

Motion E

Work with the NLWA and our communities to ensure the Edmonton Energy Recovery Facility meets the highest environmental standards

Proposer: Councillor Peray Ahmet

Seconder: Councillor Emine Ibrahim

Council notes that:

- Haringey has declared a Climate Emergency, and has committed to becoming net-zero carbon by 2041;
- There has been some initial engagement with residents by the Council and the North London Waste Authority (NLWA), including a formal consultation in 2015, a community roadshow in St Anne's library in November 2021, and a roundtable with environmental campaigners in December 2021;
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- The North London Heat and Power Project, including the new energy recovery facility (ERF) and new recycling infrastructure will cost £1.22bn (in line with the programme budget). Haringey and the other boroughs will pay for this through the annual levy which is expected to increase to pay for the modern, better facilities. Residents will therefore rightly expect thorough and transparent fiscal accountability; There have been feasibility-planning, design and business case work undertaken on the inclusion of Carbon Capture Use and Storage. The NLWA has put forward a timeline for the inclusion of the technology which states it can be implemented by mid-2030s;
- In 2020/21, Haringey had a recycling rate of just 31.2%, down from 37.4% in 2014/15, which is unsustainably low;
- The London Assembly noted in February 2018 that incinerators can negatively affect long-term recycling rates, but Haringey is strongly committed to, at the very minimum, meeting the Mayor of London's 50% local authority recycling rate by 2030;
- 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;

- Studies show that continued exposure to excessive levels of air pollution stunts lung growth in children and worsens chronic diseases. Evidence on the links between incineration and birth outcomes is inconclusive and requires further study. Emissions from the new Edmonton plant will be far lower than those from plants considered in recent studies, as well as much lower than the plant that is currently in place;
- The immediate community surrounding the Edmonton site live in one of the most deprived wards in Enfield, with a large Black Asian and Minority Ethnic population who are already more likely to suffer poorer than average health outcomes due to a number of socioeconomic disadvantages and systemic inequality. This is compounded by proximity to the North Circular (A406), which has one of the highest levels of air pollution in the country;

The Leader of Haringey Council wrote to the NLWA to request they consider a pause and review of the project in order to investigate the possibility of implementing Carbon Capture technology sooner, and to work more closely with the council and Haringey residents to improve local recycling rates and create a more circular economy. Council believes that:

- Industrialised nations like the United Kingdom have a responsibility to reduce their carbon emissions more drastically than developing countries;
- There is no current good alternative to burning non-recyclable waste at the volumes North London produces;
- The future of our country must rely on a circular economy, with an increased focus on reducing waste and increasing recycling; it is Haringey's ambition to, at a minimum, meet the Mayor of London's target of 65% municipal recycling rate and 50% local authority recycling rate by 2030;
- The Council continues to work with the NLWA and trade unions to ensure that the socioeconomic and environmental benefits of the scheme are successful. This includes good local jobs and apprenticeships; the Energy from Waste generated by the plant which will supply heat and electricity to local homes and be part of our move away from burning fossil fuels; and new and improved recycling facilities.

Council resolves to:

- Continue to insist that the NLWA accelerate the Carbon Capture and Storage element of the plans, and lobby other boroughs to do the same;
- In line with the letter sent by the Leader of the Council to the NLWA on 17 January 2022, to work with the NLWA and other relevant parties to ensure the following:
 - That the NLWA work proactively with elected members and residents of the boroughs to convene a recycling working group and develop a neighbourhood recycling strategy, the aims of which will be to help Haringey reach the Mayor of London's recycling target of 65% municipal recycling rate and 50% local authority recycling rate by 2030;
 - That the NLWA provide funding to further the aims of the hyper-local schemes devised by the working group, as well as other local non-profit organisations aimed at increasing recycling rates;
 - That the NLWA work with Councils and residents to develop and implement a new Joint Waste Management Strategy for North London which produces a less waste, more circular reuse and recycling programme which minimises the amount of waste we produce whilst maximising the amount we recycle;
 - That the NLWA set up a framework for co-producing an updated Waste Reduction and Recycling Plan;
 - That the NLWA work with the Council to continue to ensure the maximisation of the social value (i.e. good jobs and apprenticeships) and value for money for Haringey residents;
 - That the NLWA work with the council to address the concerns of the immediate community, monitor any impact that the plant (including its construction) may have on the quality of life of the residents, and undertake a significant greening strategy that will improve the lives of the residents, whose quality of life is already heavily impacted by living near to the A406;
 - That the NLWA work with the Council and other authorities to run a specific campaign aimed at dramatically reducing the sale and use of plastic packaging.
- Begin a conversation across London Local Government on methods to address the democratic and accountability

challenges presented by the historic establishment of the waste authority arrangements that followed the abolition of the Greater London Council.