

## Prevent Cancer Now's New Campaign Against Incineration

**Prevent Cancer Now** is about to embark on a campaign to raise public awareness about the dangers of incinerating garbage, in particular the links between this practice and cancer. Many communities are struggling to find the best way to dispose of their waste, and an offer from a company to incinerate it and generate "green power" that can be sold to the grid can seem very enticing. The problem, though, is that, when garbage is incinerated, the burnt plastics and other wastes produce dioxins, furans, and a host of other toxic chemicals that are known causes of cancer. For a summary of the evidence, see this fact sheet on [Gasification, Pyrolysis and Plasma Incineration](#).



There is a clear alternative to both landfilling and incineration. It is called Zero Waste, and many communities around the world are adopting it as their goal, encouraged by the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (<http://www.zwia.org>). San Francisco, which has set the goal of Zero Waste for 2020, has already achieved a 69% recycling rate and is now pursuing the interim goal of 75% recycling by 2010.

**Prevent Cancer Now** is planning to launch a campaign to build national awareness about the links to cancer, support communities facing new incineration proposals, and encourage them to pursue the Zero Waste alternative. Ottawa, Durham, and Vancouver are all facing incineration proposals either now or in the immediate future, and their citizens have few resources to help them. In Durham, the Canadian Auto Workers Durham Regional Environment Council has put out a clear call for help. Our campaign will work across Canada with the goal of encouraging municipalities to reject incineration in favour of a Zero Waste policy. For information on the Durham campaign, see [www.durhamenvironmentwatch.org](http://www.durhamenvironmentwatch.org).

To get started, Prevent Cancer Now has raised the funds required to hire a campaign leader to work with Prevent Cancer Now's volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering for the campaign, or supporting it through a donation to Prevent Cancer Now, please get in touch with us by emailing [info@preventcancernow.ca](mailto:info@preventcancernow.ca) or leaving a message at 613-755-0110.

<http://preventcancernow.ca/>