

Waste incineration derives energy from oil not renewables

Bradely & Volpi, 2001 (Open letter to meps, why waste incineration must be kept out of the draft european renewables directive, 12th June 2001. Rob Bradely, Energy Specialist, Climate Network Europe, Giulio Volpi, Climate Policy Officer, World-Wide Fund for Nature. <http://www.climnet.org/pubs/nowaste.html>)

· Waste incineration is not a renewable energy source!

Household waste contains all sorts of products, both biodegradable (such as paper, waste food) and non-biodegradable (plastic, PVC, etc.) The non-biodegradable portion that generates energy is almost all derived from oil. In other words, it's fossil fuel energy, not renewables.

Some countries have tried to maintain the fiction that if biodegradable wastes are half of the household waste by weight, they must be providing half the energy, and that this can be counted as renewable. This is absurd: much of this biodegradable material is wet vegetables and the like, which actually absorb energy from incineration, not release it.

Even biodegradable material which does burn, such as paper, is a false source of energy. Many studies have shown that more energy can be saved by recycling this paper than could be gained by incinerating it.