

Disagreement over Durham's waste solution

August 23, 2008

Re:Incinerator bids sought in Durham, Aug. 20

FOR

The city is in denial about the environmental disaster that travels down the highway in the form of 75 large truckloads of garbage going to and from Michigan every day. They believe they've solved the problem by spending hundreds of millions of dollars to buy a new landfill site near London, Ont., so that we can truck our garbage as far away as possible, but closer than Michigan.

Congratulations to the people of Durham Region who are seriously examining the new, reduced emission technologies of incineration. This will surely have much less impact on the environment than 75 trucks spewing exhaust and garbage fumes into the environment.

Our city politicians need to wake up and see the big picture and start examining alternatives to the disastrous and extremely expensive way that we are currently disposing of our garbage. Durham Region might even teach us a few lessons.

As long as this situation exists, our city has a long way to go before it can even be considered close to "green."

Bernie Merrett, Toronto

AGAINST

Municipalities are never going to solve their waste issues if, like Durham, they keep asking the wrong question. Instead of asking "what should we do with all this waste?" they need to ask "why are we generating so much of it?"

We need to start looking at waste as bad design. We need to make the manufacturers of goods responsible for their eventual reuse or disposal so they will design with the environment and with recycling in mind. We need to enact legislation that prevents over-packaging, keeps toxics out of the manufacturing process and bans unnecessary disposable items. We must attack the problem of waste at its source.

Most of all we need to acknowledge the world's resources are finite and the current rate of consumption cannot continue. With over-consumption wreaking havoc on the planet, we can no longer afford to bury or burn resources.

Liz Benneian, Spokesperson,

Ontario Zero Waste Coalition