From: Jodi Muench
To: erda.sm.scopingplan
Subject: End waste incineration!
Date: Monday, June 6, 2022 5:54:55 PM

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As a resident of Westchester County, my trash is burned at the Wheelabrator Westchester trash incinerator in the environmental justice community of Peekskill, NY.

I am disappointed that the Draft Scoping Plan did not call for an end to trash incineration and a rapid transition to Zero Waste statewide.

The Climate Action Plan must call for the closure of all 10 municipal solid waste incinerators in New York and recommend that no new incinerators (or gasification or pyrolysis facilities) be permitted in the state.

NY has the most trash incinerators of any state, except for Florida, which now has the same number. We cannot be a climate leader while burning garbage!

Waste incineration is about twice as bad as landfilling for the climate. In 2011, DEC documented that New York's ten trash incinerators are dirtier than the eight coal power plants that used to exist in our state, all of which are now closed. New York's waste incinerators perform significantly worse in terms of cancer causing hazardous air pollutants compared to other power plants in the state. Incineration is the most expensive and polluting way to produce electricity or to dispose of waste.

In Westchester County, incineration is an environmental racism issue, most directly impacting the City of Peekskill, an environmental justice community. It must be a priority for the state's implementation of CLCPA to undo this environmental injustice, and for the sake of climate and environmental health, to end incineration state-wide.

The Scoping Plan must end to trash incineration and rapidly transition New York to Zero Waste statewide.

Sincerely,

Jodi Muench
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