Eg Haringey Labour Climate Action (HLCA)

Email address for responses

28th July 2021

Dear Councillors/Council Leader/Chief Executive

At the AGM of the North London Waste Authority on 24 June 2021 13 delegations raised detailed and varied objections to the plans for the new Energy from Waste Plant/Incinerator NLWA proposes for Edmonton. Their view is that the new plant is too large and expensive and inappropriate given plans to improve both recycling (ie the Government’s Deposit Return Scheme) and air quality. Given the scale of the project and the strength of the objections raised we feel that it is vital that local politicians have short summaries of the issues raised, particularly the NLWA Board members.

HLCA members are concerned that the Energy from Waste plant (incinerator), now estimated to cost £600m of the full £1.2bn Eco Park project, paid for by residents in the 7 NLWA boroughs will result in overprovision of incineration facilities in London and risk it becoming an economic white-elephant.

Technology now exists that can sort over 50% of plastic, glass, metal and cardboard from the residual (black-bag) waste stream. The Edmonton site will have room for such plant to be fitted. This could greatly reduce the amount of waste that needs burning, enabling a smaller plant to be considered. In addition, new product responsibility and recycling policies are likely to significantly reduce the amount of plastic in our waste.

NLWA explain that their plans are to burn residual waste to provide heat and electricity for use locally, but this is not the primary purpose of the incinerator, which is to dispose of North London’s ‘waste’ that cannot be disposed of or reused in any other way. A plant that was too large would need to import waste, with many negative implications. A smaller plant would be cheaper and with lower direct carbon and pollutants. Heat and electricity needed locally, eg for Meridian Water should only be a last resort, as buildings there can use electricity from the Grid which is lower carbon than the electricity from the incinerator. These points are especially important given the new Government target for a 78% cut in carbon emissions by 2035.

We call upon the Cabinet of Haringey Council and its Chief Executive, to advise our representatives on NLWA to request that the current plan for the proposed Energy from Waste plant be reassessed, based on changes since the original plan was approved, as covered by the attached briefings and direction of Labour policies below.

In solidarity

[Haringey Labour Climate Action Group](https://www.hornseywoodgreenlabour.org.uk/haringey-labour-climate-action/)

**APPENDIX FOR LABOUR POLITICIANS ON EMERGING LABOUR POLICIES**

1. **Motion proposed by Islington North at the London Labour Regional Conference 24th July**

**Environment – The Edmonton Incinerator**• This CLP calls on London Region to demand a pause and independent review of the planned 30 per cent expansion of waste incineration for north London.
• These plans were developed during 2013-15 to fit with the policies of then Mayor Boris Johnson.
• Expansion is unnecessary – the plant would burn up to 700,000 tonnes of rubbish each year while the Mayor’s office now predicts surplus incineration capacity of 950,000 tonnes for London.
• The incinerator would emit huge amounts of greenhouse gases for over 30 years.
• Running costs, maximising income and the overcapacity would incentivise the incineration of waste that could be recycled. 60% of Islington’s black bag rubbish is recyclable.
• The incinerator would be sited in the most deprived part of Enfield and add to lethal air pollution.
• The incinerator would cost £600 million, which could be spent on green jobs and a just transition to a more sustainable future.
• We should instead be reducing waste and increasing recycling, while using less damaging ways to deal with the smaller amount of waste that would remain.
• Labour nationally says “we must recognise that the age of incinerators is over” and we “need to improve and expand recycling infrastructure to replace incineration”, creating 5000 jobs.
• This incinerator is not consistent with the UKs climate emergency declaration nor its approach of insulating homes and providing heat and power from carbon-free sources.
• We urge the Labour Party to find truly sustainable strategies to deal with waste.

Note similar motions have been passed at Hornsey and Wood Green and Tottenham CLPs.

1. **Statement by Sadiq Khan**

Sadiq Khan said: “I have been clear London is facing a climate emergency and will continue to oppose new incineration in London. “*I have no power to pause the scheme but I am now focused on ensuring this facility minimises its local and social impact and only manages truly non-recyclable waste*.” <https://walthamforestecho.co.uk/mayor-to-meet-incinerator-campaigners/>

1. **Alan Whitehead’s May 20th interview with Encaf Youth**

The waste and incinerator segment <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9zlxcV_a64> is from 20.12mins to 32mins

Alan explains his ‘the age of incineration is over’ statements and he says that this is generally the Labour Party position.

At 29.45mins he discusses how to power District Energy Networks with low carbon (eg Southampton uses Geothermal)

At 30.20mns he says that there should be an incineration tax.