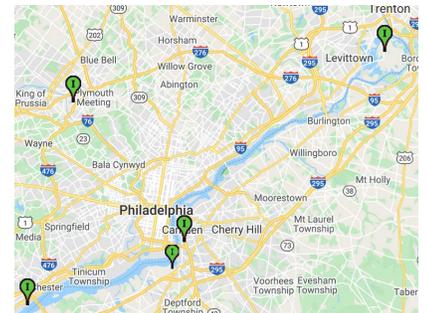


Philly's Trash & Environmental Racism

Philadelphia, the poorest big city, is surrounded by five trash incinerators, the worst cluster of trash burners in the U.S. These incinerators are five of the top seven industrial air polluters in Philly and its surrounding counties.

37% of Philly's trash is burned, mostly in the nearby City of Chester, PA – a famous case of environmental racism. The Reworld (Covanta) trash incinerator in Chester is the largest in the U.S. and operates with fewest pollution controls. It burns up to 3,500 tons of trash and industrial waste per day and is the #1 industrial air polluter in the region, contributing to Philly's high asthma and cancer rates. Over 2,400 tons of scrap tires that are "recycled" in Philly get incinerated in Chester annually.

Trash incinerators in Philly area



We must stop Philly from burning its trash and recycling!

Philly-based Energy Justice Network fought in 2012 and 2019 against Philly signing contracts to burn its trash. In 2019, Mayor Kenney's administration and City Council ignored 41 groups that urged them NOT to keep burning Philly's trash (or recycling). Philly's waste contracts expire on 6/30/2026.

We wrote the ***Stop Trashing Our Air Act***, which would prohibit the city from contracting to burn Philly's trash or recyclables. The bill was introduced by Councilmember Gauthier and passed her Environment Committee 5-1 on 11/17/2025 during a packed hearing.

In some neighborhoods, Philly's Streets Department has been trashing recycling in recent years, collecting trash and recycling in the same truck. Please tell us if you've witnessed this in your neighborhood as well.



Burning trash and landfilling toxic ash is the most expensive and polluting way to manage waste or to make energy. It's dirtier than coal burning and worse than putting trash in landfills without burning first.

We can do better! We must end incineration and working toward a Zero Waste approach that gets serious about reducing, reusing, recycling and composting discarded materials. Doing so can create 5-10 times as many jobs as burning or burying trash.

Energy Justice Network is leading the fight against incineration in the region and supports groups doing the same throughout the U.S.

LEARN MORE:

www.PhilllyZeroWaste.org

www.DelcoEJ.org

www.energyjustice.net/incineration

GET INVOLVED:

Call Mike Ewall at 215-436-9511 or email mike@energyjustice.net

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