

Trash in or Cash out? - Neither a good choice!

Burning any amount of garbage is bad. Importing garbage is crazy.

Sullivan County is considering a trash incinerator, has put out a Request for Proposals (RFP) and preliminarily received one, from Reworld. Their proposal requires potentially importing trash or paying extra to meet Reworld's profit demands (called "put-or-pay").

QUESTION: Why are legislators even considering an incinerator when there are so many impacts? **See link to 'Better Trash Options' below.** At the very least, the County's own RFP **should specifically rule out any importation of trash or the requirement of cash equivalents. But it doesn't!** - it does say "waste generated within Sullivan County and to develop agreements with surrounding counties." - there is no definition of 'surrounding.'

Incinerators Burn Money

Will Sullivan County be next? This business plan from Reworld (formally Covanta) that requires a trash volume minimum or cash payments has caused these bankruptcies or near-bankruptcies:

- **Harrisburg, PA:** incinerator primarily responsible for bankrupting Pennsylvania's capital city
- **Claremont, NH:** 20-year "put-or-pay" contracts caused 29 towns to file for bankruptcy in 1993, which the court denied, requiring that taxes be raised to pay back the incinerator for waste the towns did not even produce
- **Hudson Falls, NY and Lake County, FL:** deep incinerator debt due to long-term contracts favorable to the industry
- **Poughkeepsie, NY:** incinerator fails to bring in enough revenue from tipping fees and electric sales to operate without millions in annual subsidies from the county
- **Detroit, MI:** largest single creditor in city bankruptcy, costing the city \$1.2 billion in debt payments
- **New Jersey's** five incinerators: \$1.5 Billion state bail out because they could not attract enough waste to operate at capacity

list above from slide 16 of <https://www.energyjustice.net/files/incineration/BurnBabyBurn.pdf>
YouTube of it is here: <https://www.youtube.com/@EnergyJustice> (see "Burn, Baby, Burn" video)

Burning garbage destroys human and environmental health, local economy and property values. In fact, their business plan, "put-or-pay", demands increased trash volume for their profits. **See Better Trash Options** Reducing trash volumes can be done – Los Angeles reduced its trash volume by over 60%.

WHAT TO DO? - Be informed, learn about options and implications, and contact county legislators before they decide! We must demand that our legislators make the decision that protects the health and welfare of all. - **NO INCINERATOR!** To send your comments to the County legislators by emailing the clerk to the legislature, AnnMarie.Martin@sullivanny.gov

Sullivan County Final RFP --see paragraph #4

<https://bit.ly/3Ouij2u>

Reworld response to Sullivan's Final RFP includes 'Put or Pay' language

<https://bit.ly/3Qch5JV>

This document by: Damascus Citizens for Sustainability (search for 'incinerator' on DamascusCitizens.org) and look also at **Better Trash Options.**