



XR ZERO WASTE

STOP THE BURN

NO MORE WASTE INCINERATION IN THE UK



STOP THE BURN

NO MORE WASTE INCINERATION IN THE UK

I. WHY OPPOSE WASTE INCINERATION?

II. FOCUS ON THE NORTH OF ENGLAND & THE MIDLANDS

III. XR ZERO WASTE

IV. NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION

V. Q&A

WHY OPPOSE WASTE INCINERATION?

[Home](#)[Why Oppose Incineration](#)[Act Locally](#)[National Campaign](#)[Facts & Figures](#)[Quotes](#)

UK Incinerators

Why Oppose Incineration

UNITED KINGDOM WITHOUT INCINERATION NETWORK > WHY OPPOSE INCINERATION

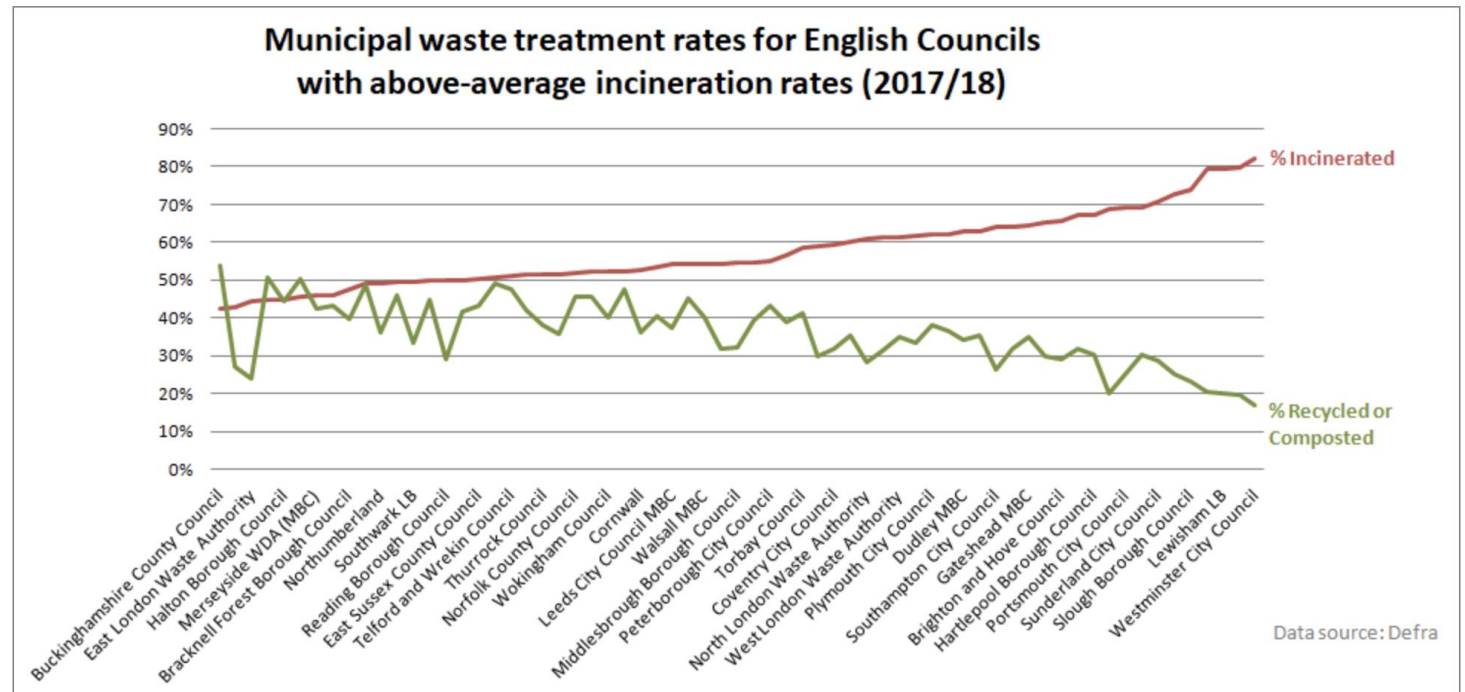
There are many reasons why people oppose incineration, including because:

- [Incineration harms recycling](#)
- [Incineration exacerbates climate change](#)
- [Incineration is a barrier to the circular economy](#)
- [The UK already faces incineration overcapacity](#)
- [Incinerators harms air quality](#)
- [Incinerators are bad neighbours](#)

SOURCE: [HTTPS://UKWIN.ORG.UK/OPPOSE-INCINERATION/](https://ukwin.org.uk/oppose-incineration/)

WHY OPPOSE WASTE INCINERATION?

1. INCINERATION HARMS RECYCLING



For councils with above-average rates of incineration, there is a **clear correlation between higher rates of incineration and lower recycling rates**, based on DEFRA data.

SOURCE: [HTTPS://UKWIN.ORG.UK/OPPOSE-INCINERATION/](https://ukwin.org.uk/oppose-incineration/)

**WHY OPPOSE
WASTE
INCINERATION?**

1. INCINERATION HARMS RECYCLING

**INCINERATION CONTRACTS REQUIRE LOCAL
AUTHORITIES TO **KEEP INCINERATORS OPERATING
AT CAPACITY** OR PAY A PENALTY.**

WHY OPPOSE WASTE INCINERATION?

1. INCINERATION HARMS RECYCLING

STUDIES INDICATE THAT **MOST OF WHAT IS CURRENTLY IN THE 'RESIDUAL' WASTE STREAM IS READILY RECYCLABLE**, MEANING A SIGNIFICANT PROPORTION OF WHAT IS CURRENTLY INCINERATED COULD HAVE BEEN RECYCLED OR COMPOSTED.

SOURCE: [HTTPS://UKWIN.ORG.UK/OPPOSE-INCINERATION/](https://ukwin.org.uk/oppose-incineration/)

WHY OPPOSE WASTE INCINERATION?

1. INCINERATION HARMS RECYCLING

DEFRA REPORT (AUGUST 2020):

'OF TOTAL RESIDUAL WASTE FROM HOUSEHOLD SOURCES IN ENGLAND IN 2017, AN ESTIMATED 53% COULD BE CATEGORISED AS READILY RECYCLABLE, 27% AS POTENTIALLY RECYCLABLE, 12% AS POTENTIALLY SUBSTITUTABLE AND 8% AS DIFFICULT TO EITHER RECYCLE OR SUBSTITUTE.'

SOURCE: [HTTPS://UKWIN.ORG.UK/OPPOSE-INCINERATION/](https://ukwin.org.uk/oppose-incineration/)

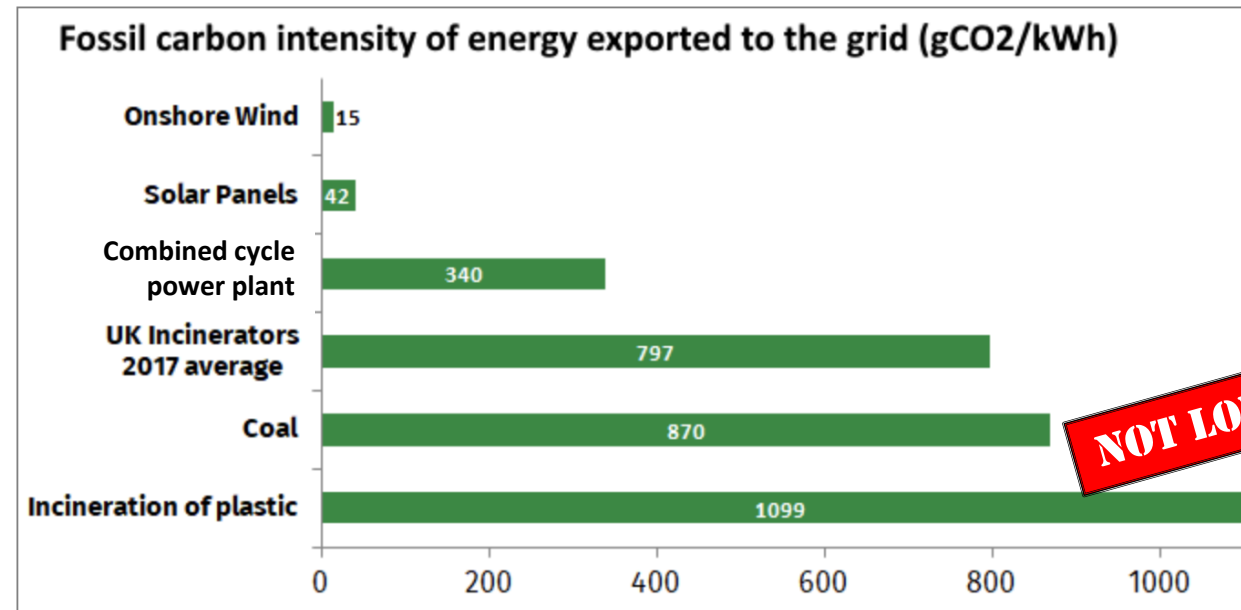
**WHY OPPOSE
WASTE
INCINERATION?**

2. INCINERATION EXACERBATES CLIMATE CHANGE

**1 TONNE OF WASTE INCINERATED
=
>1 TONNE OF CO₂**

WHY OPPOSE WASTE INCINERATION?

2. INCINERATION EXACERBATES CLIMATE CHANGE



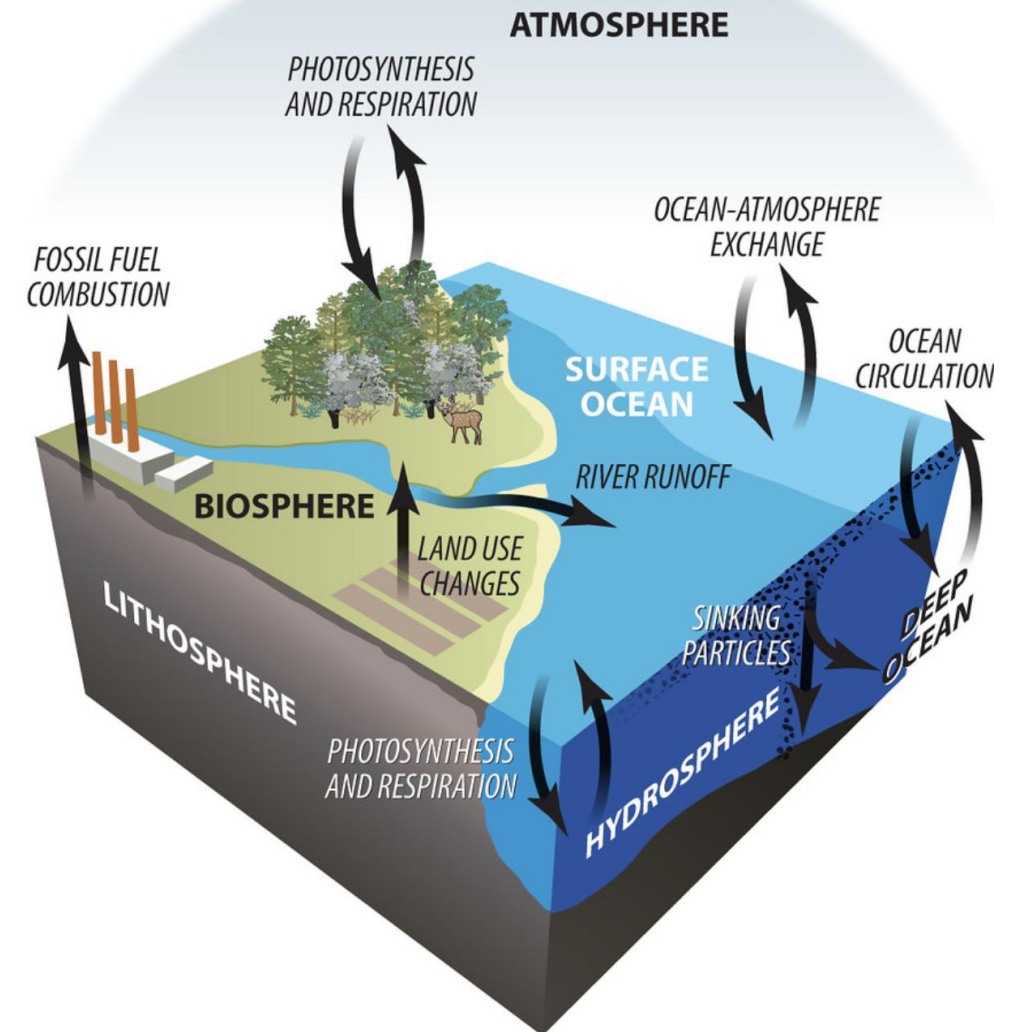
Incineration releases significantly more CO₂ for every kWh exported to the electricity grid than the conventional use of fossil fuels, with the **incineration of plastics being worse than coal**

SOURCE: [HTTPS://UKWIN.ORG.UK/OPPOSE-INCINERATION/](https://ukwin.org.uk/oppose-incineration/)

IPCC GUIDELINES ON NATIONAL ENERGY SECTOR CO₂ EMISSIONS FROM ENERGY-FROM-WASTE INCINERATION

- **INCLUDE FOSSIL CO₂** (FROM THE BURNING OF PLASTICS)
- **DO NOT INCLUDE BIOGENIC CO₂** (FROM THE BURNING OF FOOD WASTE, PAPER, CARD, AND OTHER ORGANIC MATERIALS), BUT REPORT IT AS AN 'INFORMATION ITEM' (AS IT IS SEEN AS PART OF THE NATURAL CARBON CYCLE)

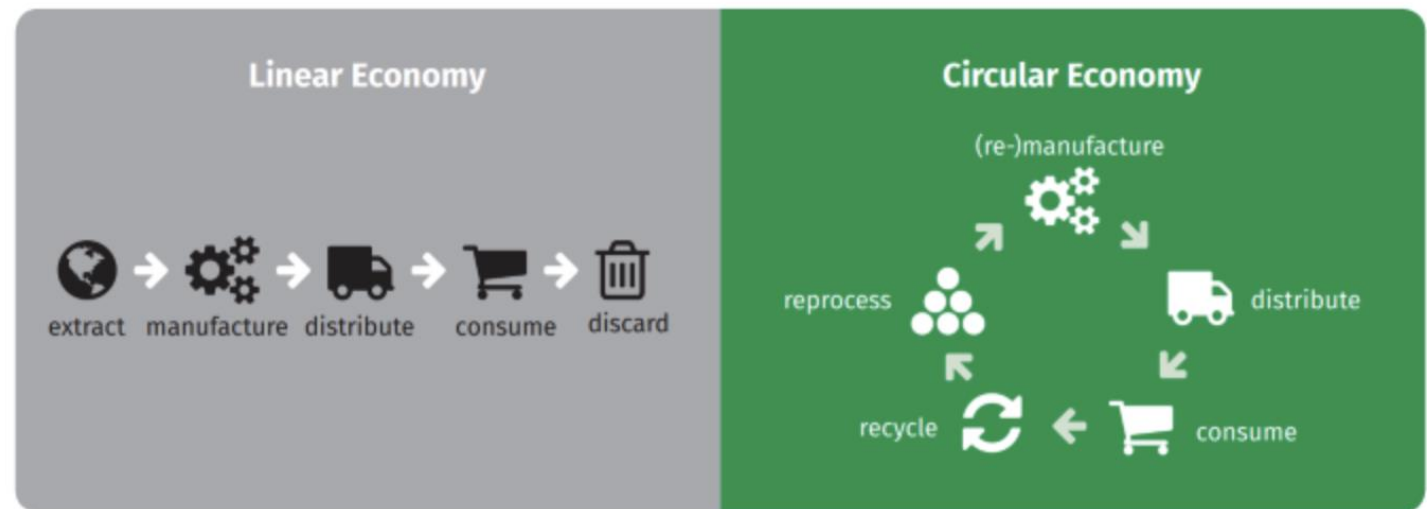
The Carbon Cycle



[HTTPS://WWW.IPCC-NGGIP.IGES.OR.JP/PUBLIC/2019RF/PDF/5_VOLUMES/19R_V5_5_CH05_IOB.PDF](https://www.ipcc-nggip.iges.or.jp/public/2019rf/pdf/5_volumes/19r_v5_5_ch05_ioB.pdf); DIAGRAM: TIMMEKO, FLICKR,
[HTTPS://WWW.FLICKR.COM/PHOTOS/TIMMEKO/6106058409](https://www.flickr.com/photos/timmekeo/6106058409)

WHY OPPOSE WASTE INCINERATION?

3. INCINERATION IS A BARRIER TO THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY



Moving away from incineration is a key element in moving towards a more circular economy because, instead of being destroyed, materials and nutrients can remain available thereby avoiding the additional extraction of finite resources

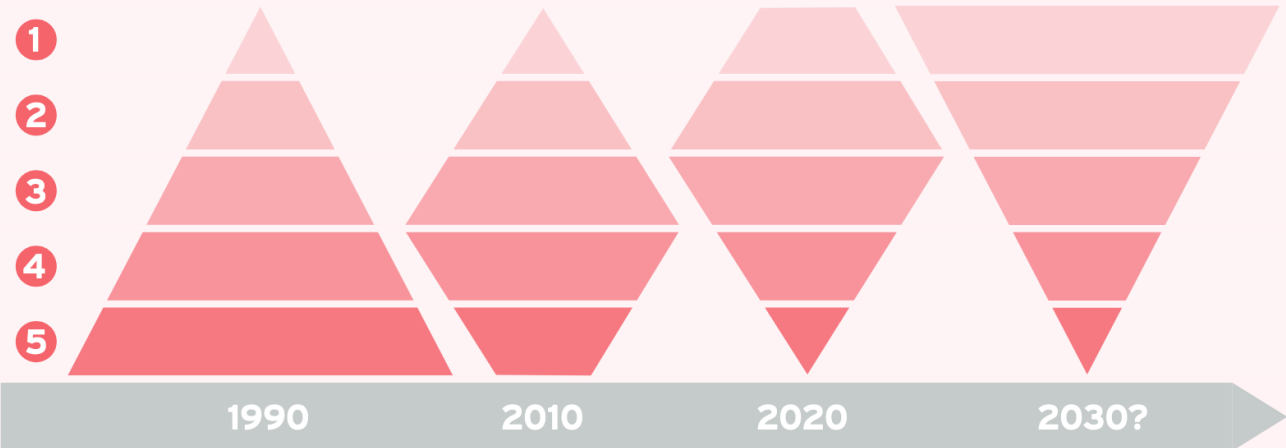
SOURCE: [HTTPS://UKWIN.ORG.UK/OPPOSE-INCINERATION/](https://ukwin.org.uk/oppose-incineration/)

THE WASTE HIERARCHY

WHY OPPOSE WASTE INCINERATION?

[HTTPS://ASSETS.PUBLISHING.SERVICE.GOV.UK/GOVERNMENT/UPLOADS/SYSTEM/UPLOADS/ATTACHMENT_DATA/FILE/765914/RESOURCES-WASTE-STRATEGY-DEC-2018.PDF](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/765914/resources-waste-strategy-dec-2018.pdf)

Evolution of Waste Management Practices: In the past, most waste was dealt with by disposal, but over time that will shift increasingly to recycling, reuse and ultimately prevention.



1 Prevention

Using less material in design and manufacture. Keeping products for longer; reuse. Using less hazardous materials.

2 Preparing for reuse

Checking, cleaning, repairing, refurbishing, whole items or spare parts.

3 Recycling

Turning waste into a new substance or product. Includes composting if it meets quality protocols.

4 Other recovery

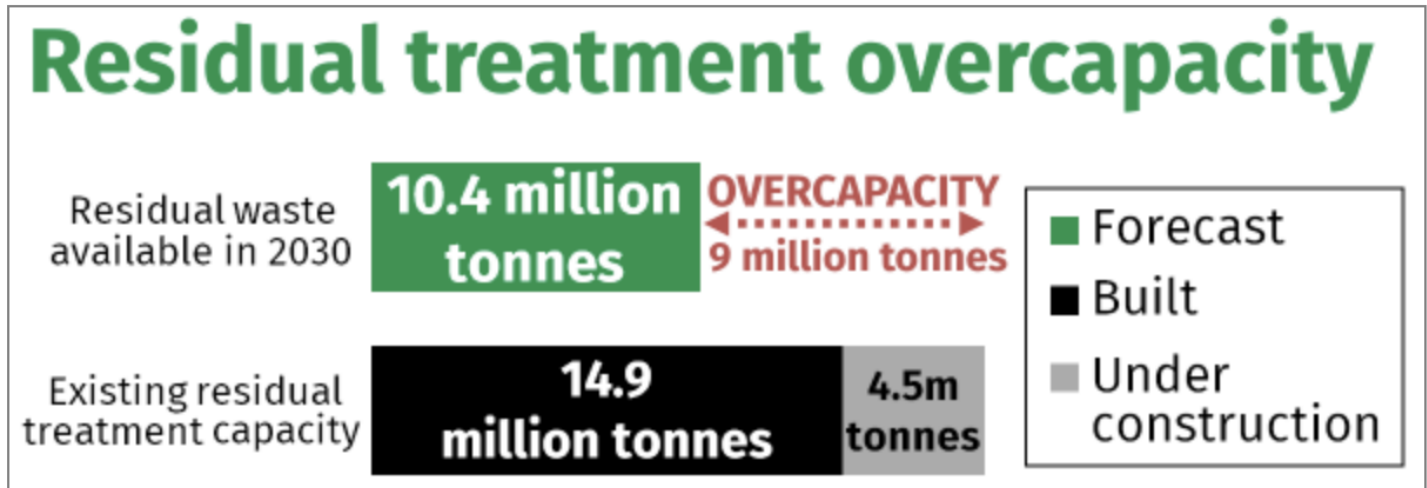
Includes anaerobic digestion, incineration with energy recovery, gasification and pyrolysis which produce energy (fuels, heat and power) and materials from waste; some backfilling.

5 Disposal

Landfill and incineration without energy recovery.

WHY OPPOSE WASTE INCINERATION?

4. THE UK ALREADY FACES INCINERATION OVERCAPACITY

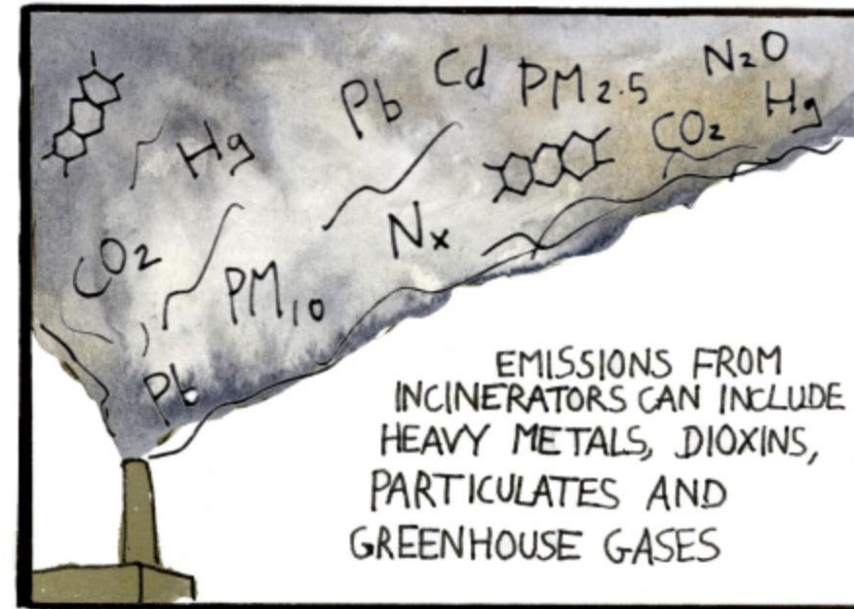


Calculation of residual treatment overcapacity based on UKWIN's analysis of Eunomia's Residual Waste Infrastructure Review, 12th Issue ([Source](#))

SOURCE: [HTTPS://UKWIN.ORG.UK/OPPOSE-INCINERATION/](https://ukwin.org.uk/oppose-incineration/)

WHY OPPOSE WASTE INCINERATION?

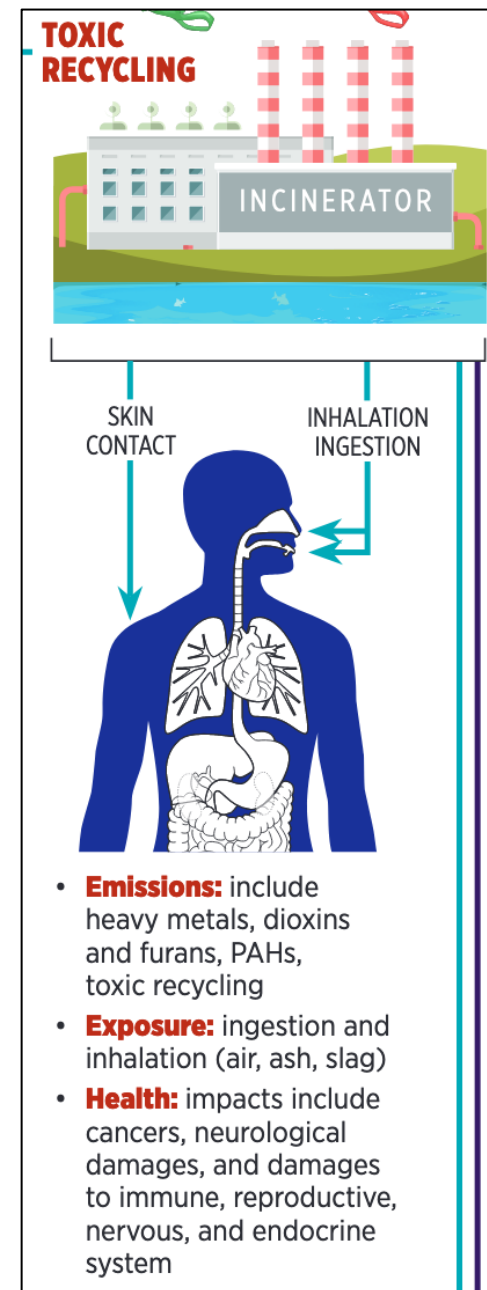
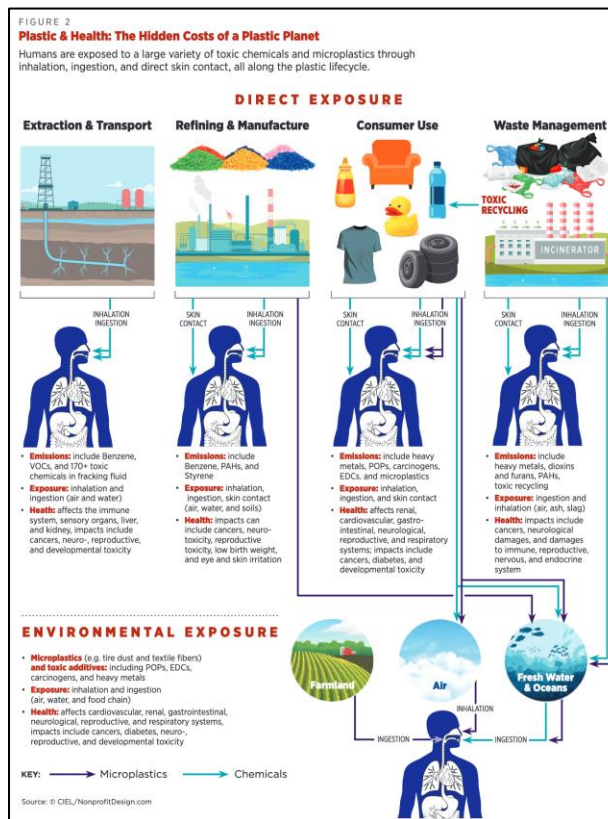
5. INCINERATION HARMS AIR QUALITY



Artistic impression of incinerator emissions, many of which are invisible to the human eye (Credit: F. Howe 2016)

SOURCE: [HTTPS://UKWIN.ORG.UK/OPPOSE-INCINERATION/](https://ukwin.org.uk/oppose-incineration/)

WHY OPPOSE WASTE INCINERATION?



[HTTPS://WWW.CIEL.ORG/WP-CONTENT/UPLOADS/2019/02/PLASTIC-AND-HEALTH-THE-HIDDEN-COSTS-OF-A-PLASTIC-PLANET-FEBRUARY-2019.PDF](https://www.ciel.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/plastic-and-health-the-hidden-costs-of-a-plastic-planet-february-2019.pdf)

WHY OPPOSE WASTE INCINERATION?

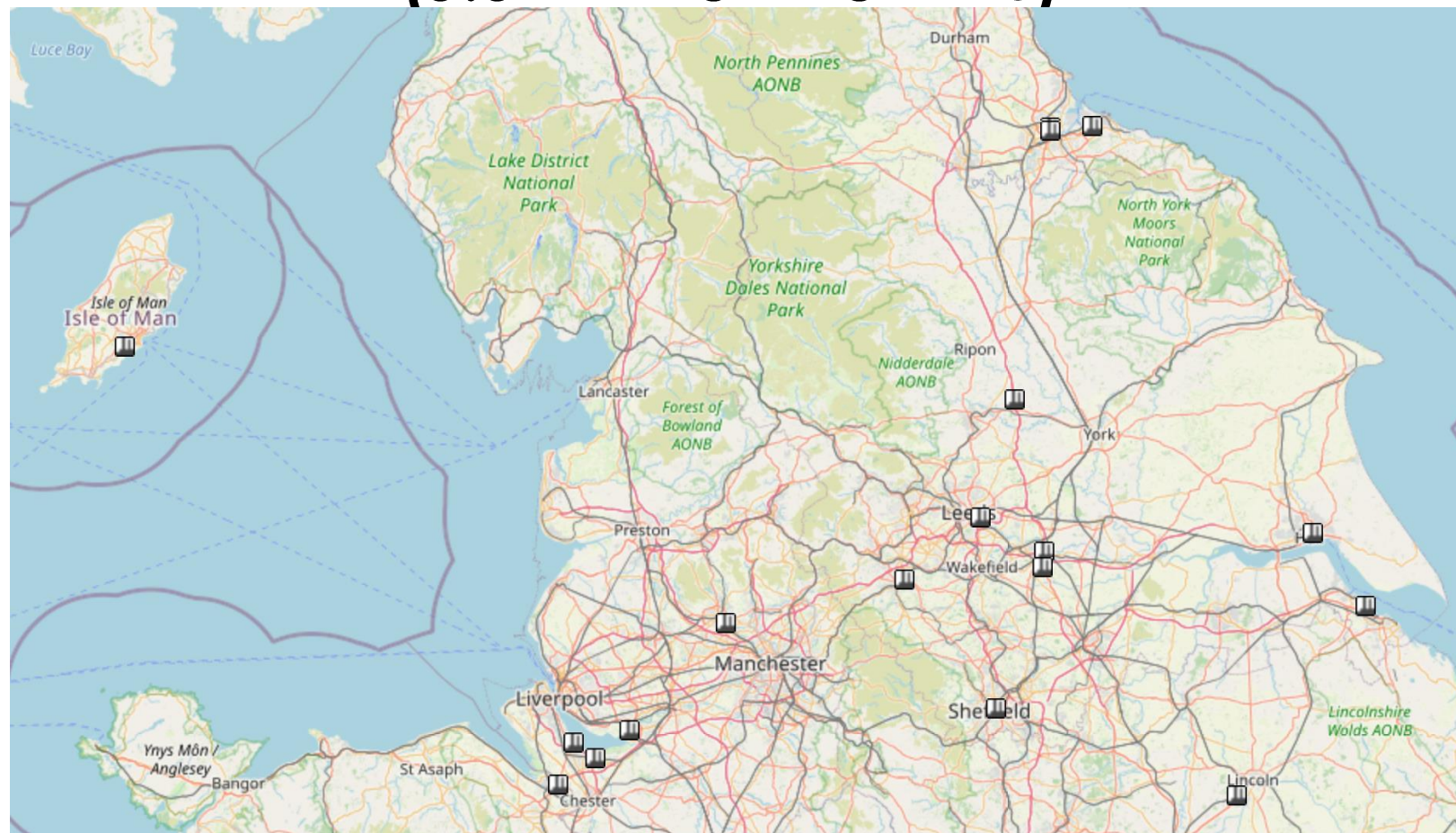
6. INCINERATORS ARE BAD NEIGHBOURS

- **NOISE, VIBRATION, PLUME, FLIES AND ODOURS**
- **LIGHT POLLUTION**
- **VISUAL IMPACT OF THE CHIMNEY STACK AND BUILDING**
- **TRAFFIC**
- **BROKEN PROMISES, MISINFORMATION & LACK OF TRANSPARENCY**
- **INADEQUATE RESPONSES TO COMPLAINTS**
- **REDUCTIONS IN PROPERTY VALUES**
- **PROBLEMS WITH DISTRICT HEATING SCHEMES (OUTAGES & ABOVE-MARKET RATES)**

SOURCE: [HTTPS://UKWIN.ORG.UK/OPPOSE-INCINERATION/](https://ukwin.org.uk/oppose-incineration/)

CURRENT INCINERATION CAPACITY (5.5 MILLION TONNES)

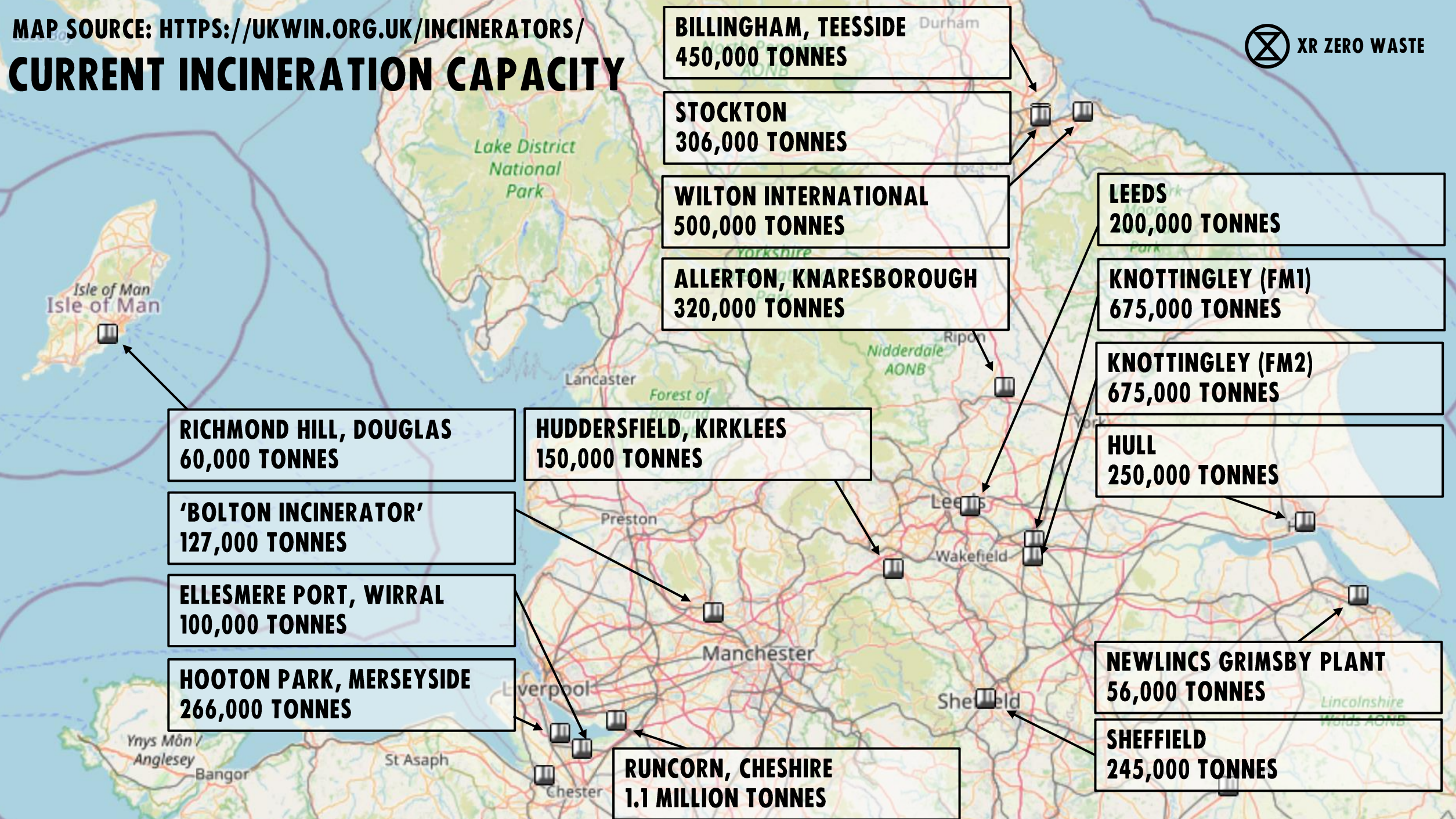
**FOCUS ON THE
NORTH OF
ENGLAND**



SOURCE: [HTTPS://UKWIN.ORG.UK/OPPOSE-INCINERATION/](https://ukwin.org.uk/oppose-incineration/)

MAP SOURCE: [HTTPS://UKWIN.ORG.UK/INCINERATORS/](https://ukwin.org.uk/incinerators/)

CURRENT INCINERATION CAPACITY



POTENTIAL INCINERATION CAPACITY (ABOUT 10.5 MILLION TONNES)

**FOCUS ON THE
NORTH OF
ENGLAND**



SOURCE: [HTTPS://UKWIN.ORG.UK/OPPOSE-INCINERATION/](https://ukwin.org.uk/oppose-incineration/)

MAP SOURCE: [HTTPS://UKWIN.ORG.UK/INCINERATORS/](https://ukwin.org.uk/incinerators/)

POTENTIAL INCINERATION CAPACITY

CARLISLE
274,000 TONNES (RDF)

LANCASTER W. BUSINESS PARK
330,000 TONNES

RIBBLETON, PRESTON
395,000 TONNES

DARWEN
500,000 TONNES

SOUTHPORT, MERSEYSIDE
60,000 TONNES (RDF)

ST HELENS, MERSEYSIDE
330,000 TONNES

NORTHWICH, CHESHIRE
728,000 TONNES

INCE MARSHES, CHESTER
400,000 TONNES

ELLESMERE PORT
175,000 TONNES (RDF, WOOD)

CONSETT, DURHAM
60,000 TONNES (RDF)

STOCKTON
375,000 TONNES (RDF)

MIDDLESBROUGH
250,000 TONNES

MIDDLESBROUGH
300,000 TONNES

W. GRAYTHORP, HARTLEPOOL
560,000 TONNES (RDF)

REDCAR
450,000 TONNES (RDF)

NE ENERGY RECOVERY CENTRE
200,000 TONNES

REDCAR
450,000 TONNES

EAST KNAPTON, MALTON
130,000 TONNES

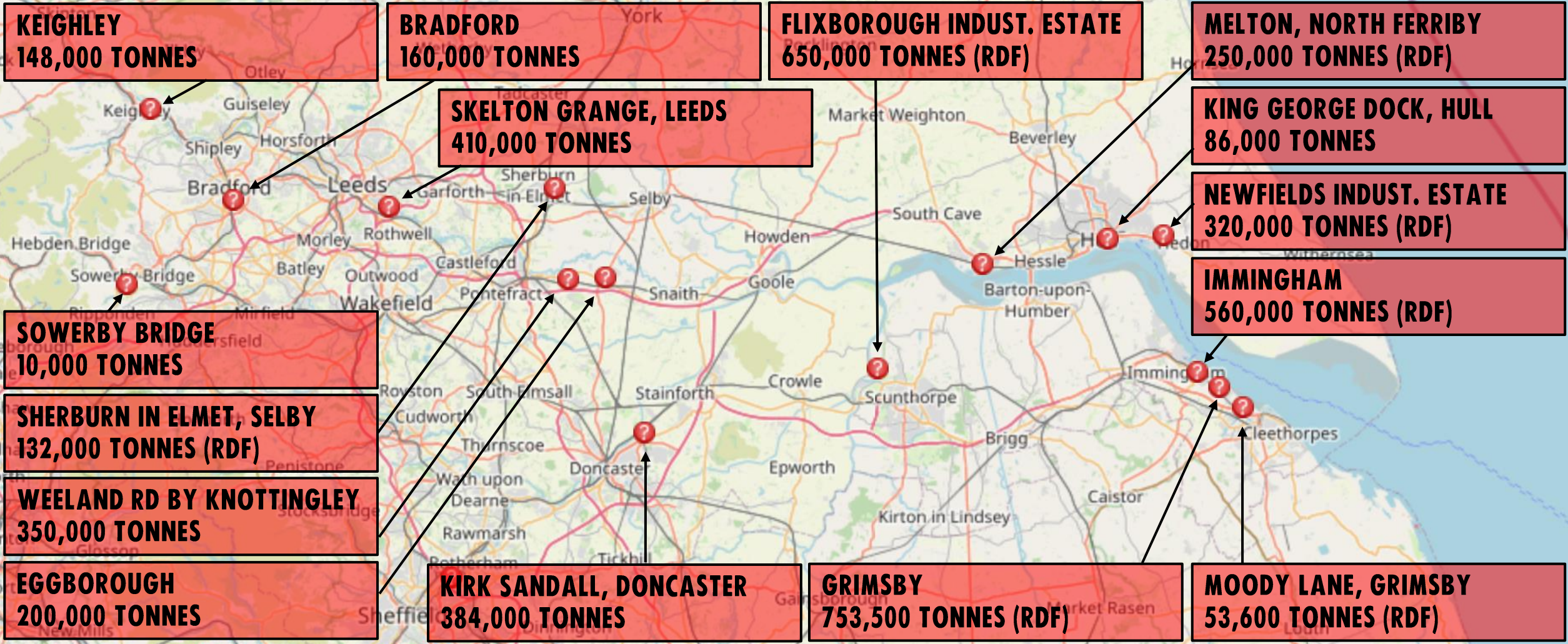
**15 POTENTIAL INCINERATORS IN THIS AREA (C. 4.5 MILLION TONNES)
(DETAILS ON NEXT SLIDE)**

TEMPLEBOROUGH
215,000 TONNES (RDF)

MAP SOURCE: [HTTPS://UKWIN.ORG.UK/INCINERATORS/](https://ukwin.org.uk/incinerators/)

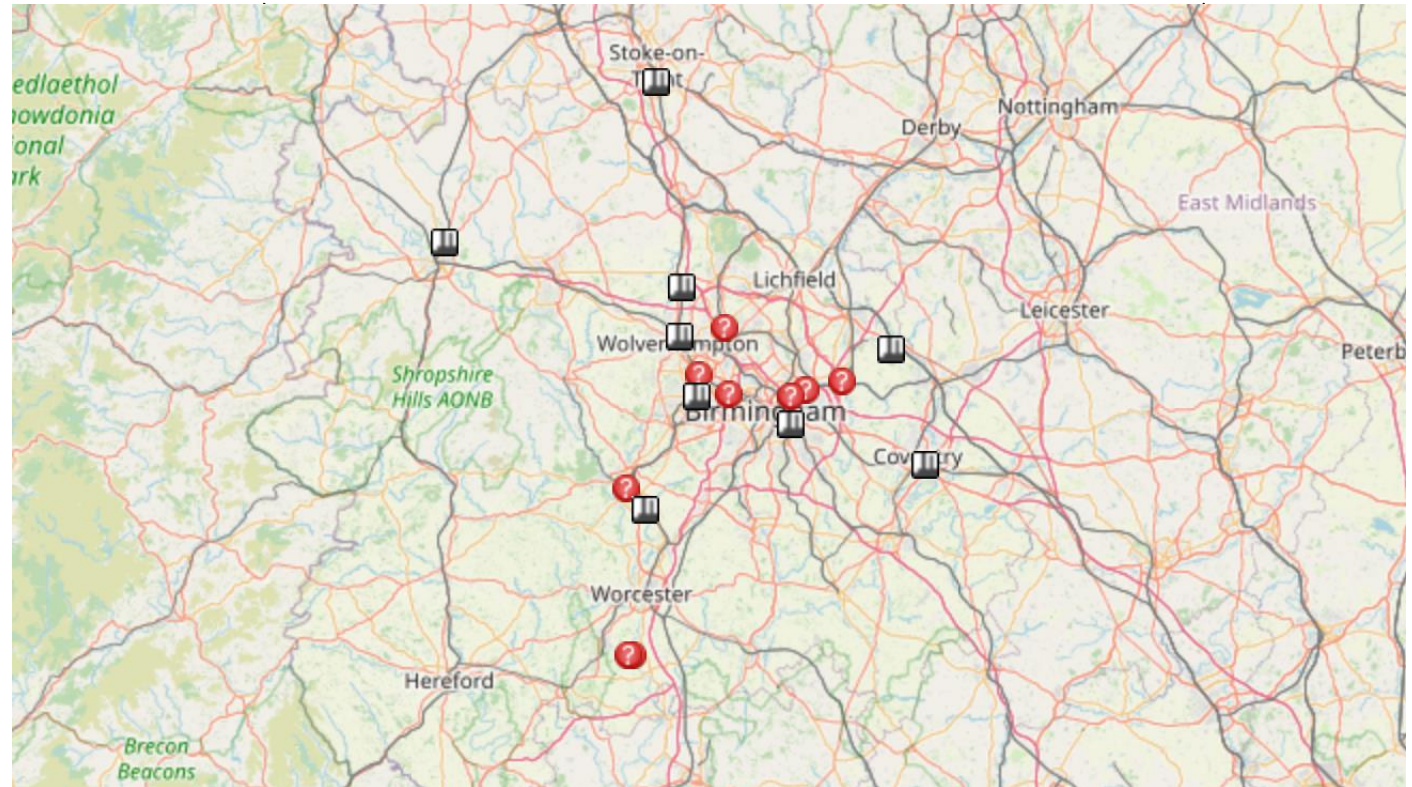


POTENTIAL INCINERATION CAPACITY



CURRENT (1.9 MILLION TONNES) & POTENTIAL (1.5+ MILLION TONNES) INCINERATION CAPACITY

**FOCUS ON THE
WEST
MIDLANDS**

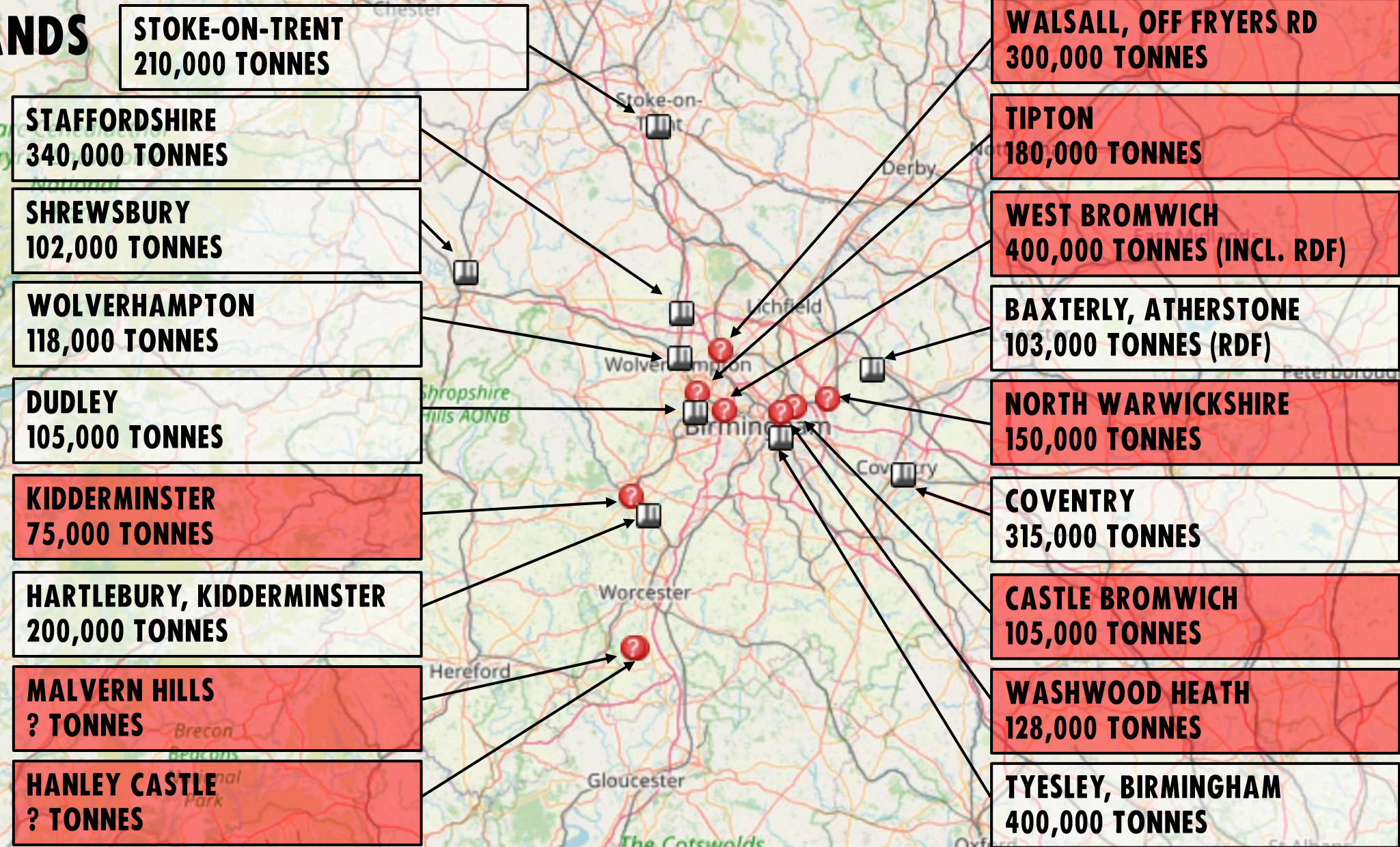


SOURCE: [HTTPS://UKWIN.ORG.UK/OPPOSE-INCINERATION/](https://ukwin.org.uk/oppose-incineration/)

MAP SOURCE: [HTTPS://UKWIN.ORG.UK/INCINERATORS/](https://ukwin.org.uk/incinerators/)

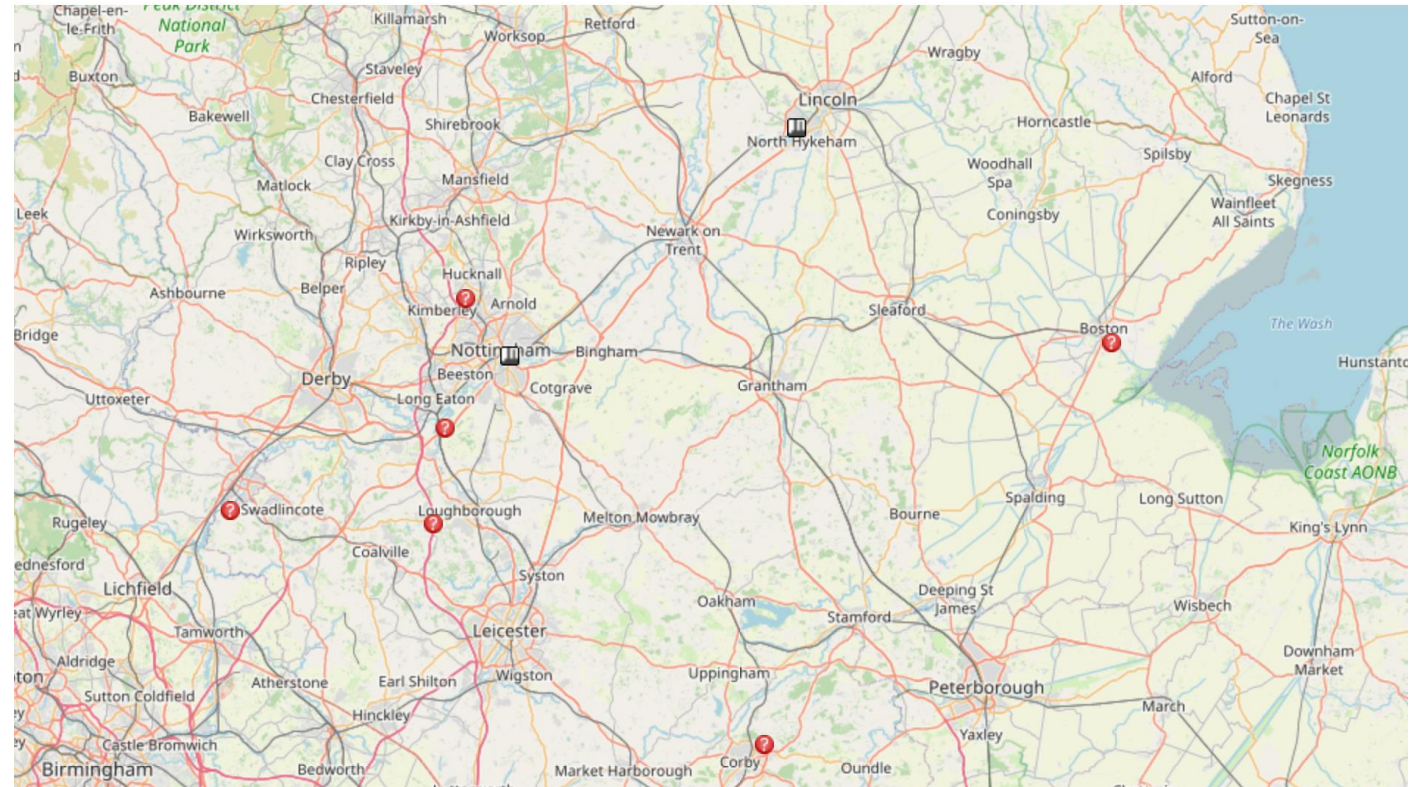


CURRENT & POTENTIAL INCINERATION CAPACITY WEST MIDLANDS



**FOCUS ON THE
EAST
MIDLANDS**

CURRENT (500,000 TONNES) & POTENTIAL (2.7 MILLION TONNES) INCINERATION CAPACITY

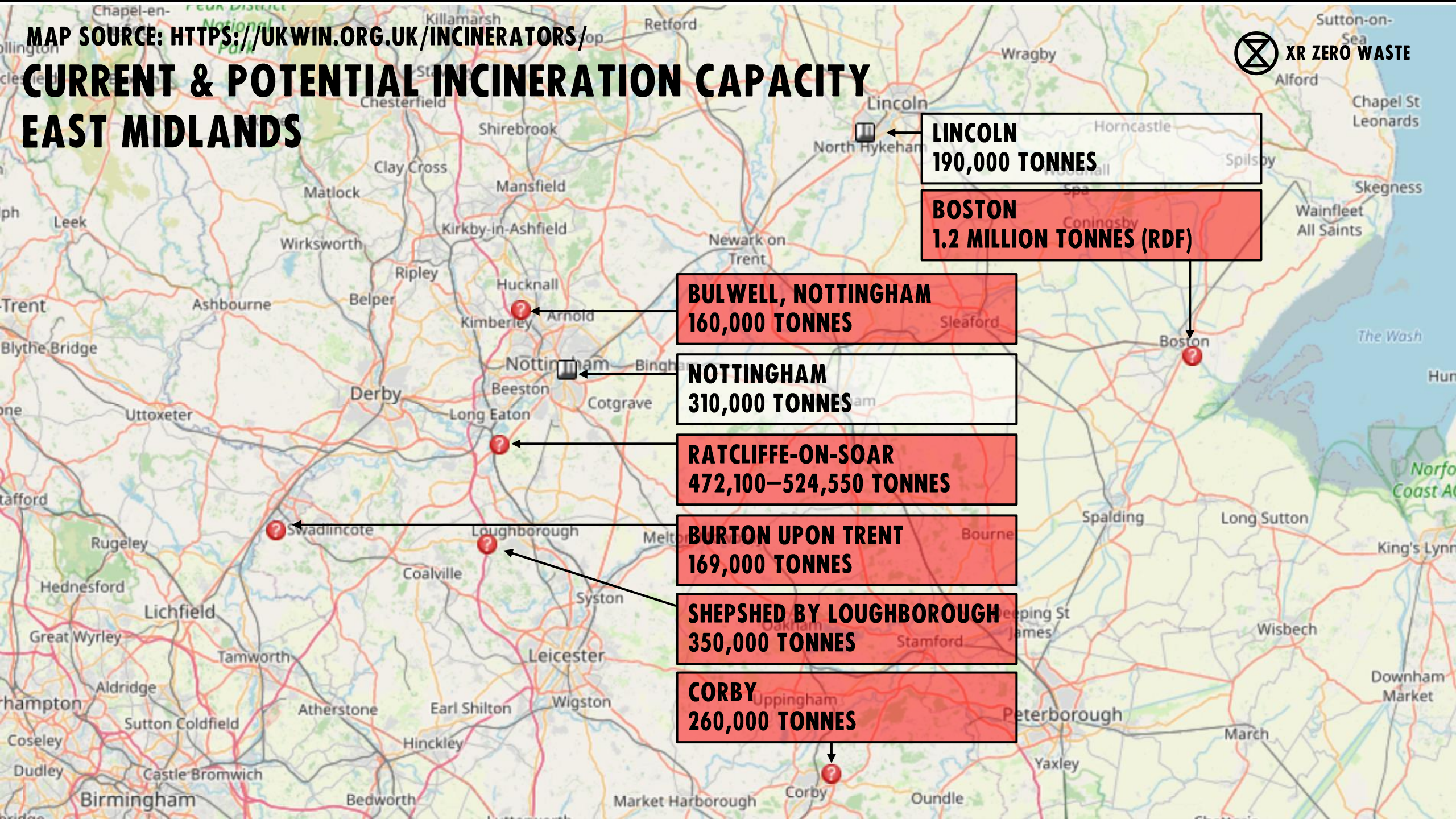


SOURCE: [HTTPS://UKWIN.ORG.UK/OPPOSE-INCINERATION/](https://ukwin.org.uk/oppose-incineration/)

MAP SOURCE: [HTTPS://UKWIN.ORG.UK/INCINERATORS/](https://ukwin.org.uk/incinerators/)



CURRENT & POTENTIAL INCINERATION CAPACITY EAST MIDLANDS



OPEN LETTER TO BORIS JOHNSON

**XR ZERO
WASTE**
www.xrzerowaste.uk
hello@xrzerowaste.uk



Open letter on transitioning to a circular economy without more waste incineration

Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

16 November 2020

Dear Prime Minister,

Energy-from-waste (EfW) incineration capacity in the UK is poised to expand by 20 million tonnes by 2030, more than doubling current capacity and locking the country into an additional 10 million tonnes of fossil-derived CO₂ emissions per year, primarily from burning plastics.^[1] By failing to consider whether this growth is compliant with the Paris Agreement and the UK's net zero obligations, the Government effectively inhibits the full decarbonisation of the power sector.^[2] Moreover, the EfW sector's expansion impairs the transition to a circular economy and hinders green job growth, thus depriving the UK economy of a critical economic boost.^[3]

We, the undersigned, call for concerted government action to decarbonise the waste sector—including through consideration of net-zero obligations regarding planned EfW incinerators—noting that the Committee on Climate Change has warned that the UK is not on track to meet the fourth or fifth carbon budgets (2023–27 and 2028–32) and that 'progress will need to accelerate' if the UK is to achieve net zero by 2050.^[4]

Delivering on net zero requires transitioning to a circular economy for CO₂ savings.^[5] The good news is that the UK is uniquely positioned to jump-start a world-leading transformation of the waste and resource sector as part of its post-Covid recovery. Through regulatory reform and a dedicated investment programme, the Government can accelerate the transition towards a zero-carbon, zero-waste circular economy. Even a moderate, entirely workable shift will allow the UK to:

- slash UK CO₂ emissions by 15%—or 68 million tonnes per year—by 2030;^[6]
- reduce pollution, thus improving air quality and public health;
- inject £35 billion into the economy by 2030 via recycling, repair, reuse, rental, and remanufacturing;^[7]
- create more than 200,000 new jobs and tackle unemployment;^[8] and
- make a decisive contribution to attaining climate neutrality by 2050.^[9]

OPEN LETTER TO BORIS JOHNSON

**XR ZERO
WASTE**

www.xrzerowaste.uk
hello@xrzerowaste.uk

BUSINESS AS USUAL: ANNUAL BURDEN OF UK EfW INCINERATION



12.7 million tonnes of waste burnt in 2019



Fossil CO₂ emissions:
7.4 million tonnes per year and rising



Taxpayers spend £1 billion per year to burn waste



EfW plants employ only 2% of waste & resource sector workforce (5,000 people)



2.4% of electricity and 0.2% of heat supply, but 13% of power sector fossil CO₂ emissions



Risk of £4.2 billion in stranded assets by 2035 due to EfW overcapacity

TRANSITION TO A CIRCULAR ECONOMY: BENEFITS BY 2030



Maximised product lifespan and 70% material recycling



CO₂ emissions slashed by 15% (68 million tonnes) per year



£35 billion injected into the economy



At least 200,000 new jobs



More renewable energy and heat, less pollution



Recycling & renewable energy costs 20%–25% lower than EfW incineration

OPEN LETTER: ANNEX 1

**XR ZERO
WASTE**

www.xrzerowaste.uk
hello@xrzerowaste.uk

How energy-from-waste incineration undermines circularity and the net-zero carbon target

This section spells out why EfW incineration is considered a form of ‘leakage’ from the circular economy and underscores that the ongoing expansion of EfW incineration capacity hampers the UK’s ability to deliver on its net-zero carbon ambitions. It identifies six key factors that make the technology a poor choice for waste and resource management, namely that it:

- I. destroys resources instead of recovering them, costing the UK billions per year
- II. impairs the transition to a circular economy by preventing material reuse and recycling
- III. slows economic recovery and hinders job growth in the circular economy
- IV. inhibits the full decarbonisation of the power sector
- V. is among the costliest means of generating energy and managing waste
- VI. presents serious financial risks as EfW facilities become stranded assets.

OPEN LETTER: ANNEX 2

**XR ZERO
WASTE**

www.xrzerowaste.uk
hello@xrzerowaste.uk

Transforming the UK's waste and resource sector: a blueprint for regulatory reform and structural investment

This section proposes measures the Government could implement in six key areas to bring about what the UK Committee on Climate Change calls a 'step-change towards a circular economy':

- I. implement enhanced programmes to prevent waste arisings
- II. introduce regulations to improve product lifespan, reuse, repair, and remanufacturing
- III. increase the rate and quality of recycling
- IV. require more detailed reporting on product and waste flows
- V. make recycling more attractive than EfW incineration
- VI. deliver a circular economy infrastructure investment strategy.

PARLIAMENTARIANS WHO SIGNED THE OPEN LETTER TO BORIS JOHNSON

**XR ZERO
WASTE**

www.xrzerowaste.uk
hello@xrzerowaste.uk

Diane Abbott MP, Hackney North & Stoke Newington

Apsana Begum MP, Poplar and Limehouse

Richard Burgon MP, Leeds East

Dawn Butler MP, Brent Central

Ian Byrne MP, Liverpool, West Derby
EFRA Committee

Jeremy Corbyn MP, Islington North

Jon Cruddas MP, Dagenham and Rainham

Rachel Hopkins MP, Luton South

Clive Lewis MP, Norwich South

Caroline Lucas MP, Brighton and Hove
Environmental Audit Committee

Kenny MacAskill MP, East Lothian

John McDonnell MP, Hayes and Harlington

Layla Moran MP, Oxford West and Abingdon

Grahame Morris MP, Easington

Sarah Olney MP, Richmond Park

Kate Osborne MP, Jarrow

Bell Ribeiro-Addy MP, Streatham

Zarah Sultana MP, Coventry South

Jon Trickett MP, Hemsworth

Claudia Webbe MP, Leicester East
Environmental Audit Committee

Mick Whitley MP, Birkenhead

Nadia Whittome MP, Nottingham East
Environmental Audit Committee

Beth Winter MP, Cynon Valley

Baron Jones of Cheltenham, Liberal Democrats peer

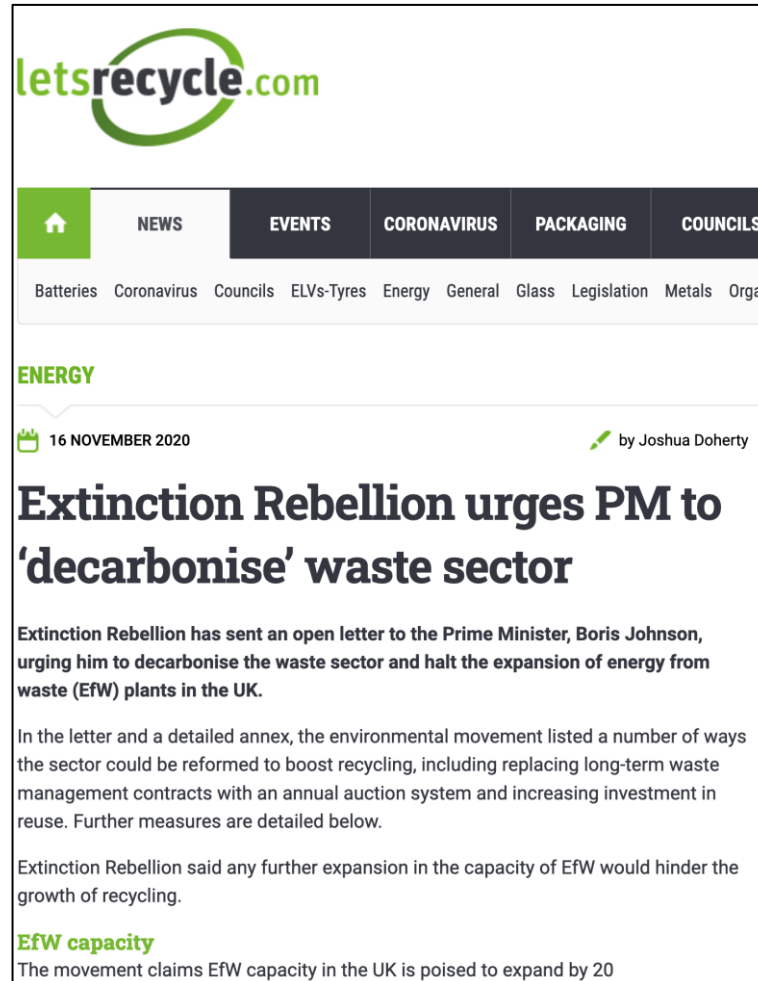
Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle, Green Party Life peer

Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb, Green Party Life peer

MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE OPEN LETTER

**XR ZERO
WASTE**

www.xrzerowaste.uk
hello@xrzerowaste.uk



letsrecycle.com

NEWS EVENTS CORONAVIRUS PACKAGING COUNCILS

Batteries Coronavirus Councils ELVs-Tyres Energy General Glass Legislation Metals Organ

ENERGY

16 NOVEMBER 2020 by Joshua Doherty

Extinction Rebellion urges PM to 'decarbonise' waste sector

Extinction Rebellion has sent an open letter to the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, urging him to decarbonise the waste sector and halt the expansion of energy from waste (EfW) plants in the UK.

In the letter and a detailed annex, the environmental movement listed a number of ways the sector could be reformed to boost recycling, including replacing long-term waste management contracts with an annual auction system and increasing investment in reuse. Further measures are detailed below.

Extinction Rebellion said any further expansion in the capacity of EfW would hinder the growth of recycling.

EfW capacity
The movement claims EfW capacity in the UK is poised to expand by 20



resource

Sharing knowledge to promote waste as a resource

Sat 15 May 2021 Dir

NEWS MATERIALS BUSINESS GOVERNMENT RESOURCE U

CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION

XR CALLS FOR PRIME MINISTER TO DECARBONISE WASTE SECTOR


By Lidia Creech | 16 November 2020 | [Add a Comment](#)

A coalition of leading environmental organisations and individuals, including climate activist group Extinction Rebellion (XR), has sent an [open letter](#) to the Prime Minister calling on the Government to reduce the scale of Energy-from-Waste (EfW) in the UK.

The letter, which was written by the XR Zero Waste group, calls on the UK Government to implement measures to achieve net zero carbon emissions in the waste and resource sector by 2035, and climate neutrality by 2050.

Highlighting the growth of EfW in recent years, which is set to double in capacity by 2030, XR cites the Committee on Climate Change's warning that the UK is not set to meet the fourth or fifth carbon budgets (2023-27 and 2028-32).

The letter goes on to urge the Government to reconsider plans to expand the country's EfW capacity, noting that this form of energy recovery will result in an additional 10 million tonnes of fossil fuel-derived carbon emissions released into the atmosphere each year and drive the UK further from its 2050 net-zero target.



[HTTPS://WWW.LETSRECYCLE.COM/NEWS/LATEST-NEWS/EXTINCTION-REBELLION-URGES-PM-TO-DECARBONISE-WASTE-SECTOR/](https://www.letsrecycle.com/news/latest-news/extinction-rebellion-urges-pm-to-decarbonise-waste-sector/); [HTTPS://RESOURCE.CO/ARTICLE/XR-CALLS-PRIME-MINISTER-DECARBONISE-WASTE-SECTOR](https://resource.co/article/xr-calls-prime-minister-decarbonise-waste-sector)

MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE OPEN LETTER

**XR ZERO
WASTE**

www.xrzerowaste.uk
hello@xrzerowaste.uk



mrw
FOR RESOURCE AND WASTE PROFESSIONALS


NEWS - ANALYSIS AND MARKETS - IN DEPTH - MATERIALS - KIT - PRICES - DIGITAL EDITIONS - EVENTS - *NEW* DIRECTORY

NEWS
Campaigners urge Johnson to ditch EfW expansion
16 NOVEMBER, 2020 | BY MARK SMULIAN

Coastal landfill sites pose pollution fears
Defra sees stem was
Councils' mandator
DS Smith plastics in
Waste fire West Sus

A group of environmental organisations has told the prime minister that net-zero carbon emissions cannot be achieved if he allows continue development of energy-from-waste (EfW) plants.

In a [letter to Boris Johnson](#), Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace, UK Without Incineration Network, Extinction Rebellion and others have called for a law that would require the waste sector to decarbonise by 2035.

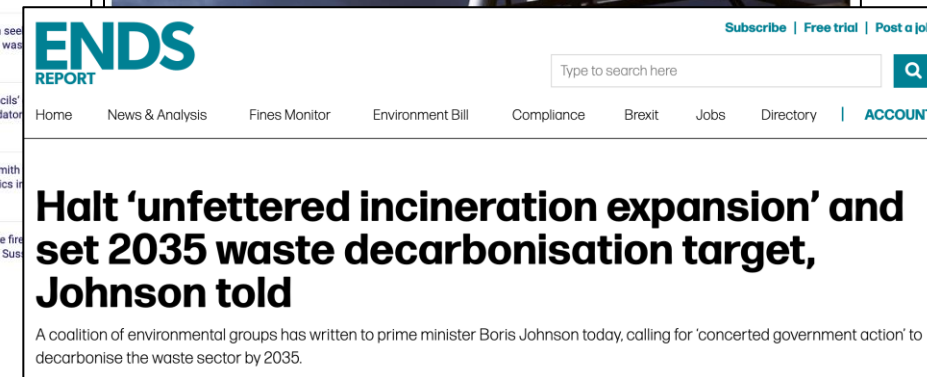


Circular.
FOR RESOURCE AND WASTE PROFESSIONALS

HOME NEWS INSIGHTS KNOWLEDGE CENTRE CATEGORIES MAGAZINE ABO

Home / News / Circular Economy / Net zero 'impossible' without waste sector overhaul, say campaigners

Net zero 'impossible' without waste sector overhaul, say campaigners
Circular Economy, Environment and Energy, Policy and Strategy, Resource Management, Sustainability, Treatment and Recovery
16th November 2020



**ENDS
REPORT**

Subscribe | Free trial | Post a job

Type to search here

Home News & Analysis Fines Monitor Environment Bill Compliance Brexit Jobs Directory | ACCOUNT

Halt 'unfettered incineration expansion' and set 2035 waste decarbonisation target, Johnson told

A coalition of environmental groups has written to prime minister Boris Johnson today, calling for 'concerted government action' to decarbonise the waste sector by 2035.



In an open letter sent to Prime Minister Boris Johnson today (16 November), a group of campaigners, including Extinction Rebellion's Zero Waste group, are calling for 'concerted government action to decarbonise the waste sector'.

The letter claims that carbon emissions from waste disposal are 'growing rapidly' due to the 'unfettered expansion of carbon-intensive energy-from-waste (EfW) incineration plants'.

Authored by Extinction Rebellion's Zero Waste group, the letter is supported by signatories such as Biofuelwatch, Friends of the Earth, Green House Think Tank, Greenpeace, Resource Recovery from Waste, ShareAction, The

[HTTPS://WWW.MRW.CO.UK/NEWS/CAMPAIGNERS-URGE-JOHNSON-TO-DITCH-EFW-EXPANSION-16-11-2020/;](https://www.mrw.co.uk/news/campaigners-urge-johnson-to-ditch-efw-expansion-16-11-2020/)
[HTTPS://WWW.ENDSREPORT.COM/ARTICLE/1700163/HALT-UNFETTERED-INCINERATION-EXPANSION-SET-2035-WASTE-DECARBONISATION-TARGET-JOHNSON-TOLD;](https://www.endsreport.com/article/1700163/halt-unfettered-incineration-expansion-set-2035-waste-decarbonisation-target-johnson-told) [HTTPS://WWW.CIRCULARONLINE.CO.UK/NEWS/NET-ZERO-IMPOSSIBLE-WITHOUT-WASTE-SECTOR-OVERHAUL-SAY-CAMPAIGNERS/](https://www.circularonline.co.uk/news/net-zero-impossible-without-waste-sector-overhaul-say-campaigners/)

MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE OPEN LETTER

**XR ZERO
WASTE**

www.xrzerowaste.uk
hello@xrzerowaste.uk

The Guardian

The coalition, which includes Extinction Rebellion's zero waste group, [Friends of the Earth](#), the UK Without Incineration Network (UKWIN), Greenpeace and the MP John Cruddas, says the expansion of waste incineration is forcing up carbon emissions.

Support The Guardian | Sign in
Available for everyone, funded by readers
Contribute → Subscribe →

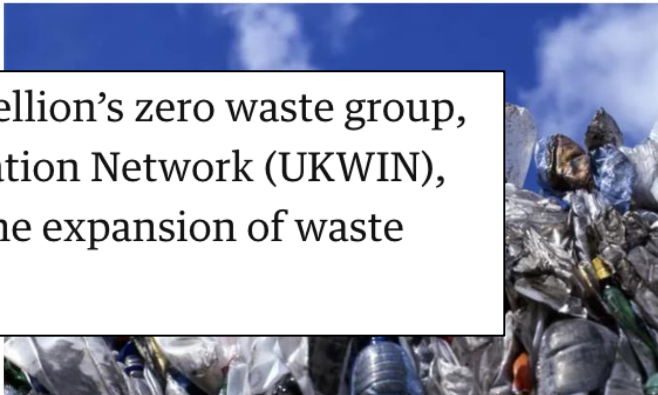
News Opinion Sport Culture Lifestyle

Environment ▶ Climate change Wildlife Energy Pollution

Waste

Increase in burning of plastic 'driving up emissions from waste disposal'

Expansion of energy-from-waste incineration could stop UK hitting its net zero carbon target, campaigners warn



▲ By 2030 the government's push to increase incineration of waste will increase CO2 emissions by 10m tonnes a year, mostly from the burning of plastics, the groups said. Photograph: Kathy deWitt/Alamy

Sandra Laville
Mon 16 Nov 2020 07:00 GMT

f t e

187

[HTTPS://WWW.THEGUARDIAN.COM/ENVIRONMENT/2020/NOV/16/INCREASE-
-IN-BURNING-OF-PLASTIC-DRIVING-UP-EMISSIONS-FROM-WASTE-DISPOSAL](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/nov/16/increase-in-burning-of-plastic-driving-up-emissions-from-waste-disposal)

DEFRA RESPONSE TO THE OPEN LETTER

**XR ZERO
WASTE**
www.xrzerowaste.uk
hello@xrzerowaste.uk



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

The Rt Hon George Eustice MP
Secretary of State for Environment,
Food and Rural Affairs

T 03459 335577
defra.help@defra.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/defra

XR Zero Waste
xrzerowaste@protonmail.com

Your ref: 137244
Our ref: PO2020/30615/TH

19 February 2021

Dear XR Zero Waste team,

Thank you for your letter of 16 November to the Prime Minister, and your email of 29 October to Lord Goldsmith about transitioning to a circular economy and incineration capacity. The Prime Minister appreciates you taking the time to write to him detailing your views. He has asked that I respond to set out the Government's position on this matter.

The UK Government is determined to deliver the international COP26 climate summit in Glasgow. On 18 November 2020 the Prime Minister announced a Green Industrial Revolution, which will enable us to reach our target of net zero. The plan covers clean technologies, including becoming a world leader.

There is no doubt that climate change is one of the most urgent challenges we face. Action is urgently needed in the UK and across the world. Enhancing the environment are major Government priorities. We are leading on climate change and clean growth, having reduced emissions by 40% since 1990 and 2018 – the fastest rate in the G7 – and any other G20 country since 2000. We are the only G20 country to have reduced emissions for net zero greenhouse gas emissions.

Meeting our net zero target will require us to transform our economy – our homes, our transport, our industry, our buildings, and how we use our land. That is why we set out our plan for net zero in 2019, focusing on continuing to develop our net zero strategy through strengthening our plans for decarbonisation.

The Government's landmark Resources and Circular Economy Plan sets out our intention to move away from the linear 'make, use, dispose' model to a more circular and sustainable economy. By reusing and recycling for example, we can reduce emissions involved in extraction, processing and transport, and minimise the types and quantities of waste being generated and disposed. A more circular and resource efficient approach holds significant benefits for green growth and jobs, addressing regional inequalities and limiting environmental damage.

Although the above demonstrates how much we are doing, we will continue to need ambitious and innovative ideas and policies to meet our net zero commitments. To that end, we welcome the contribution of XR Zero Waste and others to the debate on how to reduce emissions in the resources and waste sector. Whilst we do not fully accept some of the analysis underpinning the assumptions you have made, we will give further consideration to these detailed suggestions as we continue to develop our approach to resource and waste management, moving towards net zero and being a world leading circular economy.

RT HON GEORGE EUSTICE MP

ACTION PLANS FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES

XR ZERO WASTE

www.xrzerowaste.uk
hello@xrzerowaste.uk

XR ZERO WASTE

TEN ACTION POINTS FOR CAMDEN COUNCIL: HOW TO REDUCE RESIDUAL WASTE BY 65% AND ACHIEVE 70% RECYCLING BY 2030

March 2021

In April 2020, the chair of the North London Waste Authority (NLWA), Cllr Clyde Loakes, stated: 'We call on Extinction Rebellion to work with the NLWA and the boroughs in areas of common interest, such as the vital practical and campaigning work to reduce waste and increase recycling for the benefit of the planet and future generations.' In response, XR Zero Waste is pleased to offer Camden Council this brief, which sets out ten action points designed to help the council cut its residual waste by 65% and reach 70% recycling by 2030.

BENEFITS

By implementing the ten action points in Table 3 (see page 2), Camden Council would:

- **SAVE ABOUT £340,000 PER YEAR BY 2030**, as shifting away from waste incineration to achieve 70% recycling would save around £864,000 per year, based on the Council's own recycling savings estimates,¹ while implementing the action plan would cost the council about £525,000 per year. The net savings translate into a 6% reduction in Camden Council's £5.7 million waste collection budget.
- **CUT ANNUAL CO₂e EMISSIONS BY >70%** (28,000 tonnes) by 2030 by diverting all waste from landfill, cutting the incineration rate by 25%, and boosting recycling to 70%. This shift away from business as usual would allow Camden to save a total of **154,000 tonnes of CO₂e by 2030**. The council would also save 33,800 tonnes of CO₂e per year by 2030 by obviating the need for virgin material production.

CONTEXT AND RATIONALE

The UK Climate Change Committee (CCC) reports that 'achieving significant emission reductions in the waste sector requires a step-change towards a circular economy, moving away from landfill and incineration, and towards a reduction in waste arisings and collection of separated valuable resources for re-use and recycling.'

To meet these goals, the CCC calls on the UK government to set a 70% recycling target by 2030, an increase over the legislated 65% target by 2035.² This step is critical because recycling and reuse allow for substantial carbon emission savings by obviating the need for virgin materials. In contrast, both landfilling and energy-from-waste (EFW) incineration cause significant carbon emissions, not only because decomposition and incineration release greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, but also because replacing landfilled and incinerated materials requires more extraction and mining.

The past decade witnessed the diversion of vast amounts of residual waste away from landfill and towards EFW incineration. This decade (2021-30), the direction of travel is towards the circular economy, meaning that waste will need to be: reduced (prevented); diverted away from landfill and EFW incineration; and redirected towards reuse and recycling.

Camden Cllr and NLWA Board member Richard Olszewski highlighted the advantages of this transition towards the circular economy in June 2020: 'We do not have an incentive to send waste to an incinerator. It costs us. I remember working with [Cllr] Meric [Apak] to talk about the new waste contract we have in Camden and we were stressing to people all the time, recycle more and you will save the Council money. So let's focus on how we can make that a practical reality and massively boost our recycling.'

CAMDEN'S WASTE MANAGEMENT TODAY

Despite its growing population, Camden has seen a decline in residual waste arisings (see Figure 1). Since household recycling has also decreased, however, the borough has missed municipal and national recycling targets. Of Camden's combined household and business waste collected by Veolia and other waste management companies in 2018/2019, an estimated 42.4% was sent to landfill in Buckinghamshire (to Calvert and Bletchley landfills, operated by FCC), 33.3% was sent to the Edmonton incinerator, and only 24.3% was recovered and sent for recycling (see Table 1). Veolia estimates that 85% of the 80,000 tonnes of 'residual waste' that Camden sends to the Edmonton incinerator and landfill every year could be recycled.³ At least an additional 4,000 tonnes of recyclable waste are incinerated because of contamination (see Figure 2).

Figure 1 Camden's residual waste and recycling, collected by Veolia, 2006-18

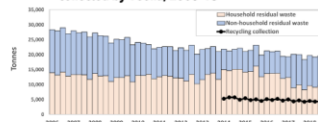


Table 1 Camden's 2018/19 waste sector performance

Indicator	Performance
Residual waste per household	359 kg/year
LACW ¹ household waste recycling rate	32.7%
LACW C&I ² recycling rate	12.4%
All WMC ³ C&I recycling rate	14.9%
Total recycling rate (household and C&I)	24.3%
Residual waste to energy-from-waste incineration	33.3%
Residual waste to landfill	42.4%

¹LACW: local authority-collected waste (by Veolia); ²C&I: commercial & industrial waste; ³WMC: waste management company collection

Table 2 Camden in UK and London waste sector rankings

Indicator	Rank out of 342 UK councils*	Rank out of 32 London councils
Residual waste per household (kg)	30th	2nd
Household waste recycling rate	19th	14th
C&I recycling rate	19th	17th

*Unitary and waste collection authorities for which data is available

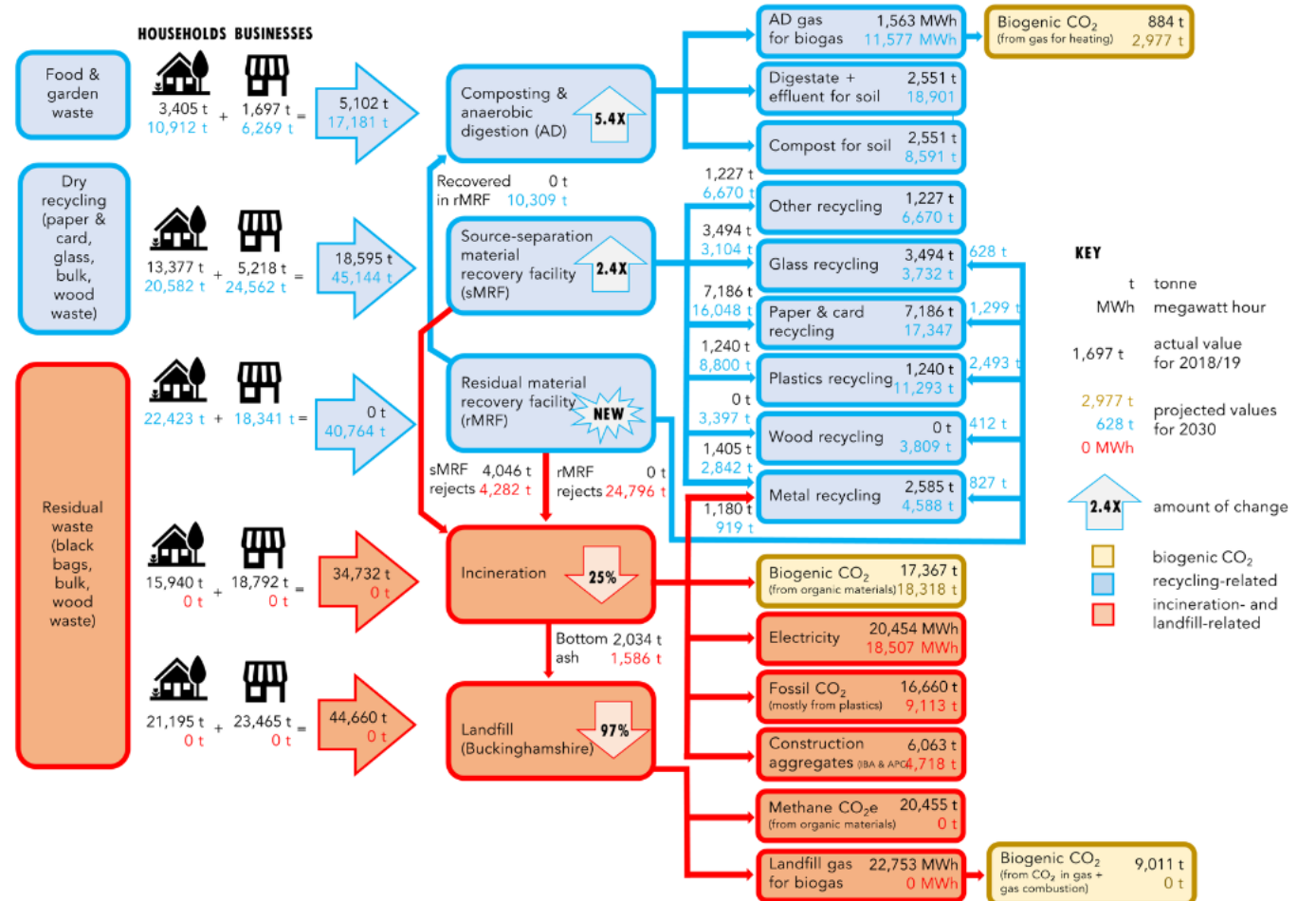
Table 3 Action plan for Camden Council⁴

ACTION POINTS	EXPECTED IMPACTS	REQUIREMENTS	START & EST. COST
1. Create annual waste and recycling collection heat maps to inform all actions. Like election campaigns, recycling campaigns can be smart. For at least one month's collection per year for households and businesses, map a) the ratio of recycling to residual waste, and b) the type, number, and quality of bins used. ⁵	Improvements across all other actions and better value for money	Veolia to implement (may require contractual changes)	2022 £30,000 for annual heat map production
2. Set up a business recycling programme and roll it out across the borough. Most businesses in Camden do not recycle. Develop and disseminate clear guidance for restaurants, shops, and offices that want to enhance their recycling, and offer dedicated training and storefront business recycling certificates. ⁶	10% increase in business recycling rate by 2025, 15% increase by 2030	Collaboration with the NLWA and London Recycles	2021 £60,000 for annual training and materials
3. Work with residents to grow a network of zero-waste 'prosumers' to motivate businesses to recycle more. By leveraging the power of in-office, in-store, and social media recycling feedback to businesses and supervisors, joint prosumer action can transform business habits. ⁷	7.5% increase in business recycling rate by 2025, 20% increase by 2030	Residents' network with 1,000+ members by 2023, work with Keep Britain Tidy	2021 £40,000 per year for zero-waste prosumer programme
4. Maintain bins and bin housing areas annually. Check that all households have access to high-quality bins; adequate recycling bins are available; all bin lids are easy to open; and signage is up to date and easy to read, on bins and in bin areas. ⁸	5% increase in household recycling rate by 2025	Veolia to submit detailed annual maintenance report	2021 Savings (as Veolia LACW service costs fall)
5. Improve reuse and bulk waste collection options. Provide free annual bulk waste collection for each street or street segment and help businesses set up one highly visible reuse donation point for every 10,000 households. ⁹	10% increase in household reuse rate and 3% increase in recycling rate by 2025	To implement in collaboration with the NLWA	2022 £70,000 for 700 annual bulk collections, £100,000 per year for 10 donation points
6. Improve recycling campaigns and instructions to residents. Supply clearer rules of thumb, develop and implement more effective door-to-door communications ('doorstepping') strategies, make information on council web pages more user-friendly, and highlight environmental and economic benefits of recycling in awareness raising programmes. ¹⁰	5% increase in household recycling rate, 10% increase by 2030; 15% less contamination by 2025, 30% less by 2030	To implement in collaboration with the NLWA	2021 £20,000 per year for communications, £50,000 per year for doorstepping
7. Enhance food waste collection. Ensure that food waste is collected from all households, including the 4,500 Camden flats above shops that lack food waste collection. Promote business food waste collection. Improve food waste signage, bins, and bag availability. Increase household and business participation by initiating and expanding zero food waste training, raising awareness of financial savings and reductions in CO ₂ e emissions, and publicising food waste prevention apps. ¹¹	Increase in organic recycling (30% for households, 15% for businesses), 10% improvement in food waste prevention, and 20% less contamination by 2030	Programme to be developed with the NLWA, food waste groups, and other boroughs	2021 £120,000 per year for zero food waste training, £45,000 for caddies to collect food waste from flats above shops
8. Adapt and implement the 2011 Welsh Collections Blueprint (the best guide available). Begin separate weekly collections of glass and paper & card—single-stream for houses and multi-stream for flats; reduce container capacity for residual waste; and stop collecting residual 'side waste'. ¹²	At least 10% increase in household recycling, as Welsh councils achieved under the Blueprint	To implement in collaboration with Veolia or alternative waste collection provider	2025 (Veolia contract expires) Costs depend on which Blueprint actions are carried out
9. Work with the NLWA, the GLA, and industry on specialised recycling collections and infrastructure. Footwear, mattresses, carpets, and other textiles—which together account for 10% of waste arisings—could be recycled with the latest technology, but they are not. Modern sorting and separation technology can help improve the recycling rate for clothing (now 29% nationally). ¹³	At least 5% increase in household and business recycling by 2030 (assuming 50% specialised items recycling)	The NLWA to carry out feasibility studies, including horizon scanning of available and emerging technologies	2021 (with recycling beginning in 2023/24) £30,000 per year for feasibility studies
10. With the NLWA and industry, ensure that the latest re-use and recycling technology is deployed for collected residual waste and recyclables, while taking advantage of company investments unlocked by the new plastics packaging tax. Technology exists for material recovery of residual waste for recycling, especially plastics and organics, but it is not used to treat Camden's waste. Similarly, Biffa and the NLWA have yet to deploy existing technology for polystyrene and dense plastic recycling. ¹⁴	At least a 30% increase in organic recycling and 10% increase in dry recycling by 2030	Biffa and the NLWA to invest in a feasibility study for a residual material recovery facility (MRF) and other technological innovations	2022/23 No additional costs to Camden Council

ACTION PLANS FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES

XR ZERO WASTE
www.xrzerowaste.uk
hello@xrzerowaste.uk

Figure 2 Camden household and business waste flows: actual tonnes for 2018/19 vs. projections for 2030



**XR ZERO
WASTE**

www.xrzerowaste.uk
hello@xrzerowaste.uk

NATIONAL POLICY BRIEF ON **OVERCAPACITY (FORTHCOMING)**

- **OVERCAPACITY BY 2030 IN ENGLAND'S 9 REGIONS**
- **CALL FOR URGENT ACTION TO RESOLVE POLICY CLASH
(EXPANSION OF INCINERATION CAPACITY VS. NET ZERO & RECYCLING TARGETS)**
- **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POLICY-MAKERS**

AIMS: RAISING AWARENESS

**NATIONAL DAY
OF ACTION**



NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION

AIMS: DEMANDING CHANGE



AIMS: BUILDING SOLIDARITY

**NATIONAL DAY
OF ACTION**



**NATIONAL DAY
OF ACTION**

ACTIONS IN JULY

 **SPECTACULAR**  **PRACTICAL**



NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION

ACTIONS IN JULY

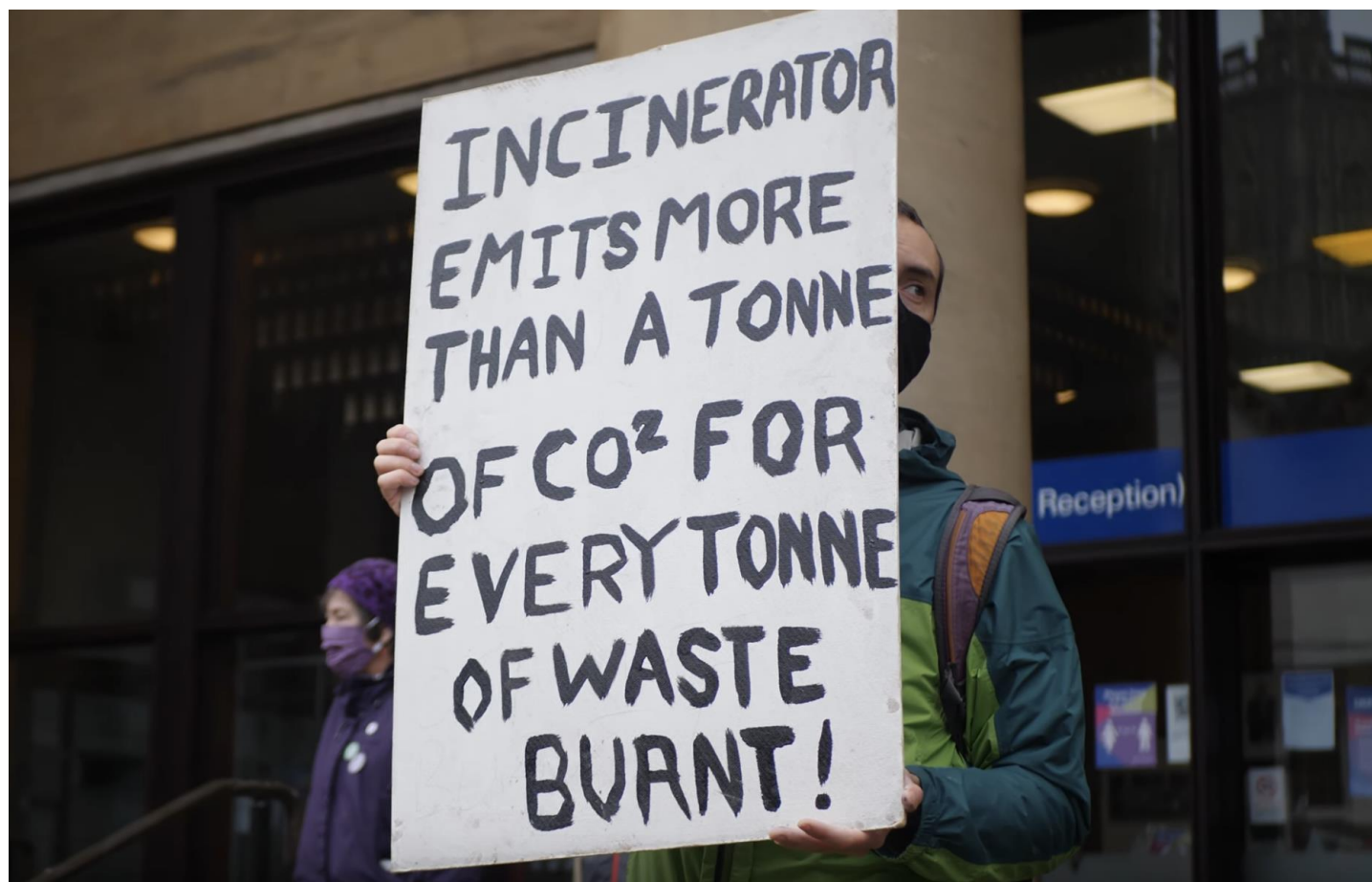
 SPECTACULAR  PRACTICAL



ACTIONS IN JULY

 **SPECTACULAR**  **PRACTICAL**

**NATIONAL DAY
OF ACTION**



NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION

ACTIONS IN JULY

 **SPECTACULAR**  **PRACTICAL**



ACTIONS IN JULY

 **SPECTACULAR**  **PRACTICAL**

**NATIONAL DAY
OF ACTION**



NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION

ACTIONS IN JULY

 **SPECTACULAR**  **PRACTICAL**



ACTIONS IN JULY

 SPECTACULAR  PRACTICAL

NATIONAL DAY
OF ACTION



ACTION PACK CONTENTS

**NATIONAL DAY
OF ACTION**

**BACKGROUND & MAPS
MYTHS & FACTS
KEY DEMANDS
BENEFITS OF THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY**

**GUIDANCE & TIPS ON ACTIONS, MESSAGING,
MEDIA OUTREACH, DOCUMENTATION, LIAISING
WITH POLICE, TRAINING OPTIONS (FOR LIVE
STREAMING, ETC.)**

MYTH

“Incinerators produce low-carbon energy to power our homes.”

FALSE

FACT

Incinerator energy is 4x more carbon-intensive than grid power and 23x more than solar or wind.

Sources: <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2021/02/04/energy-waste-plants-face-scrutiny-carbon-emissions/> and <https://ukwin.org.uk/files/pdf/UKWIN-2018-Incineration-Climate-Change-Report.pdf>. Photo by koushik das on Unsplash

**NATIONAL DAY
OF ACTION**

DATE: LATE JULY (TBD)

**PARTICIPANTS:
INDIVIDUALS & GROUPS
(OPEN TO ALL—NO NEED TO BE IN XR!)**

THIS DAY BELONGS TO EVERYONE

**NATIONAL DAY
OF ACTION**

**SET UP YOUR OWN GROUPS
& PLAN ACTIONS**

OR

**JOIN XR ZERO WASTE
ACTIONS GROUP
MEDIA & MESSAGING GROUP**

hello@xrzerowaste.uk

**NATIONAL DAY
OF ACTION**

DO YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS?

PLEASE SHARE THEM!

hello@xrzerowaste.uk

Q&A

**FEEL FREE TO SEND QUESTIONS &
COMMENTS TO:**

hello@xrzerowaste.uk