

## **Incineration opponents urge Durham Region to say no to burning garbage**

AJ Groen / Metroland WHITBY -- Newcastle resident Wendy Brachen voices her opposition to a proposed incinerator at a meeting of Durham Region Council. Jan. 23, 2008

### **But supporter says it works in Sweden**

Wed Jan 23, 2008

WHITBY -- The public continued to weigh in on the issue of garbage incineration well into the afternoon in a marathon meeting at Durham Region council.

By the time a dinner break was called at 5:30 p.m., 7 1/2 hours after the meeting began, more than half a dozen delegates who were registered to speak still hadn't had a say on a proposal to build a incineration plant in Courtice and about 50 onlookers were still keeping an eye on the forum.

As was the case in the morning, councillors heard a number of anti-incineration speakers making cases that ranged from the scientific to the emotional. Most favoured scrapping the incineration project or at the very least deferring the site selection until preferred technology was chosen and a business case for an EFW facility was created.

Coleen Fodor, a Newcastle resident, had tears in her eyes as she described the medications her two youngest children must take for their asthma. She blames the air quality in the Region for her children's ailments.

"The impact this incinerator will have on my children's health will be devastating," she said, adding after the meeting that she and her husband have decided they will move if the incineration project goes through.

But councillors also heard a strong case in favour of the technology.

Magnus Schonning, first secretary to the Embassy of Sweden, said his country has at least 29 incinerators, some of them located in residential neighbourhoods.

It was clarified, before Mr. Schonning began his presentation, that Swedish companies are not on the shortlist of vendors.

"For the last four years we've been working, at the embassy, to demonstrate there are other alternatives to your unsustainable lifestyle," he responded when asked why he was presenting to council.

Mr. Schonning said incineration has lower net carbon emissions than landfilling and that toxic emissions from incinerators have dropped dramatically in recent years.

For example, he said, more dioxins are released by random fires at landfills than through incineration.

"The record in Sweden and many other European countries show recycling rates are higher, and growing faster, when there's a high degree of incineration," he said.

Council will resume at 7 p.m.



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