

## [Sign-on Statement: No Incentives for Incinerators 2007](#)

[Sign-on statement initially created by the Sierra Club and endorsed by hundreds of national, state/regional, and local organizations, including Physicians for Social Responsibility and Oregon PSR. The sign-on statement is no longer available on the Sierra Club website.]

### *Sign-on Statement: No Incentives for Incinerators*

*Policies that qualify incinerators—including mass-burn, gasification, pyrolysis, plasma, refuse derived fuel and other incinerator technologies—for renewable energy credits, tax credits, subsidies and other incentives present a renewed threat to environmental and economic justice in U.S. communities.*

*Incinerators are a toxic technology. Even the most technologically advanced incinerators release hundreds of distinct hazardous byproducts including dioxins, heavy metals, and halogenated organic compounds in the form of toxic air emissions, particulates and ash. (1)*

*Incinerators are a major contributor to global warming. Even by conservative calculations, typical incinerators emit more greenhouse gas emissions per kilowatt hour of electricity generated than gas-fired power plants. (2)*

*Incinerators also cause far more greenhouse gas emissions than recycling and other more sustainable waste solutions. (3)*

*Low-income communities and communities of color are disproportionately burdened by incinerator contamination (4) and the global warming consequences of greenhouse gas emissions.*

*Incinerators trap communities in a cycle of debt and displace more just, affordable and sustainable waste and energy solutions. Alternatives to incineration such as recycling, reuse and composting provide far more jobs and are much more economically sensible. (5)*

*Incinerators waste energy, natural resources and the planet. Incinerator contracts require the disposal of the earth's finite resources and encourage the extraction of raw materials to produce new products. When the life cycle of materials is considered, recycling saves far more energy than is generated by incineration and causes less greenhouse gas emissions and waste. (6)*

*THEREFORE, we the undersigned, urge U.S. federal, state, and local agency officials to prioritize the highest and best re-use of discarded materials and to exclude municipal, medical, hazardous, and construction and demolition waste incineration from qualifying as a source of renewable energy, fuel and/or power in any and all papers, programs, incentives, regulations, legislation and policies.*