Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League

Incineration and Waste-To-Energy
Not Here, Not There, Not Anywhere

Incineration destroys resources and perpetuates pollution of the environment. Older incinerators have been joined by new burners claiming zero emissions and so-called "green" energy from garbage, tires, sewage sludge and biomass from farms and forests. While some of these new incinerator technologies-gasification, plasma-arc, and pyrolysis-may result in lower emissions than their predecessors of the 1980's, all of them will have stacks that emit pollution to the environment. More importantly, incineration destroys valuable and often irreplaceable resources that can and should be recycled. The energy required to extract, transport, process and distribute the replacement materials destroyed by incineration far exceeds any energy gained from incineration. Finally, the burden of new investments in waste-to-energy facilities falls on taxpayers through subsidies and fees and on ratepayers in their monthly electric bills, while recycling programs are forced to compete for materials and fail due to lack of financial support.

Covanta's incinerator would emit 2.8 million pounds of pollution annually
And 575 thousand tons of global warming carbon dioxide

*Annual Air Pollution Emissions**

AIR POLLUTANT	POUNDS
Carbon dioxide	1,150,480,000
Nitrogen oxides	2,079,040
Sulfur dioxide	323,536
Carbon monoxide	270,392
Hydrochloric acid	123,224
Particulates	36,208
Mercury	1,284.8
Lead	152.4
Chromium	17.52
Cadmium	15.83
Arsenic	2.47
Dioxin/furan	0.039

*Annual emissions are based on burning 1,600 tons MSW per day,
using dry scrubber injecting lime slurry and a fabric filter
EPA AP-42 Emission Factors for municipal waste combustors

The Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League opposes all forms of incineration for either disposal or for energy production.