

Rt Honourable David Miliband MP,  
Secretary of State  
DEFRA  
Nobel House  
17 Smith Square  
London  
SW1P 3JR

8 December 2006

Dear Rt Honourable David Miliband MP,

We represent 25 communities from across England and Wales who have come together to form a network of groups committed to resisting both the expansion of incineration of mixed waste and the production of Refuse Derived Fuel.

We are working hard to stop new and enlarged incinerators in our communities because:

- Incinerators emit toxic gases that are hazardous to health, particularly of children. On the latest EU air pollution analysis, the health costs of PM 2.5 particulates from incineration are very significant [contrary to outdated UK assessment].
- Incinerating waste rather than recovering the raw material is a huge waste of resources, not just because of the requirement for replacement materials, but also in terms of the considerable extra energy required for processing new raw materials compared with recycled materials.
- Waste incinerators, including pyrolysis/gasification from RDF/SRF, are highly inefficient and deserve the European classification as waste disposal installations. All waste incinerators produce toxic grate ash and fly ash, requiring disposal to the environment.
- Many local authorities are performing poorly on recycling and limit their plans because they are encouraged to go for the easy option of incineration, instead of maximising re-use and recycling. They assume annual growth in waste by 3% or more, yet Defra's own figures show municipal waste dropping, by 3 per cent last year.

Yet our efforts - and the wishes of local communities - are being undermined by the Government's political and financial support for incineration. Ben Bradshaw recently asked local authorities "to take on the critics of energy-from-waste", yet his department has not responded to the analysis of Eunomia's report for Friends of the Earth "*A changing climate for energy from waste*" that disproves the incinerator industry claims that incineration is a better disposal route than landfill and that it can help in combating climate change.

The public strongly favour increased recycling and composting, and are able to express their sense of responsibility and personal contribution to improving the environment and combating global warming. Yet foisting incinerators on communities creates antagonisms and undermines the positive commitment that is necessary for maximising recycling.

We are therefore asking for the Government to withdraw support from all incineration of municipal and hazardous waste including mass burn incineration, CHP and pyrolysis/gasification from RDF/SRF.

We also ask the Government to introduce a tax on waste incineration, on the basis of the Customs and Excise Study (Combining the Government's Two Health and Environment Studies to Calculate Estimates for the External Costs of Landfill and Incineration, Dec 2004), which showed the climate change impacts of incineration were worse than those of landfill.

We hope the Government will listen to our concerns as it finalises England's waste strategy this winter and recognise that our communities will justifiably continue to resist the imposition of incineration throughout the country.

Yours sincerely,

	Adams Gate Action Group
John Livingstone	BADAIR, Bexley
Jo Livingstone	BADAIR, Bexley
Max Wallis	Barry and Vale Friends of the Earth
Christine Wiltshire	Brighton and Hove Friends of the Earth
	CAIR - Campaign Against the Incineration of
Ralph Barton	Refuse
John McCall	Capel Action Group, Surrey
	Chesterfield and NE Derbyshire Friends of the
Tim Hill	Earth
Gary Alderson	DOVE, Newhaven
Janice Alderson	DOVE, Newhaven
Sylvia Gray	DOVE, Newhaven
Phil Butler	Havering Friends of the Earth

Kaye Brennan	NAIL, Nottingham
Liz Crocker	BANWASTE, Newcastle
Stephen Eades	North Wiltshire Friends of the Earth
Nigel Lee	Nottingham Friends of the Earth
Keith Kondakor	Nuneaton Friends of the Earth
Andrew Wood	Oxford Friends of the Earth
Trevor Stevens	PAIN, Nottinghamshire
John Auric	Portsmouth Friends of the Earth
Elizabeth Barendt	RAIN, Cheshire
John Dearden	RAIN, Cheshire
	Richmond and Twickenham Friends of the Earth
Simon Tompsett	
David Levy	The Air we Breathe, Wiltshire
Andy Tubbs	University West of England
Margaret Salasidis	West London Friends of the Earth
Val Barton	Zero Waste Alliance, UK
Hilary Byers	Hull Friends of the Earth
Shlomo Downen	MAIN, Nottinghamshire