



Healthy and Sustainable Waste Management Begins with Appropriate Resources Management

Burning resources in the Covanta Marion incinerator:

- speeds climate change, fails to sequester carbon, and is the 19th largest industrial source of greenhouse gas in Oregon -- and number one in Marion County,
- emits toxins that can harm the health of downwind populations, especially the most vulnerable,
- destroys resources that could have been used to create many times more jobs than the incinerator provides,
- does not deserve renewable energy certificates (Oregon House Bill 4049) since those are intended for **new and clean** energy sources, such as solar, wind, and hydropower,
- creates toxic ash that goes to a landfill, weighs about 25% as much as the trash burned, has more concentrated toxins than the trash, and results in a leachate problem,
- is worse than a coal fired power plant in terms of greenhouse gas and toxic pollutant production per unit of electricity produced.

Medical waste incineration in the Covanta Marion incinerator:

- currently brings about 10,000 tons of medical waste per year from out of state to be burned, which is about 8 times what it burns from **all** Oregon sources,
- includes a high percentage of plastics created from fossil fuels and containing chlorinated compounds that increase the production of extremely toxic dioxins during incineration,
- is at a level over five times that required to classify a medical waste incinerator as “large” but without it being subjected to the much stricter emissions standards applied to a “large new medical waste incinerator”, which this incinerator has consistently year after year exceeded several times over for multiple pollutants, including toxic heavy metals and acid gases.

Waste prevention, reduction, and composting (as in Oregon DEQ’s Materials Management Program):

- are sustainable ways to deal with trash that virtually eliminate greenhouse gas and toxic pollution emissions from either the incinerator or landfills,
- preserve resources that can be used to create hundreds of jobs through re-purposing,
- are effective alternatives to incineration and most landfilling at locations all over the world.

Please go online to **CleanAir-Now.org** for citations and **much, much more**. See “Our Reading List” on that site. (Click the three horizontal yellow lines to get to the menu if you are using an iPhone.)