

Qualify support for the Edmonton Energy from Waste plant

Proposer: Councillor Dana Carlin

Seconded: Councillor Sarah Williams

Council notes that:

- Haringey has declared a Climate Emergency, and has committed to becoming net-zero carbon by 2041;
- Despite extensive consultation and engagement with local communities (including a community roadshow in St Anne's library on 17 November 2021) there is still considerable community concern about the Energy from Waste plant;
- The new Energy Recovery Facility (ERF) has been allocated £683m in funding;
- Incinerators can be far more polluting than even coal-fired power plants, for example releasing 2.5 times as much CO₂ and three times as much nitrous oxides. Unlike any other UK Energy from Waste facility, the new ERF will use proven technology called 'Selective Catalytic Reduction' (SCR) to reduce NOx emissions. This is the most effective technology in the world for controlling NOx and is used by some of the world's cleanest Energy from Waste plants, including Denmark. It will be the only facility in the UK that uses 'wet/dry scrubbers' in addition to 'baghouse filters' to control acidic gases, dioxins, and particulates. The application of SCR technology will mean the new plant will operate at 60% below emissions targets stipulated by the EU;
- There have been extensive feasibility-planning and design and business-case work undertaken on the inclusion of Carbon Capture Use and Storage. A timeline for the inclusion of the technology reveals it can be an integral part of the facility by mid-2030s;
- In 2019/20, Haringey had a recycling rate of just 31.2%, down from 37% in 2014/15;
- The London Assembly noted in February 2018 that incinerators can negatively affect long-term recycling rates, but the independent think tank Policy Connect investigated and rejected the claim that incineration impedes recycling, concluding that there is simply no evidence to back it up;
- 10,000 premature deaths are already linked to poor air quality each year in London, and 98% of the city's schools are in areas where air pollution exceeds World Health Organisation limits;
- Continued exposure to excessive levels of air pollution has been shown to stunt lung growth in children and worsen chronic diseases. However a recent study headed by Imperial College concluded that there is no evidence of negative impacts on a range of birth outcomes from current Energy from Waste plants. Emissions from the Edmonton plant will be far lower than the majority of plants considered in this study.

Council believes that:

- Industrialised nations like the United Kingdom have a responsibility to reduce their carbon emissions more drastically than developing countries;
- Continuation of the Energy from Waste project is compatible with both Haringey's and the UK's carbon reduction goals, as the facility will produce Energy from Waste thus reducing reliance on fossil fuels and diverting waste from landfill or export abroad;

- The future of our country must rely on a circular economy, with an increased focus on reducing waste and on recycling, ensuring we achieve the Mayor of London's target of 50% by 2030;

Council resolves to:

- Write to the Chair of the North London Waste Authority (NLWA) asking for their response to the call to 'pause and reconsider' concerning the Energy Recovery Facility;
- Ask the NLWA to investigate including carbon capture sooner than 2030s;
- Together with other North London boroughs, set up a forum to work with local communities to discuss the future of waste disposal with a focus on the concerns regarding the Edmonton facility and methods for increasing recycling rates;
- Work with partners, including environmental campaigners, and the North London Waste Authority to produce a "less waste, more circular" reuse and recycling programme which aims to achieve a 65% and better recycling rate by the mid-2030s.;
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