

## **Submission to the South London Waste Plan, Part 2**

**Respondent ID: Con34**

**Jim Duffy, South West London Air Quality Monitoring Group**

### **Matter 4 (ii) Q1 Air Quality issues.**

As previously mentioned, MRBT recycling can achieve high rates and minimise the need for landfill which in any case is made inert in the stabilisation process. It can also reduce or preclude the need for incineration.

The Beddington incinerator, which started operating fully in July 2019, has received many warnings from the Environment Agency, mostly over emissions levels. A Freedom of Information request produced a list of enforcement notices showing twenty warnings in fifteen months between September 2019 and December 2020. Thirteen of these related to high airborne emissions. The Beddington warnings were more than twice in number of those issues to all the other Viridor incinerators combined, which might suggest a systemic problem at the plant.

<https://insidecroydon.com/2021/04/05/viridor-incinerator-given-20-warnings-in-just-15-months/>

Local residents regularly complain of burnt plastic smells which might indicate toxic furan or dioxin emissions. My family lives a mile from the incinerator and we notice this and need to shut our windows. Other general foul pollution smells seem to originate from the incinerator, easily detectable in the local Beddington Park and playground and the wider area. Some residents say the smells are even worse at night time.

Last December Viridor obtained permission to increase by fifteen percent (47,000 TPA) the amount of waste they can incinerate, which is likely to proportionately increase the local air pollution. Unfortunately this huge increase was granted by the EA with no consultation to local councils or the community affected.

Our group would like to see a move away from incineration, as is occurring in the EU, Wales and Scotland. In any case a reduction in incineration through MRBT recycling would help improve local air quality probably in proportion to the reduced amount burnt.

<https://zerowasteurope.eu/2021/01/press-release-circular-economy-action-plan-envi-report/>