

# General Election 2007 – Party Policies

This information will be updated on a regular basis to reflect any changes in policy that may apply.

(Sources: Party policy documents, party press officers, and/or party leaders)

Party	Yes or No Incineration	Policy Information	What The Policy Says . . .
<b>Fianna Fail</b>	<b>YES</b> - Thermal Treatment	<a href="#">Fianna Fail Manifesto on Environment</a>	<p><b>Fianna Fail Manifesto – Environment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fianna Fáil believes we should create sustainable energy from waste which cannot be prevented, re-used or recycled.</li> </ul> <p>[Energy-from-Waste is simply an alternative term for incineration.]</p>
<b>Fine Gael</b>	<b>NO</b> Incineration	<a href="#">Fine Gael Manifesto</a>	<p><b>Fine Gael Manifesto</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We will recognise that incinerators work against efforts to encourage the reduction, reusing and recycling of waste and concentrate on reaching European levels of recycling as our main priority.</li> </ul> <p>[Also, in a personal communication to CHASE, party leader Enda Kenny has confirmed that incineration is NOT on the Fine Gael agenda.]</p>
<b>Green Party</b>	<b>NO</b> Incineration	<a href="#">Towards a Zero Waste Society</a>	<p><b>Green Party Policy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Green Party will look for a 10 year moratorium on the building of any new incinerators if in Government.</li> <li>The Green Party is opposed to incineration as a response to our waste crisis. Unlike many other European countries, Ireland does not yet use municipal waste incineration as a method of waste disposal. The Green Party believes that if this country is to embrace incineration, it will be damaging to us as a nation.</li> <li>Rather than investing in expensive resource-destruction technologies, the Irish Government needs to adopt a more sustainable approach to the recovery of materials for re-use or recycling.</li> </ul>
<b>Labour Party</b>	<b>NO</b> Incineration	<p><a href="#">Labour Manifesto (environment)</a></p> <p><a href="#">See also <i>Cleaning Up Our Act</i>, p.22.</a></p>	<p><b>Labour Manifesto</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The outgoing government has primarily focused on the problem of disposal, and has made the choice to divert waste to local incinerators. However, incinerators can have negative environmental and public health impacts, which is why they are rarely welcomed by local communities. Dressing incineration up as 'Energy from Waste' does not make it any more palatable. Burning municipal (or 'wet and dry') waste is an extremely inefficient way of generating energy. Furthermore, these incinerators need be 'fed' to guarantee the electricity they do produce, thereby doing away with incentives to recycle or cut down on waste.</li> <li>Simply cutting down on waste reduces or even eliminates the need for unsightly landfill and unwanted incinerators. We can legislate to cut down on non-biodegradable packaging and make it easier for householders to recycle as much of their waste as possible.</li> </ul>

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<b>Progressive Democrats</b>	<b>Unclear</b>	<a href="#">Progressive Democrats Manifesto 2007</a>  <a href="#">An Agreed Programme for Government Between Fianna Fáil and The Progressive Democrats (June 2002).</a>	<p><b>Progressive Democrats Manifesto</b></p> <p>In government, the PDs will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resist mass burn incineration of unsegregated waste - which gives rise to toxic emissions and residual ash, conflicts with long-term strategies to cut waste volumes by recycling and reduction, requires huge scale to operate efficiently and generates large volumes of traffic. Ireland must take advantage of innovation in the waste industry to deal with waste without recourse to mass-burn incineration.</li> </ul> <p>[Prior to publication of the above manifesto, the programme for government for the current FF/PD government includes provision for 'thermal treatment' (that is, incineration).]</p>
<b>Sinn Fein</b>	<b>NO</b> Incineration	<a href="#">Towards Zero Waste</a>  <a href="#">The Way Forward</a>	<p>Any waste management strategy must have guiding principles. These principles must be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No incineration.</li> <li>Phase out landfill.</li> <li>An all Ireland Waste Strategy.</li> <li>Consultation with, and inclusion of local communities.</li> <li>Waste Strategies must be a reserve function of local authorities.</li> </ul> <p>See policy documents in previous column.</p>