

Opinion

by Emily Manns, *Clarington Secondary Student*

The problem I have with deciding whether or not incineration is a good idea or a bad one is that it would have both a positive and negative effect. On the plus side, we'd be getting rid of the majority of the waste that ends up in landfills, while at the same time producing a usable energy source. The other side of the matter is that the pollution produced by it would no doubt cause health problems in the area that it's in, and do we really have the money to put towards something like this at the moment? I have always been one of the naysayers ever since the idea of incineration was put on the table as an option, but what other options do we really have. Yes, we can improve our recycling system. Yes, we can reduce packaging. Yes, we can find ways to reuse things more.

These are all better options than the one being thrust upon us by the government, but there's only one problem; people are lazy. Now, I'm not saying everyone is lazy, but if I were to go around and ask people what they think is the best idea when it comes to getting rid of all this garbage, I'm pretty sure the answer would be: "whatever is quick, easy and requires little effort on my part". I've heard these words spoken all my life, because that's the society we live in today. Being only a teenager, my voice counts for very little. These days, unless you're an adult or you're rich and famous, no one's going to listen to you. It's ridiculous the lengths that some people have to go to just to get a word in.

Although my words may seem meaningless, I shall speak them in hopes that someone might take them to heart. Learn as much as you can about incineration so people can take you seriously when you say no. Really try to do what you can to reduce the amount of waste that leaves your home. And most importantly, try to keep in mind that the easiest way out is not always the best way out.