

The Durham Incinerator - It's Not a Done Deal...

Concerned Citizens of Durham Region want you to know

Durham & York Regions Voted to Build an INCINERATOR IN DURHAM

What you may not know CAN hurt you:

Major health risks - Even "modern" incinerators emit harmful pollutants that can cause many health effects including asthma, cancer, congenital birth defects and neurological and cognitive impairments in children. There are 68 schools and 42 daycares within the study area of the planned incinerator site. Most at risk are the children and unborn babies.

Financial risks - Current estimates are over a quarter-billion taxpayer dollars to design and build it, then in excess of \$14 million in annual operating costs to run it - this is the most expensive option. Since every penny of Gas Tax funding is going toward paying Durham's portion of the incinerator - how high will your taxes have to go to pay for unfunded local infrastructure and how low will your property values drop?

Covanta (builder/operator) - A repeat offender with emissions violations, failure to report emission exceedances, lawsuits, and labour issues. Why is Durham Region not going to protect residents and our environment by monitoring the air, soil, agricultural products, humans and other animals throughout the life of the facility?



Local opposition to incinerator - 75 Durham doctors, CUPE, CAWDREC, Durham Region Labour Council, Canadian Labour Congress as well as local community groups have taken a strong position opposing incineration! How did Durham Region justify ignoring 75 Durham doctors who petitioned the Region to reject incineration and how did they ignore the doctors' organizations representing 33,000 doctors in Europe who wrote to the European Parliament citing their health concerns with incineration?

Since Durham Region refused to represent you, **MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD NOW**

Submit your comments on the Environmental Assessment to be considered by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment during the 7 week commenting period which **starts on August 7, 2009 and ends on Friday, September 25, 2009**

EA Project Officer, Gavin Battarino, gavin.battarino@ontario.ca

Email your MPP (or all Regional MPPs) and the Province:

Provincial Minister of Environment:

- jgerretsen.mpp@liberal.ola.org
Hon. John Gerretsen

Environmental Commissioner of Ontario:

- commissioner@eco.on.ca - Gord Miller
(option: cc the ECO on all emails)

Regional MPPs:

- jerry.ouellette@pc.ola.org
Jerry Ouellette, Oshawa
- john.otoole@pc.ola.org
John O'Toole, Durham
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Send letters to the editor to newspaper(s) of your choice

Newsmedia (Letters to Editor):

- newsdurhamregion.com/opinion/submitletter
(Metroland Newspapers in Durham Region)
- lettertoed@thestar.ca (Toronto Star)
- oronotimes@rogers.com (Orono Times)
- chronicle.news@dc-uoit.ca
(Durham College Chronicle)
- cosmosboyce@powergate.ca (Uxbridge Cosmos)
- editorial-standard@powergate.ca
(Port Perry Standard)
- editor@oshawaexpress.ca (Oshawa Express)
- letters@globeandmail.ca (Globe and Mail)
- www.nationalpost.com/contact (National Post)
- torsun.editor@sunmedia.ca (Toronto Sun)

Copy this flyer for others or download it from: www.DurhamEnvironmentWatch.org/incineration_articles.htm

For more information on the Durham/York Residual Waste Study and contacts, visit:

www.DurhamEnvironmentWatch.org/EA_action.htm

Did You Know?

The Facts And Issues

...that Durham and York Regions are moving forward with their plan to build an incinerator in Durham? Halton and Niagara Regions have stopped their plans for incineration, so why haven't we?



Things You Should Know About Incineration:

1. Health Effects – Incinerators, even those with the 'best' technologies, emit highly toxic substances including dioxins, furans, and heavy metals (lead, mercury, etc.), as well as large quantities of acid gases, greenhouse gases and particulate matter into the air we breathe. Studies have shown higher rates of cancer and birth defects around municipal waste incinerators. The fetus, infant and child are most at risk from incinerator emissions. Incinerators are a major source of particulate matter, which is associated with lung and cardiovascular disease. Ultra-fine particulates can evade the best filters. They travel great distances, and once inhaled they can travel deep into the lungs, bloodstream, tissues and organs. 75 Durham Region doctors have strongly objected to this incinerator in a written petition to Durham Region. Who do you trust with your health: your Doctor or a Politician?

2. Toxins Accumulate And Enter Food Chain – Dioxins and furans are persistent; they do not break down and lose their toxicity under natural conditions. They enter our food chain primarily when animals eat contaminated plants and sediments and then pass them to us in dairy, fish and meat products. Should we continue to "buy local" if the food that we grow and eat becomes contaminated with cancer-causing dioxins and other pollutants?

3. Inadequate Emissions Standards & Monitoring - Durham Region promised us the best pollution control and monitoring technologies. Durham has reneged and only committed to limited soil and ambient air monitoring for the first three years of operation. Only a handful of the hundreds of compounds being emitted will be monitored continuously, and many other chemical compounds of *unknown* toxicity will not be monitored or regulated at all. This begs the question: even if high emissions could be detected, is it then too late for the people exposed to them?

4. What About Europe? – Even though Europe already has more stringent regulations as to what can be burned than what is proposed in Durham Region, so their waste stream is relatively "cleaner" than ours would be, there have been calls to improve European standards. In June 2008, over 33,000 doctors in the EU and worldwide sent an open letter to the European Parliament with their concerns regarding the health effects from incinerators and that ultra-fine particulate emissions are still not monitored in Europe. They are likewise not monitored or controlled in Canada, nor will they be monitored in Durham Region.

5. Expensive, Inflexible & Financially Risky - The incinerator is estimated to cost \$272.5 million dollars to build and \$14.7 million to run annually with only 33 long term jobs predicted for the facility. "PUT OR PAY" provisions for these projects require the community to guess the amount of waste that will be generated for the next 25-30 years. If they do not "PUT" as much waste as estimated, they are still required to "PAY" for it.

6. Need To Import Waste – Incinerators are designed to burn 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for the 25+ year life span of the facility, and cannot be turned on and off quickly or easily. This requirement to supply a continual and minimum waste load becomes a disincentive to reduction, reuse, recycling, repair and composting. We will be importing waste from York Region and there have been discussions with other municipalities to accept additional waste. The Regions propose a facility with an initial capacity of 140,000 tonnes of garbage per year with the option by Durham and/or York to increase the capacity to 400,000 tonnes annually.

7. Waste Of Energy & Resources – As an energy producer, incineration produces minimal energy, particularly if the recyclables are removed from the waste stream. They contribute more greenhouse gases per kilowatt-hour than coal-fired plants which are known for their "dirty energy". Presently consumers pay the costs of disposal of waste products when the burden instead should be placed upon manufacturers and importers for them to reduce waste.

8. Safer Alternatives - The alternatives have been framed as "bury or burn". In reality, incineration means "burn, then bury". Approximately one third by weight of the material going to incineration ends up as ash that Covanta plans to send to landfill in NY, though they have indicated they will be pursuing Ontario landfill options. The "bottom ash" contains toxic residues and the "fly ash" is classified as hazardous waste.

A Better Way: There are alternatives that avoid incinerators and eventually eliminate landfills. As decisions are made for the next 25 years, alternatives for our residual waste must be chosen that have the lowest impact on the environment and human health. Better recycling and composting, reduced packaging and fewer disposable goods are strategies which also create "green" jobs. The Ontario Ministry of the Environment is already exploring how Ontario can implement "Zero Waste" strategies with input from industry and stakeholders.

For more information:

www.DurhamEnvironmentWatch.org ▪ www.CAWDREC.com ▪ www.ZeroWaste4ZeroBurning.ca
Fact sheet & references can be found at: www.DurhamEnvironmentWatch.org/incineration_articles.htm