

## **Let's not waste money on incineration but commit to better recycling**

Fri Dec 28, 2007

To the editor:

Re: Plastic questions persist over recycling, Dec. 24.

Cliff Curtis, Durham Region commissioner of works, says that Durham doesn't recycle certain plastics, specifically styrofoam and plastic film, because there is no demand for them.

According to the Recycled Plastics Market Database ([www.plasticsresource.com](http://www.plasticsresource.com)), there are 11 Ontario companies buying recycled styrofoam and 21 buying other forms of this plastic (polystyrene). Across the United States, over 200 companies purchase these recyclables.

The database results are similar for plastic film.

So why does Durham Region say there is no market demand? If municipalities across the province would institute high quality, co-ordinated recycling systems, supplies of product would increase, thus removing any so-called market instability. Such collaboration would also allow municipalities to consolidate related recycling costs.

The irony is that incineration has a documented history as the most expensive waste management solution. So our Region is being quite cautious about the recycling industry which has established a significant infrastructure for taking our waste products but is willing to take a huge risk on the guaranteed financial disaster of incineration.

Recycling creates more jobs, uses less energy, creates less pollution, poses less threat to the environment and our health and is much cheaper than incineration.

So why are we even having this discussion?

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