

*Metroland - Letter to Editor*

## **We should do all we can to reduce, reuse and recycle**

Tue Jan 15, 2008

To the editor:

Re: Incineration debate about money, Cindy Voutour Smith guest column, Jan. 13.

Cindy Voutour Smith said the people who drove to EFW meetings at the Regional Headquarters to protest should have walked there or took transit to save the environment. Unless you live in the city centre of Bowmanville or Newcastle, most Clarington residents cannot walk, bike or take transit to the local grocery store let alone travel to a meeting in Whitby at the Regional Headquarters via a non-polluting means of transportation.

Unfortunately most of us need a motor vehicle for transportation. However, we can still help save the environment in other meaningful ways.

We can recycle, reuse, compost, donate used clothing and items to the local thrift stores, send litter-less lunches with the kids to school, use reusable shopping bags, buy organic produce and meat from local farmers, stop using toxic pesticides and fertilizers, use non-toxic biodegradable household cleaning products and conserve our country's natural resources.

We all should do our share and try to produce zero waste by maximizing our contributions to the existing blue box and green bin systems.

The Region of Durham should be looking at aggressive waste diversion, zero waste plans (such as in Markham) and exploring alternatives to incineration.

For the sake of the future health of our children and grandchildren we should look to other non-thermal methods of waste management and strive to improve our local recycling program. Incineration is not the only solution to our waste woes.

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