

### **Submission to the South London Waste Plan, Part 3**

**Respondent ID: Con34**

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

#### **Matter 5 (I) Q2 A proactive approach to climate change.**

The Channel 4 Dispatches documentary in March “The Dirty Truth About Your Waste” demonstrated that carbon emissions from incineration are about the same as those from coal-fired power stations, which of course are being phased out in order to reduce CO2 emissions.

<https://www.channel4.com/programmes/dirty-truth-about-your-rubbish-dispatches>

A Freedom of Information request to the Environment Agency showed that the Beddington incinerator emitted a total of 236,396 tonnes of CO2 during its six months of formal operation from July to December 2019. At that rate in a year it would produce the same CO2 as about 200,000 family cars, assuming RAC statistics on annual mileage, mpg and CO2/kilometre.

It follows that this approach to waste management is not compatible with climate change targets in the UK nor in local boroughs. Sutton for example is aiming for net zero carbon emissions by 2030, just nine years away. As waste management is a major contributor to local carbon emissions, this approach needs to be substantially and quickly revised. Setting up MRBT recycling points will quickly put the South London boroughs in a much better position to reduce carbon emissions.

We are encouraged on a daily basis by David Attenborough, Greta Thunberg and thousands of climate scientists and many politicians, to reduce our CO2 emissions to halt the devastating effects of climate change. Our group believes that the Waste Plan seriously needs to revolve around that question, and pull back from any measures, such as restricting future use of waste sites, while being open to proactive positive measures in the direction of Zero Waste and a Circular Economy and move away from incineration.

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