

Since 2007 Wolfgang Ehmann in SCMP Letters has promoted the use of incineration. In 2012 Mr Ehmann from the German Chamber of Commerce in a submission to Legco stated: "In 2007 our office led a delegation of senior EPD staff and stakeholders to Germany to attend the Waste to Energy Trade Fair and visit waste to energy plants in Hamburg and Frankfurt." So he is doing his job to promote German incineration technology as well as point out the lack of local legislation to mandate recycling. Germany, thanks to at-source recycling legislation has a 70% recycling rate so it now imports waste from around the world to keep its incinerators operational. What he and the outgoing ENB minister sidestep is that incineration thermally converts waste and leaves 23% bottom ash and 6% fly ash by weight, both of which are deemed hazardous waste in Japan, with no landfills left here to place the ash into. That means building mega islands to receive the ash. This week Solena Fuels were in town. They use plasma gasification (vaporization) of waste into a Syngas of CO₂ and hydrogen to produce bio-jetfuel, bio-marine fuel, bio-naptha and bio-diesel. Their partners are 15 world airlines and Maersk. The BA facility in Tilbury will be operational in 2016 followed by Alitalia and SAS whilst 9 US airlines and Fedex will be supplied from a plant in Gilroy USA. There are no ash or emissions from a plasma plant just a molten slag that can be used as road aggregate. Incineration and its airborne/soil pollutants have long been associated with dioxins and people should read the latest EPA report on same dated 17 February 2012.

A report on the only incinerator of the size proposed here states: "Greater Detroit Resource Recovery Facility has cost the city an estimated 1.2 billion dollars, and continues to increase air pollution levels throughout the city. These pollution levels persistently exceed National Ambient Air Quality standards, and consequently contribute to the rising rates of asthma. Detroiters are three times as likely to be hospitalized for asthma compared to Michigan as a whole, and asthma death rates in Detroit are two times that for the state." Meanwhile the EPD failed to release in its recent EIA that three incinerators are planned to be operational in nearby Shenzhen from 2015, with predominant northerlies blowing into Hong Kong, burning 6,300 tonnes of waste per day.

<http://www.greatmichigan.org/additional-priorities/air/detroit-incinerator>

399 words

James Middleton

Chairman

www.cleartheair.org.hk

<http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr11-12/english/panels/ea/papers/ea0326cb1-1385-5-e.pdf>

19 March 2012 Ehmann wrote to Legco

<http://www.epa.gov/iris/supdocs/1024index.html> USA EPA latest dioxins report

SCMP Letters chose not to print this response to Ehmann

Wolfgang Ehmann (SCMP Letters 14 April) mentions recycling rates in Germany and that incinerators are used there. The town of Neustadt an der Weinstrasse has the highest recycling rate in Germany at 70% which is 16% above the country's norm. Meanwhile our EPD has prevaricated for years and we have no such legislation; 99% of our recyclable waste material is exported to the Mainland with a failed local recycling industry devoid of feedstocks, no separated waste collection-for-recycling provided by Government from private estates and businesses relying on volunteer participants to arrange recycling collections. Germany's land area of 357,114 low rise sq/kms with wind and solar power generation and North and Baltic sea shipping Emissions Control Areas (ECA) contrasts Hong Kong's 1,100 urban canyon

sq/kms, coal powered electricity generation and the filthiest bunker fuel pollution lacking local ECA legislation and one of the highest PM10/PM2.5 roadside levels in the world. Germany's incinerators are robbed by its own mandatory recycling laws to the extent that since 2000 it imports the world's hazardous waste from USA, UK, Netherlands, Colombia, China, Australia, Montenegro et alia to keep its incinerators operational. The HK Government conducted an Environmental Impact Assessment for the ShekKwuChau/TangTsui incinerator project which seemingly omitted the three new Shenzhen incinerators (all online by 2015) that will burn up to 6,300 tonnes of trash per day. The Government tells us that the prevailing winds are more than 80% of the year from the North. No current incinerator baghouse or scrubber technology can catch PM2.5 emissions; their effect on HongKong pollution levels is therefore inevitable. We do not need the world's most expensive incinerator here on a destructive rezoned island as this failed administration's white elephant legacy. Hong Kong's public is law abiding and we need source recycling legislation. Incineration is thermal matter conversion and 30% of the mass is left as bottom/fly ash which needs a landfill to contain it on an ad-infinitum basis. The ENB's appointed incinerator project consultants are AECOM so ENB should listen to what they have to say about plasma gasification technology and join the real world of technology advancement: (Quote) Mike Zebell of AECOM (NYSE:ACM) **"We believe that this technology is not only environmentally friendly but ready for large-scale commercialization.** We are excited to partner with an entrepreneurial firm like AFE, one of the industries' leading developers focused on building **environmentally responsible energy projects using plasma gasification technology."**

398 words

James Middleton

Chairman

www.cleartheair.org.hk

address details on website

Rocket science of solution to waste