

Fenland & West Norfolk Friends of the Earth is a local grassroots environmental campaigning community. We come from many different walks of life and share a deep concern that the natural world and the wellbeing of everyone in it is protected.

We believe that the proposed Wisbech incinerator, far from being a solution to the problem of waste and its disposal, would in fact add to our problems and would be detrimental to the local environment and potentially to human health.

We have been impressed by the scientific evidence that is being presented in opposition to the incinerator and hope that this and the views of local people will be given the weight they deserve. We would therefore like to submit, in their own words, the following concerns of some residents of Fenland and West Norfolk who are members or are in contact with us:

"Our roads are already congested. The thought of hundreds of extra lorries carrying goodness knows what every day, the risk of accidents, the health hazards and the pollution they will cause ferrying waste to the incinerator if it is built is extremely worrying." Alastair Kent

"I have serious concerns about the release of toxic chemicals and particulates into the air above Wisbech. We need less air pollution, not more. And what about the release of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere? Why is there no carbon capture incorporated into the design?" Karen Fleming

"My concern is that burning non-recyclable waste including plastic will result in carbon emission increase and fumes and airborne particles that are harmful to health and ecology.

Burning non-recyclable waste is a terrible solution to waste disposal. More effort into recycling and waste reduction must surely be the way to go." Cliff Goodman

"I am worried over the impact the Wisbech incinerator will have on the local community, the air that we breathe, the detrimental effects on the bird population which have been noted on other incinerator sites. I'm unsure what positive effects this will have for the local community." Local resident

"Waste management should not be viewed as merely disposing of waste in the simplest manner by sending waste to an incineration facility. Besides being costly, this creates long-term environmental and health concerns. We should be focusing on trying to develop ways of eliminating or minimising the generation of waste at its source and recycling this waste "resource" wherever possible. Incineration is a disincentive to everyone to minimise their waste in the first place and to recycling generally." Linda Brady

"Waste is not waste but a valuable resource. Mega size incinerators are costly to build, and therefore once up and running need to be kept 'fed'. This means that the incentive is to push waste in this direction and in addition to bring in waste from elsewhere to keep the 'beast' fed. The short term benefits of generating energy from waste are far outweighed by the negative impacts on the environment and the public. The money would be better utilised by installing renewable energy facilities." Robert Brady

"I am extremely concerned about the potential effects of the proposed incinerator on the health of local children. I have two grandchildren who live and go to school downwind of the site, eat home-grown vegetables and enjoy out of school activities in Wisbech itself. Surely they have a right to breathe clean air and eat food grown in soil free from contaminants. Should we not apply the precautionary principle given that we are in the midst of an ecological crisis?" Brenda Kent

To sum up the specific concerns raised above, they encompass traffic congestion and the increased risk of accidents, release of toxic chemicals and the pollution of air and soil, harm to the local ecology including birds, release of carbon dioxide, the disincentive to recycling and the waste of a valuable resource.

Brenda Kent (Fenland & West Norfolk Friends of the Earth Local Group Coordinator)