

New York Times Article on Incineration

On January 10, 2015 a New York Times (NYT) article entitled "[Garbage Incineration Makes Comeback, Kindling Both Garbage and Debate](#)" gave the impression a number of incineration projects were in various stages of development across the county. To support this claim the article cites a \$670 million incinerator in West Palm Beach Florida which is the first new incinerator to be constructed in the United States in 20 years and \$1 billion incinerator proposal in Baltimore Maryland.

Environmental groups across the country submitted Opinion Editorials and letters to the Editor disputing the article's incineration comeback conclusion. A letter from [Zero Waste Detroit](#) appeared in the NYT but other opinion pieces and letters to the editor were never published.

Unfortunately, the NYT decided not to print an excellent Op-ed submitted by Mike Ewall, Director of Energy Justice, entitled "[Trash Incinerators: Don't Call it a Comeback.](#)"

The Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA) also offers an insightful rebuttal to the NYT entitled "[The New York Times and the Myth of Incinerator Comeback.](#)" Although the NYT article stated an incinerator in Baltimore "is being built" the project is widely opposed and faces many hurdles.

UPDATES on Baltimore Incinerator Plan:

["Baltimore backs out of power purchasing agreement for stalled \\$1B incinerator" \("Baltimore Business Journal" 3/25/15\)](#) "The Baltimore City Board of Estimates on Wednesday voted to terminate its power purchasing agreement with Energy Answers International Inc., removing key support for a planned \$1 billion power plant in South Baltimore."

["Setback for Energy Answers' proposed incinerator in Baltimore: purchase contracts terminated"](#) (The Baltimore "City Paper" 2/20/15) "A regional purchasing cooperative of 22 local governments and institutions has decided to end contracts to buy EA's energy....."

WEAL took issue with the NYT article regarding the following statement referring to the West Palm Beach incinerator:

"Facilities similar to the \$670 million incinerator here, common in Europe, are under consideration in Massachusetts, Nevada, Virginia, Wisconsin and elsewhere."

WEAL's Waste Issue Representative submitted the following Letter to the Editor, which was not published or responded to:

"The January 10 article, "**Garbage Incineration Makes Comeback, Kindling both Garbage and Debate**" mistakenly states there are incinerators "under consideration" in a number of states, including Wisconsin that would be comparable to the \$670 million West Palm Beach incinerator.

As a Wisconsin resident, actively engaged in municipal solid waste issues the article was shocking since I was unaware of similar incinerators being considered in my state. Since Wisconsin covers a large area, I contacted the WI Department of Natural Resources and have been assured the agency has no incinerator projects of this type in the permitting process or under consideration. Please check your facts.”