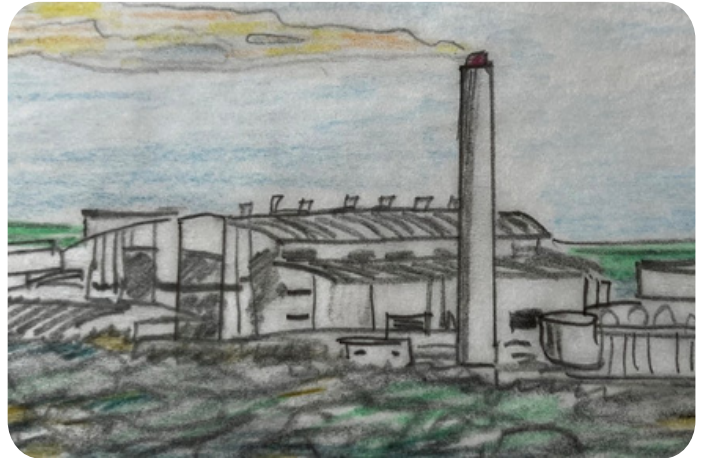


# THE PROBLEM

## **NEW TRASH INCINERATOR IN PALM BEACH COUNTY WILL COST A MINIMUM OF \$1.5 BILLION: This will be charged to all residents and businesses in the county**

Palm Beach County currently operates two waste incinerators, known as Renewable Energy Facilities (REFs). Now, the Solid Waste Authority plans to replace the older facility with an even larger incinerator that would burn more waste and release more pollution.

This new incinerator would significantly increase harmful pollutants like mercury, cadmium, dioxins, and greenhouse gases into our air. Instead of solving our waste problem, it would transform our trash into toxic air pollution and leave behind a smaller, but far more hazardous, pile of toxic ash. This will result in increased risks of asthma, cancer, and reproductive harm for our communities.



**Not a Viable Energy Source or Cost-Effective Option:** Trash incineration is the most expensive way to make electricity, whereas recycling saves up to five times as much energy as incineration produces.

**A Matter of Environmental Justice:** 68% of residents within 2.5 miles of the proposed location are people of color, exposing these neighborhoods to a higher risk of health issues.



Scan the QR code for the Energy Justice Network's report, "**It's Not Green,**" commissioned by Sierra Club Loxahatchee Group

# THE SOLUTION

## END INCINERATION

While not ideal, landfills are less harmful to public health and the environment than incinerators. Studies show that incineration (and landfilling the ash) is 2–3 times more harmful to human health and the environment than sending waste directly to landfills.

### The Less Harmful Option:

- **Less Toxic** Landfills release fewer toxic pollutants and no hazardous ash.
- **Fewer Climate Impacts:** Even with methane and transportation emissions, landfilling produces less climate pollution overall.
- **More Affordable:** Landfilling is generally cheaper than building and operating an incinerator.
- **Flexible:** Incinerators need to be fed minimum amounts of waste. The county can save money by reducing waste if using landfills.
- **Landfills harm fewer people.**

## ZERO WASTE

Refusing, reducing, and reusing cost individuals nothing. Zero waste is a set of policies and programs that other cities and counties have adopted, providing us with healthy, sustainable options.

### Palm Beach County can improve existing waste systems:

- **Reduce Waste:** Reduce packaging, and support reuse, repair, and sustainable products.
- **Expand Recycling:** Ensure recycling access in businesses and high-density housing.
- **Promote Composting:** Expand food waste composting commercially and residentially.
- **Yard Waste:** Implement the recycling and composting of yard waste.

## TAKE ACTION

- Voice your opinion to County Commissioners: [BCC-allcommissioners@pbcgov.org](mailto:BCC-allcommissioners@pbcgov.org)
- Get involved today: [www.beyondburning.org/pbc/](http://www.beyondburning.org/pbc/)
- Call: (561) 291-7010
- Email: [pbc@beyondburning.org](mailto:pbc@beyondburning.org)

