

Metroland Letter to Editor:

It's still incineration

Mon Apr 28, 2008

To the editor:

Re: Let's look at alternatives to incineration, Sharon Thompson letter, April 25.

In her letter, Sharon Thompson suggests Durham Region should be looking at the proposed "plasma gasification" facility in Port Hope instead of a "mass burn" incinerator. Guess what: a plasma facility is still an incinerator. The main difference is that the burning occurs in the gas turbine, not the furnace. Both have the same end result: recyclable materials -- plastic, paper, wood -- are destroyed and turned into CO₂, the main greenhouse gas.

The incinerator industry, discredited after some spectacular failures in the 1970s, is now attempting a comeback with slick marketing. Look past the techno-babble and greenwashing, and you will see that these entrepreneurs are playing on the fear of the big blackout so that they can turn a profit at public expense while accelerating the rate of climate change.

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