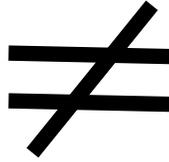
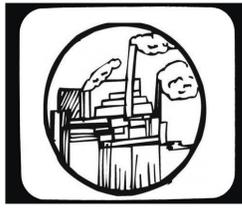


**Don't Trash Renewable Energy in Maryland!**  
**Oppose House Bill 1121 and Senate Bill 690**  
Burning trash is NOT the same as wind, solar and geothermal energy



**1. Qualifying waste combustion as a Tier 1 renewable would dilute MD's Renewable Portfolio Standard.** Burning trash competes with legitimate renewable energy such as wind and solar. HB 1121 and SB 690 would dilute the standard and negate the impact of the RPS in driving the development of renewable energy. If this bill passes, incinerators will flood Maryland's RPS, and the RPS will not do its job of encouraging development of new solar or wind power. Financial subsidies to incineration would undermine less expensive, more sustainable approaches to waste reduction and energy generation.

**2. Waste incinerators are the most expensive form of energy generation.** According to the US Energy Information Administration, the capital costs for waste incinerators are 60% more than nuclear power, and over twice that of coal. Operating and maintenance costs of WTE plants are four times more than nuclear power and ten times more than coal power plants.

**3. Waste incinerators undermine efforts to fight climate change.** According to the US EPA, incineration produces more CO<sub>2</sub> per megawatt hour than any other form of power generation, including coal, the dirtiest fossil fuel. Incineration emits nearly 25% more CO<sub>2</sub> per unit of electricity than coal (WTE: 2988 lbs/MWh CO<sub>2</sub> compared with coal: 2249 lbs/MWh CO<sub>2</sub>).

**4. Waste incinerators do not generate renewable energy.** Maryland's garbage incinerators burn enormous quantities of recyclable and compostable materials. They compete directly with new recycling, composting and anaerobic digestion systems. In Frederick County, plans for an anaerobic digestion facility that would handle food scraps and generate energy for greenhouse food production has been halted due to the planned incinerator. Anaerobic digestion is a legitimate Tier 1 renewable.

**5. Waste incinerators are not energy-efficient.** Recycling a ton of material saves far more energy than burning generates.

**6. Waste incinerators need trash and undermine more cost-effective waste prevention, recycling and composting programs that can significantly reduce landfill demand.** The Frederick County 1,500 ton-per-day incinerator is slated to cost \$500+ million; a similarly sized recycling facility in Elk Ridge required an investment under \$20 million.

**7. Waste incinerators create one-tenth as many jobs as recycling, on a ton-by-ton basis.** Over 90% of materials disposed in US incinerators and landfills can be readily recycled or composted. If the US were to recycle 75% of its discarded materials, over 1.5 million new jobs could be created.

**8. Waste incinerators pollute.** All incinerators release pollutants through air and ash emissions. These include acid gases, particulate matter, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, metals, dioxins and furans, and at least 190 volatile organic compounds. Garbage in, garbage out. **Pollutants that don't go up the smoke stack wind up in the ash.** Incinerator operators do not continuously monitor their stack emissions for the most toxic pollutants, such as mercury, lead, dioxins, and PCBs.

**9. Waste incinerators regularly exceed emission limits, despite new pollution control technologies.** In the last year:

- A Wheelabrator incinerator in Saugus, MA, faced allegations of violations discharging hazardous chemicals into the air and water, spurring an investigation by the MA Attorney General.
- A Covanta incinerator in CT was shut down for excessive dioxin emissions, and sued by the CT Attorney General.
- A Covanta incinerator in Newark, NJ, was forced to settle a court case brought by local community groups after they revealed that the facility had committed hundreds of violations of the Clean Air Act.

**10. Waste incinerators are widely opposed.** Massachusetts recently upheld its moratorium on building new incinerators. The Sierra Club, the Natural Resources Defense Council, Friends of the Earth, and 130 other organizations have signed a statement calling for no incentives for incinerators.