

## Saxongate News 03/04/25

Lax Government controls and a strong corporate profit motive often give poor outcomes for the community, especially in economically challenged areas. The old saying goes: "If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is." Ask yourselves can we really just burn our waste for energy and use all the detritus to build our roads and buildings in an indefinite loop without negative consequences for our health and the environment? Calling for viable risk management and proper testing seems fair, sensible and reasonable on that basis. As a minimum for Saxon Pit we want to see suitable independent yearly testing for Incinerator Bottom Ash-related chemicals in soil, sediment, water and dust, along with biomonitoring of the trees to gain public confidence. We need clear proof that the toxicity from the IBA(A) is being fully contained and not becoming concentrated over time. Given its proximity to the Town, is this an unreasonable request?

This week we have seen another new report which, again, raises worrying concerns about potential contamination from the incineration process. These chemicals will also be present in the detritus IBA(A) one expects, millions of tonnes of which will be processed at Saxon Pit in the years ahead.

[New data links waste incinerators to toxic contamination in surrounding environments - Spain, France, Netherlands - Zero Waste Europe](#)

The studies, conducted near WtE facilities in Paris, Harlingen, and Zubieta, revealed widespread and dangerous levels of contamination in soil, water, vegetation, and even food such as farm eggs. Dioxin levels in moss, soil, and backyard chicken eggs exceeded EU limits at all three sites.

In the report Janek Vahl, Zero Pollution Manager at Zero Waste Europe, states: "This is a textbook case of toxic accumulation in the environment and food chain. These results dismantle the myth that waste incineration is a clean or safe solution, the era of burning waste must end."

We have been clear that, in our opinion, lax controls and insufficient testing is leading to pollution risk from secondary use aggregate made from Incinerator Bottom Ash. Our group has also become more aware of issues in Europe and the potential for overcapacity of waste-to-energy incinerators in the UK, which can also lead to a reduction in recycling and even importing waste for processing. You can download the report Saxongate commissioned (supported by UKWIN) here:- [\*\*https://www.toxicowatch.org/.../8b2c54...\*\*](https://www.toxicowatch.org/.../8b2c54...)

Or read the published report online without any download here:-

[A Very Important Update From Saxongate R](#)

The following link is to a 2023 health briefing from UKWIN which evidences discrepancies in the UK approach to incineration risks and possible gaps in the chemical testing. Saxongate seeks to avoid unnecessary industrial pollution in our local area (primarily around Saxon Pit). We are not ideologically opposed to incineration but this document, together with the recent report on Saxon Pit from Toxicowatch, raises very valid concerns in our view, especially given the lack of appropriate local testing.

[Incinerators & Health: Fact or Fiction? \(November 2023\) – United Kingdom Without Incineration Network](#)

Given these concerns and uncertainties, we think now is the time to stop all new building of such incinerators in the UK.

If you agree please help support by signing this petition, we need at least 10k signatures so do spread the word: -

[Ban new waste incinerators and revoke permits where building has not begun - Petitions](#)

**As you may know, a Mega Incinerator (one of the biggest UK and Europe) is due to be built in Wisbech soon with permits and planning already in place. Today at 13:30 (03/04/25) backbench MPs will be debating waste incineration for the first time in this Parliament. You can watch it live here:- Parliamentlive.tv - Westminster Hall. We will advise you of any outcomes. Our local MP Stephen Barclay will be speaking**

In other news **A government-commissioned independent review of environmental regulation has called for a broad overhaul of existing enforcement, sanctions and permit mechanisms in areas such as waste management.** The review stated: "The scale of waste criminality, including illegal dumping, waste sites and misdescription of waste, causes significant cost to the economy and undermines the economic activity of those who are compliant and trust in the system from customers. Defra needs to significantly sharpen the approach to how it issues licenses and permits, and how it then monitors and enforces compliance."

[Corry Defra review backs overhaul of waste permits and enforcement | MRW](#)

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See = <https://www.fenland.gov.uk/nuisance> for noise, smoke, smell or light problems - Fenland District Council.