



## ***An Incinerator for York?***

On July 29<sup>th</sup>, the York and North Yorkshire Councils announced plans for a £900 million waste plant to be built at Allerton Quarry, 10 miles outside York. The plant will deal with around 320,000 tonnes of waste each year, of which about 70% will be burnt. What's wrong with their plan?

- 1. Burning waste releases a cocktail of dangerous chemicals, including cancer-causing dioxins, and greenhouse gases.** The Councils' own analysis found that this option was the most damaging to human health of all options they examined.
- 2. Incineration discourages recycling.** If we build an incinerator, we have to keep burning something - York Council will have to sign a contract tying us into burning our waste, including flammable materials such as paper and plastics. An incinerator is a promise that we will fail to recycle more.
- 3. There are other, better ways of dealing with our waste.** The plant incorporates genuinely green technologies such as Anaerobic Digestion and an MBT waste separator. But incineration is still the centrepiece. The green technologies could be scaled up to the point where building our own incinerator is unnecessary.
- 4. The consultation was a sham.** The announcement is the end of a secretive 4-year process. The original consultation was released just before Christmas 2006, and the only two options presented both involved building an incinerator. And, as the Council later acknowledged, very few residents of York actually received it.

**Join us in telling the Council that incinerators are poisonous and pointless**

Turn over for an alternative approach



## ***Zero Waste for York!***

The best thing would be to reduce the amount of waste we can't recycle or compost. A Zero Waste Strategy involves progressively increasing the amounts reused, recycled or composted year-on-year until there is almost nothing left.

**It is ambitious, but it is the only sustainable option, and it is already happening now all over the world.**

San Fransisco is aiming for zero waste by 2020. New Zealand's national policy is toward zero waste. Closer to home, Doncaster and Bath have adopted zero waste strategies. Lancashire County Council has decided that it can meet all its obligations without incineration.

With the extension of doorstep recycling to nearly the whole of York, and a raft of new EU directives on packaging and recyclability of manufactured goods coming into force soon, York is already only 2% off our recycling target for 2015. With a bit of political will and ambition, York could join the ranks of the most progressive and environmentally responsible cities on the planet.

Signing a contract to build an incinerator under an expensive PFI scheme means signing away for decades any chance to achieve zero waste.

**Write to the Council demanding that plans for an incinerator are cancelled, and pressing for a truly sustainable waste strategy.**

Write to Cllr Ann Reid at The Guildhall, York, YO1 9QN

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