Residents Against Richmond Valley Incinerator

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RARVI NEWSLETTER #2 6 AUGUST 2023

Welcome to our Newsletter

RARVI is your local community group committed to taking up the fight to stop a waste incinerator in our community. We are residents from Casino (and other areas in the Northern Rivers) and so we have called ourselves 'Residents Against the Richmond Valley Incinerator' or RARVI. A waste incinerator is also called an Energy from Waste (EfW) facility.

Subscribe

We have received a very popular response to our first newsletter and intend to provide you with informative updates regularly. If you have any particular questions or topics that you would like more information about please let us know and we will try and include them in one of our next newsletters.

If you know people who would like to be on our mailing list they can visit our website *https://norichmondvalleyincinerator.org/* and just scroll to the bottom of the homepage and hit subscribe.

As a group we regularly attend workshops and meetings bringing this important issue to the attention of people in government and other regulatory bodies. We want them to know that we **do not** want a waste incinerator in our community or elsewhere in NSW.

If you have any skills or time please get involved — acting on this issue together is the only way we can stop this happening! We would like to do more rallies, offer more workshops and attend as many local meetings as possible. Please contact us at *info@norichmondvalleyincinerator.org* if you would like to invite us to speak to a group near you.

Campaign Update

The collection of signatures for the Richmond Vally Council and Legislative Assembly petitions are going well (see Newsletter #1). Volunteers have set up in various locations around the Casino CBD and we've had a very strong response against a waste incinerator with more than 150 signatures collected. Lismore groups are circulating them in popular venues in Lismore. If you think you are able to collect signatures in groups you are involved with just contact us. We always need more volunteers so let us know if you can help - we provide training, materials and support.

Information Links



RARVI
www.facebook.com/groups/norichmondvalleyincinerator

NO RICHMOND VALLEY INCINERATOR
https://norichmondvalleyincinerator.org/

FAQ'S ABOUT WASTE INCINERATION
https://norichmondvalleyincinerator.org/frequently-asked-questions/

CONTACT US
info@norichmondvalleyincinerator.org

LANDLINE

SERIES 2023
Showcases eco friendly bioplastic packaging materials developed in Australia https://iview.abc.net.au/video/RF2304Q024S00

1

WAR ON WASTE

Have you watched this informative series on https://iview.abc.net.au/show/war-on-waste looking at the difficult decisions in reducing our waste particularly of plastic.

2

A PLASTIC OCEAN

This movie shows a team of international scientists revealing the causes/consequences of plastic pollution and sharing solutions.

3

RECYCLING ANIMATION

An excellent little animation about home recycling we can all adopt.

https://www.youtube.com/

4

OPPOSITION TO WASTE INCINERATORS GROWS

NSW Country Women's Association (CWA) successfully voted at its AGM in May 2023 to oppose energy from waste incinerators. Lismore MP Janelle Saffin said the Tabulam CWA branch successfully put forward the motion "to adopt a policy to advocate for the NSW Government to rescind its decision to establish waste to energy incinerators and instead immediately introduce technology and waste reduction programs that use methods that minimise greenhouse gas emissions". See the full story here lismorecitynews.com.au/story/8197034/the-cwa-says-no-to-waste-incinerators/ and https://www.echo.net.au/2023/05/cwa-calls-for-nsw-govt-to-reject-waste-to-energy-incinerators/

Western Sydney successfully said no as well! As a result the NSW Government made changes to the planning system to ban the development of thermal energy from waste (EfW) facilities across Greater Sydney (with limited exceptions) owing to air pollution impacts. The changes ban potential operators of EfW facilities from obtaining an environmental protection license to operate the facility except in four nominated regional areas, one of these is the Richmond Valley Regional Jobs Precinct area proposed for Casino. The limited exceptions are as a Special Activation Precinct, a Regional Jobs Precinct, a former mine premises or a former thermal electricity generation premises. https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/assess-and-regulate/state-significant-projects/energy-from-waste

Norfolk Island found waste incineration wasn't for them! In 2009 a high temperature incinerator was built on Norfolk Island to burn waste. This process was phased out is November 2022, largely to protect the island's marine environment. https://www.governmentnews.com.au/how-norfolk-island-is-solving-its-waste-dilemma/ We think our local industry and environment are just as important as Norfolk's marine environment - let's protect our beef and dairy industries, our cropping and organic produce industries. We cannot make this same expensive mistake - the cost is too high.

And overseas in England - the small country town of Consett in the county of Durham in England rejected plans for a controversial incinerator also. Consett has a population of roughly 25,000 (which is a population size between Lismore and Casino) . Project Genesis lodged plans for a renwable energy centre on land at Hownsgill Industrial Estate, near Delves Lane, in Consett. Durham County Council had rejected the proposal, but an appeal from the developer resulted in a public inquiry last year. On June 26, 2023 it was confirmed the proposal had been refused by the Secretary of State. This was a genuine victory for the Consett community's "Say No" campaign and in our community of Casino (and surrounds) we continue to "Say No" too! See the article here https://www.chroniclelive.co.uk/news/north-east-news/government-rejects-plans-incinerator-consett-27203149



10 REASONS WHY WASTE FOR ENERGY INCINERATORS ARE A VERY BAD IDEA FOR OUR COMMUNITY

1. Releases toxic air pollutants

Waste incinerators produce large amounts of toxic air pollution that impact on the environment and human health. These emissions include highly toxic and carcinogenic persistent organic pollutants.

2. Produces toxic ash

Waste incinerators all generate ash that is contaminated with toxic heavy metals and other pollutants. There is no market for incinerator ash and it must be disposed of to landfill. The levels of contamination vary according to the waste burned, the process used and configuration of the pollution controls on the smoke stack but all solid and air emissions contain contaminants, many of which can be at a level that can impact on human health and the environment depending on the disposal method and exposure.

3. Dirtiest form of energy production

Waste incinerators have re-branded themselves as ‘green’ energy suppliers. The reality is that burning waste is the dirtiest form of energy generation both in toxic emissions and climate change gases.

4. Destroys embedded energy

Waste incinerators destroy the resources contained in waste including the embedded energy. This energy is lost when a discarded product is burned in an incinerator and the whole cycle must begin again. Most of this energy is retained when the discarded product is recycled or reused.

5. Undermines recycling efforts

Waste incinerators use the highest calorific value fuels available to burn as this increases the efficiency of their energy. Unfortunately these high calorific value wastes are also highly valued for recycling. These include plastics, paper, wood- waste and cardboard. By competing for the same materials as recycling operations incinerators undermine the recycling sector.

10 REASONS WHY WASTE FOR ENERGY INCINERATORS ARE A VERY BAD IDEA FOR OUR COMMUNITY

6. Destroys resources

When a discarded product is burned it is converted to energy, toxic emissions and contaminated ash. The discard is destroyed forever and the energy intensive process of material extraction, refining, manufacture and transport must be repeated to replace that product. The alternative of recycling and re-use of such materials retains most of that embedded energy and reduces the inputs to the production and consumption cycle.

7. Stifles innovation

Waste incinerators require waste supply contracts of 25-30 years to become financially viable and to ensure their fuel supply. This means that local governments must supply the incinerators with a steady flow of waste at an agreed volume for that period of time. If the waste stream is locked for decades, alternative waste treatment technologies including recycling, re-use, composting and anaerobic digestion are effectively stymied. This is a significant barrier to achieving sustainability as new developments in environmentally friendly technology are prevented from accessing the resources.

8. Waste incineration costs jobs

Waste incinerators are expensive, computer controlled, largely automated technology that only require a small workforce to operate. Waste management systems that use recycling, re-use, composting and anaerobic digestion generate many more jobs and far outstrip the few positions required to run an incinerator.

9. Waste incineration undermines real renewable energy

Waste incinerators are expensive to build, operate and upgrade and require public subsidies to become financially viable. By claiming to produce ‘green’ energy incinerator operators can obtain public subsidies, credits, tax breaks and transferable benefits that should be spent on assisting real ‘green’ energy projects to establish such as wind, wave and solar power.

10. Entrenches a linear economy

Waste incineration entrenches a linear economy in our society that relies on the extraction of virgin materials and rewards consumptive and wasteful lifestyle choices. Our society needs to transition as soon as possible to a circular economy where resources are not destroyed through landfills or incineration but rather are conserved through reuse, recycling and composting schemes generally known as Zero Waste Solutions.

For more detailed information and references see the full article here *https://norichmondvalleyincinerator.org/10-reasons/*