett we should not allow any more dioxins into the environment if we can possibly avoid it. Incineration and other thermal treatment processes are avoidable, because as he has documented from his visits around the world, there are better alternatives (the Zero Waste 2020 strategy). These are not only safer, they save more energy, create more jobs, are better for the local and national economy, and are planet friendly because they move us towards a more sustainable society.

### An industry leader in waste reduction improves bottom line with recycling.

Husky Injection Molding Systems' (Bolton) Service and Sales network consists of more than 40 offices supporting customers in over 100 countries. Manufacturing facilities are located in Canada, the United States, Luxembourg, and China.

All the campuses have waste diversion programs in place. The Bolton campus, for example, has a **94% waste diversion rate and each year generates in excess of CDN \$800 000 through recycling efforts.**

Husky points the way for Halton. The Region has an additional 150,000 tonnes of industrial, commercial and institutional (ICI)

waste produced annually in Halton that is being sent to the US.

### Destroying Resources Seems A Backward Solution for the 21st Century

Since April 1991, WASTEWISE, a community based waste reduction initiative has offered education and recycling opportunities and generates revenue through the sale of used goods like an ongoing garage sale. Wastewise is an example of the emerging reuse sector, and the centre is exemplary of proactive approaches to managing waste.



WASTEWISE (Halton Hills) Community Resource Centre celebrates 15 Years of Operation

In the last year over 2730 tonnes were recycled and over 1616 were reused. That is 4400 tonnes in the smallest community. If each municipality had a Wastewise we could remove a conservative estimate of 20,000 tonnes or more.

## ENERGY LOSS

Rarely does anyone ask, "How much energy will it take to start from scratch and recreate all the goods destroyed by the incinerator?" No one asks because the answer reveals that incinerators are huge energy wasters, not energy savers.

### Incineration & Climate Change

Research by the Friends of the Earth UK shows that generating energy by burning municipal garbage generates almost as much greenhouse gas as do coal-fired plants and more than from gas-fired plants. The FOE concludes: "Using these incinerators to produce energy will undermine Government attempts to tackle climate change."

## IMPORTANT NOTE!

### UPCOMING INCINERATION TALK

P.O.W.E.R. and Oakvillegreen are bringing an outstanding incineration expert to give us some solid information. Dr. Paul Connett, Professor Emeritus of Chemistry from St. Lawrence University in N.Y. is an expert in Environmental Chemistry and Toxicology. Hear him at the 7070 Galaxy Hall at 475 North Service Road E., Oakville on Tuesday, March 27, 2007 at 7:30 pm. For information, call Barbara Halsall 905-873-0344.