

# Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League

## *Stop Incinerators and Waste-to-Energy Burners*

### **New Incinerator Threats**

Incineration destroys resources and perpetuates pollution of the environment. Older incinerators have been joined by new burners claiming zero emissions and so-called “green” energy from garbage, tires, sewage sludge and biomass from farms and forests. While some of these new incinerator technologies—gasification, plasma-arc, and pyrolysis—claim lower emissions than their predecessors, all of them would have stacks that emit pollution to the environment. Incineration creates contaminants like nitrogen oxide, soot, and dioxins, emits metals like lead, mercury and cadmium, and adds greenhouse gases to the earth’s atmosphere. Additionally, incineration destroys valuable and often irreplaceable resources that can and should be conserved and recycled. The energy required to extract, transport, process and distribute the replacement materials destroyed by incineration far exceeds any energy gained from incineration. Finally, the burden of new investments in waste-to-energy facilities falls on taxpayers through subsidies and fees and on ratepayers in their monthly electric bills, while recycling programs are forced to compete for materials and fail due to lack of financial support.



### **Safe Energy Without Incineration**

The Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League opposes all forms of incineration for either disposal or for energy production.

- We support Zero Waste alternatives such as waste reduction, product reuse, recycling, and composting.
- We support clean production and the reduction of toxics in products that become part of the waste stream.
- We support incentives for energy efficiency and conservation to reduce the demand for more polluting energy facilities.
- For existing contaminated organic wastes, such as sewage sludge, we support research into technologies that do not destroy resources or result in pollution that threatens communities.

### **History and Principles**

The Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League is a regional, grassroots, environmental organization focused on empowering communities to solve local problems with citizen campaigns. Our founding principles are earth stewardship, environmental democracy, social justice, and community empowerment. Since our founding in 1984 to stop the high-level nuclear waste dump targeted for the mountains of North Carolina, we have expanded our work across the state and into Virginia, Tennessee, South Carolina and Georgia. From our first incinerator campaign in 1989, the League and our chapters have successfully blocked hazardous and solid waste incinerators. Our slogan, “not here, not there, not anywhere” reflects our determination to prevent harm to all communities.

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