

*Metroland Letter to Editor*

## **European waste-management model different from here**

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To the editor:

Although incineration is used in many European countries, it is simplistic for Ontario to think it can transfer incineration technologies into the province and achieve similar results.

Proponents of incineration in Ontario often point to European successes as a model.

European countries, however, have very different policies in place to guide how they use incineration to manage their solid waste. European models, such as Sweden and Denmark, have created waste management frameworks that give clear priority to waste prevention and reduction.

The European Community has also developed policies and regulations that include extended producer responsibility and stricter measures on controlling packaging waste. These frameworks and regulations try to ensure incineration is only used for waste that is truly residual and that the technology does not become a basin for receiving an endless supply of garbage.

If we are to model ourselves after European countries we should begin by modelling their public policies that prioritize waste prevention and reduction. More information and analysis about the use of incineration in Ontario can be found in CIELAP's March 2007 report: Ontario's Waste Management Challenge - Is Incineration an Option? ([www.cielap.org](http://www.cielap.org)).

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