



## The Burning Issue

In recent weeks the debate over incineration has been well-and-truly back in the spotlight:

- The EPA has granted licences for TWO incinerators at Ringaskiddy – one for hazardous and industrial waste, and one for domestic waste (Nov 2005). That's 215,260 tonnes of waste!
- Indaver is applying for a 33% increase in the size of its proposed incinerator in Co. Meath, before building has even begun (Jan 2006).
- It has been revealed that after strong lobbying by Indaver, planning regulations have been changed to allow incinerators to accept waste from outside their own regions (IT 16/01/06).
- The Ringaskiddy and District Residents' Association are now seeking leave for a judicial review of the EPA's decision to grant a licence for the two Ringaskiddy incinerators. The case is listed for mention in the High Court on February 13th.
- In January 2005, a High Court judge found that there were "significant grounds" for a judicial review of the planning permission for the Ringaskiddy toxic waste incinerator, and this case is expected to be heard in the near future.

## Public opinion and people power

More and more people are questioning both the wisdom of going down the incineration route and the Government's and State's ability to be responsible for incineration facilities.

In a recent report in the Irish Times (16-01-06), reporter Mark Hennessy revealed that:

"The Department of the Environment spent 18 months trying to find ways to accommodate incinerator company Indaver's objection to rules that prevented the transportation of rubbish over regional boundaries."

Minister Roche subsequently changed the rules and facilitated the company. This is despite the fact that three consecutive Environment Ministers (Dempsey, Cullen, Roche) were unable to meet with CHASE, arguing that they were specifically excluded from interfering with or influencing the planning process.

CHASE believes this fundamentally questions the Minister's ability to do his job in an impartial manner and has called for his resignation.

In the words of a recent editorial in the Irish Examiner (05/01/06):

"We have shown that we can lead in environmental matters [smoking ban, plastic bag levy] and we should have the confidence to consider carefully the broader ramifications of waste disposal, so that the practices we implement are in the best interest of the Irish people.

We should consider this not just from an economic standpoint, but more importantly from a health perspective, in the full knowledge that the most healthy practices will ultimately be the most environmentally friendly".

Information

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

