

Up in smoke



**Friends of
the Earth**

**What's wrong with
incineration?**



No more incinerators

In the UK we throw away more than 30 million tonnes of household rubbish every year. Most of this can be recycled but instead it's buried in landfill sites or burnt in incinerators. There are now plans to build many more incinerators to cope with our mounting rubbish. Burning our rubbish is a terrible waste of natural resources and has damaging effects both globally and locally.

From global...

Burning our waste rather than recycling it sets off a dangerous cycle of using and producing. The material we burn is lost forever and we must produce more to satisfy our demand for new products. To extract natural resources and make materials, such as paper and plastic, uses a lot of energy. Most of this comes from burning fossil fuels, which leads to climate change, the most serious threat facing the environment today.

...to local

Incinerators are very expensive to build. Local councils therefore have to promise to provide huge amounts of waste for many years, in order for the incinerators to be worth building. This means there is little incentive for councils to reduce waste or increase recycling.

Apart from wasting natural resources, incinerators also:

- cause pollution, which can damage the health of people living nearby
- bring heavy duty traffic to the area
- create very few jobs, unlike recycling.



Ed Matthew/Friends of the Earth

Our constant demand for new products has damaging effects, such as deforestation.



David Woodhall/Woodhall Wild Images

Inner city pollution from an incinerator in Wolverhampton.

Friends of the Earth wants the Government to make the obvious choice of recycling instead of incineration. Why send our rubbish up in smoke when we could recycle it into something useful?

Freephone 0808 800 1111

Reduce, reuse, recycle

There are ways to stop this terrible waste of resources. We must take responsibility for the waste we are producing and look at ways to reduce the amount of resources we use.

We can:

- reduce the amount of material we use and products we buy
- reuse things like carrier bags, furniture and clothes
- recycle material such as glass, paper and cans
- compost our garden waste and leftover foods.

Research shows that we can recycle or compost up to 80 per cent of our waste, but the UK only manages around 20 per cent. Friends of the Earth recently had great success in persuading the Government to introduce the Household Waste Recycling Act, a new law that will make councils recycle more.

Many incinerators are stopped before they are even built because of the opposition from local people. Friends of the Earth has helped many local communities win their battles against incinerator proposals. Make sure you do the same in your area.



Cearnae Jansen/Friends of the Earth

Recycling should be easy and available for everyone, whatever age or ability.

Act now

Take action on

www.foe.co.uk/incineration

Phone us for more information on incineration 0808 800 1111

“ Local success

When our area was threatened by an incinerator proposal we managed to involve the whole community in our campaign.

We organised a rally with stunts and speakers, ran street stalls and were covered by local media and the BBC news. In the end Surrey County Council refused the proposal and we had won the battle!

Kate Gallagher, local campaigner in Guildford



Charlotte Ward/Friends of the Earth

www.foe.co.uk/incineration/

Friends of the Earth inspires solutions to environmental problems, which make life better for people

Friends of the Earth is:

- the country's most influential national environmental campaigning organisation**
- the most extensive environmental network in the world, with around 1 million supporters across five continents, and more than 70 national organisations worldwide**
- a unique network of campaigning local groups, working in more than 200 communities throughout England, Wales and Northern Ireland**
- dependent on individuals for over 90 per cent of its income.**

Friends of the Earth

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