

GLOUCESTERSHIRE AGAINST INCINERATORS (www.GlosAIN.org.uk)

SAY “NO” TO INCINERATION BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE

Gloucestershire County Council’s contractors (UBB) have submitted a Planning Application to build a **giant waste incinerator** (burning 190,000 tonnes per annum [tpa]) on the outskirts of Gloucester.

Contract and Cost

- A long term contract for 25+ years, for outdated inflexible technology, enforcing the burning of 190,000 tpa of waste. Fines will be imposed if sufficient waste is not supplied.
- This is not an efficient way to generate energy.
- Government Private Finance Initiative (PFI) funding has been refused because a large incinerator in Glos. is considered to be unnecessary, but G.C.C. continues with the proposal.
- Gloucestershire taxpayers will be burdened with over £500 million over 25 years.

Environment and Climate Change

- A study on waste technologies (conducted by EnviroC. & Eunomia) revealed that incineration is the greatest producer of greenhouse gas (GHG).
- With falling household waste, shortfalls will be met by industry and be imported, resulting in increased traffic pollution. (**Note:** G.C.C had errors in waste figure projections used.)
- Important initiatives to reduce, reuse and recycle will be undermined.
- Not everything is burned, ash remains. Toxic fly ash (up to 9,000 tonnes will go to landfill) and bottom ash will need to be disposed of.
- Valuable, often irreplaceable, resources will be incinerated.
- Burning produces toxins, pollutants and acid rain. UBB’s Planning Application (Appx. 9.6, 5.2) states “200,000 tpa could have the potential to result in significant air quality impacts on Cotswold Beechwoods SAC” **Note:** this Application is for the burning of only 190,000 tpa, **but** allowance has not been made for the *approved* adjacent Moreton Valence plant (32,000 tpa.)
- Acid rain damages Cotswold Stone buildings and has impacts on human health (incl. asthma).

Health

- The burning process produces toxins and pollutants, e.g. dioxins, furans and nano particulates (PM), these are recognized health hazards (World Health Organisation).
- Stack emissions: Very small particulates (PM) are not filtered. PM <2.5 can travel for miles and spread in any direction, they can be inhaled and reach the food chain.
- Recently the UK Health Protection Agency commissioned research into possible health effects.
- Population concentration areas are downwind from this site. Studies link high infant mortality rates to locations downwind from incinerators (e.g. Kirklees, Coventry and Edmonton).

Visual Impact

- The stack will be 70 meters, over 4 times higher than Gloucester Cathedral (**Note:** in 2007 the Secretary of State imposed a max. height of 15.7 meters for buildings in that area). It will be clearly visible from the Cotswold escarpment, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The Alternatives

- **Alternative modern environmentally friendly and sustainable technologies are available, e.g., Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) and Anaerobic Digestion (AD) have been selected by some Councils. These technologies are flexible, better for the environment and health, more cost effective and create more jobs. AD is also an efficient way to generate electricity.**