

Incineration is no way to produce energy

Mon Feb 11, 2008

To the editor:

Re: Incineration is right way to go, Lynda Wills letter, Feb. 6.

I would like to know where Lynda Wills gets her factual information regarding incineration of garbage.

To say "What comes out of an incinerator is cleaner than the air we breathe and burning a trailer load of garbage only leaves a cup full of ashes," makes me wonder what 36 years of being in the garbage business has done to her.

I have a study on my desk informing me 25 to 30 per cent of garbage that goes into an incinerator comes out as toxic ash, which requires landfill. I have read studies related to health implications of living near an incinerator and there are increased levels of cancer, asthma, other respiratory problems and birth defects.

I educated myself on how energy from incineration compares with other energy sources to find incineration of garbage is the least efficient, dirtiest way to produce energy.

I also know the nuclear plant down the road from the proposed incinerator already puts out 100 times the power an incinerator would and is going to be expanding its output in the next couple of years.

I'm still wondering where is the logic in saying that idling cars in Tim Hortons and having garbage on the streets and school yards makes it OK to build a massive, toxic-spewing, cancer-spreading incinerator?

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