

# Would These Incinerators Affect Our Health?

Evidence was presented to both the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and An Bord Pleanála Oral Hearings that:

- Incinerators do affect health ~ Increasing congenital disorders, cleft palates, liver damage, middle ear infections, behavioural problems, immune deficiencies, hormone disruption, and cancers.
- Researchers have found that even emission levels within legal limits are damaging people's health, particularly children's health.
- No medical evidence has been offered by Indaver, An Bord Pleanála, or the EPA to deny these research findings.
- It costs on average over €5000 per week to care for a cancer in-patient in Cork University Hospital (info from HSE) ~ not including GP, out-patient, hospice, home help and other costs – or the heartbreak and trauma with each and every case.
- There is no baseline health data for Cork Harbour against which to measure the effects of the incinerators.
- Nobody is looking after our Health ~ not the EPA, not the Health and Safety Authority, not the Health Boards, not the Dept. or Minister for Health ~ NO ONE!

## Who is Most at Risk?

EVERYONE living within a 40 mile area around the site! Most severely affected would be those in the invisible wind streams coming from the incinerator chimney stack. And there will always be the possibility of accidents.

Children are 25 times more seriously affected than adults. And breast feeding babies and the developing foetus are particularly vulnerable.

## What about our food & farms?

Incinerators are licensed to pollute and the tiny pollution particles fall out of the air onto our land and water. These pollutants accumulate up the food chain. Humans, at the top of the food chain, are most at risk.

If incinerators are built, Ireland will no longer have clean, safe food, either for ourselves or for export to the more polluted industrial countries of the world.

## What about our jobs?

A clean, incinerator-free environment is more likely to attract clean jobs. Our industry has insufficient waste for a toxic waste incinerator and industrial jobs are *not* at risk because we do not have one (EPA oral hearing).

And our tourism and agri-food jobs could suffer if we lose the advantage of a clean environment. Irish agri-foods exports are worth €7bn ~ international tourism is worth €4bn. The Belgian "dioxin scare" of 1999 cost that country €465 million.

## Is this Good Planning for Cork?

- Incineration in Ringaskiddy is contrary to the Cork Area Strategic Plan, which designates the Lower Harbour area for tourism, leisure and water-based activities.
- It contravenes the Cork County Development Plan. Cork County Councillors supported the Development Plan and voted against incineration.
- 30,000 people objected to the application, and Cork County Council refused planning permission.
- On appeal, An Bord Pleanála inspector, Mr. Philip Jones, recommended refusal of permission on 14 planning grounds. Despite this the Board granted planning permission.
- The site itself fails the World Health Organisation criteria for site selection. Because of its "topography, climatic conditions, geological and hydrogeological characteristics, and the risk of erosion and flooding, it is fundamentally unsuitable for the proposed development" (Bord Pleanála inspector).
- The plant could pose a threat to public safety in the event of a major accident (Bord Pleanála inspector).
- A High Court Judge has given leave for a Judicial Review of the planning application process, recognising that local residents have "substantial grounds" for a review.

## What Will They Do With the Ash?

We don't know. Many countries with incinerators (Japan, Denmark, Sweden, for example) have major problems disposing of their hazardous ash, which can be up to 33% of the volume of the waste burnt and needs special hazardous landfill facilities.

## How Would It Affect Our Roads?

Lorries would bring TOXIC WASTE from all over Ireland, converging at the Jack Lynch Tunnel. Some Cork waste would travel these roads twice, going to Dublin for blending before coming back to Cork for incineration. Should these roads take this extra, heavy, hazardous traffic ~ about 150 trucks a day?

## Are There Any Benefits For Us?

NO! The Indaver Ringaskiddy incinerators would operate for Belgian profit while local people pay with:

- ~ Our health and our children's health.
- ~ Our harbour, no longer available for cleaner uses.
- ~ Our wallets, as house prices most likely fall and health and bin charges go up.
- ~ Our environment, clean air, water, soil and food.
- ~ Our finite raw materials which should not be incinerated but, instead, conserved, re-used and recycled.

## But are There Alternatives? Yes!

New Zealand, Canberra and Nova Scotia have rejected the incineration option. Instead their governments have made a conscious decision to systematically adopt waste SEPARATION, REDUCTION, REUSE and RECYCLING.

They have discovered that this really does cope with their waste, and that it also:

- ~ Creates jobs and attracts clean industry.
- ~ Creates wealth within local communities.
- ~ Conserves the earth's raw materials.
- ~ Saves money on expensive tipping fees.
- ~ Creates a clean healthy place for living in.

## Can We Do It? - Yes We Can!

*But to avoid incineration we must all play our part.*

**GOVERNMENT** can take a lead role by making a serious commitment to waste prevention and reduction. They can create the legislative framework within which everyone else can work towards waste minimisation – banning non bio-degradable packaging, for example.

**LOCAL COUNCILS** can help make waste reduction and recycling easier, with plenty of well-serviced bring sites, kerbside collections, infrastructure and helplines.

**INDUSTRY** can consider the disposal of their products from the outset, and design products for easy mending, recycling and minimum waste.

**RESEARCHERS** can develop and advise on less toxic products, low-waste processes and new uses for waste materials.

**YOU AND I** can shop for less packaging, start a compost bin, recycle carefully, and refuse to buy products that can't be repaired, re-used, composted or recycled.

## What About What Can't Be Recycled?

In other countries, residual waste that can't be reclaimed in any way is biologically treated and landfilled safely. With proper minimisation and separation of waste streams (glass, cardboard, etc.) and with removal of all organic waste, residual waste to landfill can be reduced significantly, with minimum leachate, methane and smells. Quantities to landfill are much smaller and less toxic, which makes far more sense than burying thousands of tonnes of toxic ash from incinerators.

Sources: EPA and Bord Pleanala Oral Hearing Proceedings, Southern Health Board (Strategy & Planning Dept), Cool Waste Management (Wales), Dr. Paul Connett, Dr. Anthony Staines, Dr. Gavin ten Tusscher, Dr. Vyvyan Howard.

**Please Join Our Campaign Now!**

## We Need Your Help Now!

The incinerator company, Indaver Ireland, has the money and the political backing ~ community groups have people power.

This issue is far too serious to leave to anyone else.

- ~ Learn about incineration and the alternatives.
- ~ Consult the CHASE website.
- ~ Invite a speaker to your group or club.
- ~ Distribute leaflets.
- ~ Put a poster on your gate.
- ~ Write to the papers, TDs, Councillors, Ministers.
- ~ Run an awareness event or fundraiser, or just attend one.
- ~ Go on our e-mail list and keep up-to-date.
- ~ Join your local CHASE group or form a new one.

### Too Busy to Get Involved?

Please take the time to make a donation, or sign a standing order to assist with the campaign.

Donations can be made to:

CHASE, AIB Bank, Carrigaline, Co. Cork.

Account No: 025 360 94 Sort Code: 93 43 13

CHASE is an alliance of groups dedicated to protecting the health of their communities & safeguarding the Cork Harbour environment for future generations.

There are groups in Carrigaline, Cobh, Cork, Crosshaven, Douglas, Kinsale, Middleton, Youghal Monkstown/Passage/Glenbrook and Ringaskiddy.

### CONTACT US

CHASE, Bishop's Road, Cobh, Co. Cork

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### VISIT OUR WEBSITE

For News & Views, Questions & Answers, Articles & Fact Sheets, Newsletters ...

[www.chaseireland.org](http://www.chaseireland.org)

# CHASE

Cork Harbour Alliance for a  
Safe Environment

## Two Incinerators for Cork Harbour

Toxic & Household

## What Would This Mean for You?



*Toxic metals, ash and dioxins can be carried  
30 - 40 miles in the wind, contaminating  
air, soil, water and farm land.*