



## PRESS RELEASE

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### WASTE AUTHORITY AGM BROUGHT TO ABRUPT HALT BY SINGING PROTESTERS

- North London Waste Authority adjourns chair appointment due to chanting of “Stop! Pause and review!”
- XR Camden cites “obvious reasons for term limits” but chair reappointed for 15th term after protest
- NLWA accused of spreading “misleading greenwash at the worst possible time” regarding CO2 emissions
- Board member admits to high turnover, need for change in way councils appoint to NLWA board
- Ejected protesters chant “end environmental racism!” and call for extraction of plastics from waste stream

**London, 23 June 2022**—Protesters disrupted the annual general meeting of the North London Waste Authority this afternoon as concerned residents in the meeting chamber broke into song, chanting to the tune of the Supremes’ “Stop in the Name of Love”:

Stop! Pause and review!  
Do not elect Clyde Loakes  
Think it o-o-over

The singing followed a “deputation” (presentation) by XR Camden representative Dorothea Hackman to the NLWA board. Hackman had requested that the deputation be heard before the appointment of the NLWA chair, which required the standing orders to be waived. The NLWA board members approved the waiving and allowed her to speak before the appointment.

Hackman stated: “The current chair has been in place for 14 years now. In other bodies, government bodies, 10 years would be the natural limit.”

“The reasons for this are very obvious,” she added. “People become very wedded to decisions that they have made earlier and have difficulty hearing legitimate and evidenced objections and complaints.”

Hackman pointed to NLWA plans for a new waste incinerator in Edmonton as “typical” of previous decisions that require reconsideration. “The incinerator might have seemed like a good idea in 2015 and possibly even in 2017. But now, in 2022, it is not a good idea. And we need you, the North London Waste Authority, to hear this when we come to you with a deputation,” she said.

Hackman said the Stop the Edmonton Incinerator Now coalition was waiting for a response from communities secretary Michael Gove to the campaign’s “very comprehensive” and “heavily evidenced” [letter outlining concerns about NLWA](#). The concerns involve exposure of taxpayers to the high risk of a stranded asset, the misrepresentation of the planned incinerator’s CO2 emissions, and environmental racism.

“Contrary to your claims, landfill would not emit more, but rather half the CO2 [emitted by the Edmonton incinerator]. By the end of its lifetime, the incinerator will have emitted four times more CO2 than landfill would have,” she said. Referring to the climate and ecological emergency, she noted that the comparison was “misleading greenwash at the worst possible time”. Since NLWA reported in 2021 that the alternative to incineration in Edmonton was incineration elsewhere, however, the comparison to landfill was a red herring.

Hackman continued: “We need a mixed-waste sorting facility in Edmonton. This would be for the benefit of a very deprived community who are currently suffering the emissions of the incinerator to the detriment of their health. And that is environmental racism.”

In response to a question from a board member, Carina Millstone, founder of the Stop the Edmonton Incinerator Now campaign, said that the board had not been carrying out its scrutiny function effectively.

NLWA board member Mike Hakata of Haringey defended the NLWA as a “democratic decision-making board” but conceded that high turnover was an issue. “There does need to be a change, just generally, in the way the councils appoint to this board,” he said.

Hackman stressed that time was of the essence: ‘We’re right in the middle of an environmental and climate catastrophe that is happening and we need urgently to reverse the decisions for these appalling infrastructure projects. We have over-provisioned incineration throughout the United Kingdom,’ she said. Unlike England, both Wales and Scotland have placed moratoriums on the expansion of waste incineration.

“Incinerators need to be stopped right away so that the construction does not cause emissions and pollution,” continued Hackman. “This particular piece of infrastructure will cause pollution from now for 50 to 70 years and it is not sensible to wait another year to let it just roll forward. We have to act now.”

When the NLWA managing director aimed to move on to the next agenda item – the appointment of the NLWA chair – the deputies and other observers in the chamber immediately began to chant “Stop! Pause and review!” They continued singing until the meeting was broken up.

In the hallway, the ejected protesters called out “end environmental racism!” and asked for the extraction of plastics from waste stream. They said in unison that for every tonne of plastic extracted from the incineration waste stream, more than 4 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> could be saved. NLWA has no plans to install a pre-sorting facility.

Given the very high likelihood that waste incineration will soon be included in the UK Emission Trading Scheme (ETS), the cost of incineration to taxpayers is expected to be significantly higher than NLWA assessed. In addition to reducing CO<sub>2</sub> and toxic emissions, extracting plastic from the incineration waste stream would help to reduce the incineration costs under an expanded UK ETS.

The current chair, Cllr Clyde Loakes of Waltham Forest, was [reportedly](#) reappointed after the protest. The appointment was not webcast to the public.

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## Links

StEIN press release of 16 June 2022 (‘Campaigners issue litany of concerns to aid Gove investigation of NLWA’): <https://stop-edmonton-incinerator.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/2022-06-16-Campaigners-expect-Gove-investigators-to-scrutinize-concerns-about-NLWA.pdf>

StEIN letter to SoS Gove (‘For DLUHC investigators: issues of concern related to the North London Waste Authority (NLWA)’): [https://stop-edmonton-incinerator.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Letter-to-Michael-Gove\\_sent-12-06-22.pdf](https://stop-edmonton-incinerator.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Letter-to-Michael-Gove_sent-12-06-22.pdf)

StEIN press release of 19 April 2022 (‘Edmonton incinerator data “grossly misleading” or sign of ignorance’): <https://stop-edmonton-incinerator.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/2022-04-19-worse-than-landfill-press-release-2.pdf>

*Islington Tribune*, ‘Gove to look into incinerator authority’s “opaque” accounts’ (see page 6): <https://edition.pagesuite.com/html5/reader/production/default.aspx?pubname=&edid=e097f6c2-8ed9-4588-9aa8-c0e437456292>

Dr Dominic Hogg, ‘Should Incineration Attract Finance from Green Bonds?’: <https://www.dominichogg.com/hoggblog/should-incineration-attract-finance-from-green-bonds>; ‘Should the NLWA Incinerator be Eligible for Green Bonds?’: <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5fac6c36040eba5dc1b46766/t/62582306b13846610205e7dd/1649943305722/Eligibility+of+Incineration+for+Green+Bonds+Final+Version.pdf>

‘A burning issue’, Environmental Finance (paywall): <https://www.environmental-finance.com/content/analysis/a-burning-issue.html>

Public Finance, ‘Waste body “pauses” plans for UK Municipal Bonds Agency issuance’ (paywall): [https://www.publicfinance.co.uk/news/2022/04/waste-body-pauses-plans-uk-municipal-bonds-agency-issuance?utm\\_source=Aedstra&%3Butm\\_medium=email&%3Butm\\_term=](https://www.publicfinance.co.uk/news/2022/04/waste-body-pauses-plans-uk-municipal-bonds-agency-issuance?utm_source=Aedstra&%3Butm_medium=email&%3Butm_term=)

ENDS, ‘Anti-EfW lobby target green bond issued for Edmonton EfW plant’ (registration required): <https://www.endswasteandbioenergy.com/article/1740415/anti-efw-lobby-target-green-bond-issued-edmonton-efw-plant>

Call on UK Municipal Bonds Agency to withdraw ‘green bonds’ for Edmonton incinerator: <https://stop-edmonton-incinerator.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Call-on-UKMBA-to-withdraw-green-bonds-for-Edmonton-incinerator-as-incompatible-with-UK-taxonomy-for-sustainable-finance.pdf>

Basil Clarke, ‘New analysis further undermines case for incinerator rebuild’, Palmers Green Community: <https://www.pgweb.uk/environment/3338-new-analysis-further-undermines-case-for-incinerator-rebuild>