

Message from UKWIN's Chair, Callum MacKenzie

Thanks very much for all the support you have given me during the first year as Chairman of UKWIN. I look forward to working with you again in 2014 and in the meantime season's greetings and all the very best for the New Year.

UKWIN Coordinator's Report for 2013

2013 was another full and productive year for the United Kingdom Without Incineration Network (UKWIN) and our growing membership. Indeed, the lateness of this Report is a reflection of just how busy we've been. Throughout the year Only Solutions provided some 1,800 hours of work for UKWIN, of which nearly 800 hours were donated in-kind (without charge). The anti-incineration movement has also benefited from countless hours of voluntary time from UKWIN's directors, members and supporters, who have made an invaluable contribution throughout the year.

During 2013 UKWIN was involved in supporting members with several planning inquiries and legal actions, and in many of these instances we will not know the results until sometime in 2014. We've seen the debate shift from one about overcapacity to one about how incineration is constraining recycling (see: <http://ukwin.org.uk/2013/12/12/report-reveals-incineration-overcapacity-constraint-to-recycling/>).

Evidence sent to the NAO

Thanks to our members' determination the National Audit Office (NAO) is investigating Defra's oversight of PFI waste projects "to gain insight into the role of Defra in promoting value for money in such projects". Evidence has been sent to the NAO regarding the role played by Defra in relation to several waste PFI projects, including: Herefordshire and Worcestershire; Norfolk; Surrey; Nottinghamshire; Gloucestershire; Hertfordshire; North Yorkshire; Derby and Derbyshire.

2014 Funding Secured

I am very pleased to report that UKWIN's core funding for 2014 has been secured thanks to our generous benefactors at The Ecology Trust. UKWIN continues to seek project funding for various undertakings, and UKWIN continues to rely on donations from members and supporters to enable our work to continue.

Aarhus Case Studies Project

One of our new projects entails gathering case studies that demonstrate that the UK is not living up to its Aarhus Convention responsibilities in relation to ensuring access to environmental information, effective participation in environmental decision-making and environmental justice.

Please visit <https://sites.google.com/site/aarhuscasestudies/> to learn more about this project and how you can help build the case that will be submitted to the European Commission.

UKWIN Working in Partnership

2013 saw UKWIN continuing to work in conjunction with like-minded organisations to achieve our shared aims. On Wednesday 18th December, for example, we joined forces with Biofuelwatch, Friends of the Earth, and the Campaign against Climate Change to deliver a joint letter to HM Treasury demanding that biomass to electricity and incineration projects be rejected from the 'pre-qualified' shortlist for loan guarantees under the UK Guarantee Scheme. Read more at:

<http://www.biofuelwatch.org.uk/2013/joint-letter-to-the-treasury-opposing-uk-guarantee-schemes-support-of-biomass-and-incineration/>

UKWIN is part of the global anti-incineration effort

For those UKWIN members who are not already aware of GAIA, I thought it would be a good idea to mention something of their role and to introduce you to the Global Day of Action sponsored annually by GAIA.

GAIA is a worldwide alliance of more than 650 grassroots groups, non-governmental organizations - including UKWIN - and individuals in over 90 countries whose ultimate vision is a just, toxic-free world without incineration. GAIA works both *against* incinerators and *for* safe, sustainable and just alternatives. The name reflects this dual purpose:

- *The Global Anti-Incinerator Alliance*: Mobilizing grassroots action against the spread of [incinerators](#) and other polluting, end-of-pipe waste technologies.
- *The Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives*: Building the movement for [environmental justice](#), local green economies, and creative [zero waste](#) solutions.

Learn more about GAIA from the website: [who they are](#), [what they do](#), [their history](#), [victories](#), and how you can [join GAIA](#). Joining GAIA is free of charge.

Global Day of Action against waste and incineration

Each year, usually in the Autumn, GAIA coordinates a Global Day of Action against waste and incineration. These activities seek to amplify citizens' calls for safe and sustainable alternatives to incinerating and landfilling waste, and engages campaigners in promoting the conservation of our planet's diminishing resources, the protection of human health and the environment from toxic products and processes, the provision of green jobs, and the genuine reduction of greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change.

Please consider how your local campaign group might contribute to this Global Day of Action in 2014. Read more at: <http://www.no-burn.org/about-the-global-day-of-action-on-waste-and-incineration> and <http://www.no-burn.org/-1-20> and <http://www.no-burn.org/gaia-gda-2013>

Other Plans for 2014

Plans for UKWIN's 2014 Annual General Meeting (AGM) are still being discussed. We are considering holding our AGM a bit later in the year, possibly around June instead of our usual April date, in order to avoid clashing with the European elections in May (and the build up to these elections). We are also exploring the possibility of staging some sort of extended campaign workshop (possibly residential, possibly timed to coincide with the AGM) to provide a safe space to review the past, assess the current situation, and plan for the future of the movement. If you would like to be involved in organising this workshop, please contact me by e-mail to shlomo.dowen@gmail.com

Zero Waste

Throughout 2013 UKWIN members have enjoyed some success in defeating/delaying individual incineration projects, and in discouraging new incinerator proposals. Together with our members and supporters, UKWIN looks forward to continuing to help shift Government policy and industry practice away from all forms of incineration towards more sustainable "zero waste" methods and mindsets. This would entail an important move towards taking greater responsibility for discarded materials, ensuring resources are put to better use, thus avoiding dumping or burning resources that could instead be used to return nourishment to the soil, provide raw material for new products, and create job opportunities associated with reuse and recycling.

UKWIN also aims to enrich the culture of the anti-incineration community, facilitating access to information, sharing really useful knowledge, providing practical and emotional support, whilst avoiding duplication that would squander the limited resources available for the campaign.

During 2013 UKWIN supported:

- Campaigners in Derby with their legal action
- Campaigners in Desborough (Northamptonshire) with their legal action
- Campaigners in Nottinghamshire regarding specific proposals, e.g. in Elkesley and Bilsthorpe, and with the Waste Core Strategy (Examination in Public)
- Various campaign groups in Hertfordshire with various aspects of their campaigns, not least help with information requests and inquiry evidence (for both a planning inquiry and an examination in public)
- Campaigners in Kings Lynn (Norfolk) with their planning inquiry and with various investigations into the Norfolk PFI (funding for which was subsequently withdrawn by Defra)
- Various campaign groups in and around London, e.g. those opposing incinerator proposals for Beddington Lane (South London) and Willesden Junction (North West London)
- Campaigners in Runcorn with HAGATI's participation in two planning inquiries
- Campaigners in Merseyside, including raising concerns about the accuracy of the St Helens Planning Officer's report (resulting in the withdrawal of the incinerator application from the Planning Committee meetings in both November and December)
- Various campaign groups in Surrey regarding opposition to incinerator proposals for Shepperton and Cobham, including providing advice regarding their legal action, planning objections and planning inquiry
- Campaigners in Cornwall offering advice regarding their lobbying efforts and legal actions, etc.
- Various Gloucestershire campaign groups with planning objections and evidence for the Javelin Park planning inquiry
- Welsh campaigners with planning objections and legal actions, in relation to specific planning applications such as at Newport (where the planning application was subsequently withdrawn), and in relation to Project Green as a whole
- Campaigners in Yorkshire, including Leeds and Knaresborough
- And campaigners in Plymouth, Hartlebury, Northern Ireland (Hightown, Belfast and Derry), Bedfordshire, Corby, Sheffield, Manchester, and elsewhere in the UK

During 2013 UKWIN also:

- Maintained the currency of information in the map/table of existing, potential and prevented incinerators - see: <http://ukwin.org.uk/map/> and <http://ukwin.org.uk/table/>
- Added to the archive of annual incinerator reports, environmental permits, emissions data, etc. - see: <http://ukwin.org.uk/resources/incinerator-reports/>
- Objected to Veolia's Fieldes Lock (Hertfordshire) proposal, which was subsequently withdrawn
- Submitted documents as part of GAIA's Documents Library
- Promoted the film Trashed, including helping fill the audience for a special showing at the House of Commons - see: <http://www.trashedfilm.com/>
- Held our Annual General Meeting in London (again)
- Posted more than 300 messages to the Waste Discussion List
- Uploaded more than two dozen news items to the UKWIN website
- Lobbied the Treasury re: incineration tax, etc.
- Received support from the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) to successfully challenge incinerator greenwash
- Worked with GAIA, e.g. on various publications
- Responded to numerous academic and journalist requests for interviews
- Deepened contact with BiofuelWatch, resulting in the joint letter mentioned above

2013 also saw UKWIN making a record number of consultation and other submissions, including:

- LGA Local Waste Review Call for Evidence (13 February 2013) [22 pages]
- Opportunity to comment on Defra's funding review for WRAP (17 May 2013) [3 Pages]
- DECC Consultation on a notification process for new build dedicated biomass projects (31 May 2013) [3 Pages]
- EC Public consultation on the Green Paper on Plastic Waste (31 May 2013) [8 Pages]
- The Waste Management Plan for England (27 August 2013) [10 pages]
- Waste prevention programme for England (27 August 2013) [3 Pages]
- Review of European Waste Management Targets (28 August 2013) [13 pages]
- Defra Review of Local Air Quality Management in England (2 September 2013) [2 pages]

- Commons Select Committee Call for Evidence: Energy subsidies in the UK (9 September 2013) [5 pages]
- Updated national waste planning policy: Planning for sustainable waste management (20 September 2013) [15 pages]
- European Commission Access to Justice (20 September 2013) [3 Pages]
- 2013 Aarhus National Implementation Report Submission (25 October 2013) [11 pages]
- Ministry of Justice Judicial Review: Proposals for Further Reform (1 November 2013) [6 pages]
- National Audit Office re: Defra's oversight of the Waste PFI Programme in Nottinghamshire (26 November 2013) [14 pages]

Petitions

Finally, UKWIN members have been busy collecting signatures for various petitions. Here are some petitions for you to sign and help promote, if you've not done so already:

Stop Building Waste Incinerators in Europe!

https://secure.avaaz.org/en/petition/STOP_BUILDING_WASTE_INCINERATORS_IN_EUROPE/

Stop Plans to Incinerate Rubbish in Cornwall

<https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/stop-plans-for-incineration-of-rubbish-cornwall>

Oppose the Becon/ARC21 Incinerator

<http://www.change.org/en-GB/petitions/the-office-of-the-department-of-the-environment-northern-ireland-refuse-planning-permission-for-the-becon-arc21-incinerator-proposal-at-the-hightown-quarry-boghill-road-mallusk>

Stop waste incineration

<http://www.change.org/en-GB/petitions/stop-waste-incineration>

West Norfolk Says No to the Incinerator

<http://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/west-norfolk-says-no-to-the-incinerator>

Derry City Council: Stop moves towards incineration (or "gasification") of waste

<http://www.change.org/en-GB/petitions/derry-city-council-stop-moves-towards-incineration-or-gasification-of-waste>

Don't Incinerate North Yorkshire

<http://www.gopetition.com/petitions/dont-incinerate-north-yorkshire.html>

Stop waste incineration

<http://www.petitiononline.com/noburn08/petition.html>

Oppose biomass incinerator proposed for Swindon

<http://www.swin.org.uk/>

Oppose Incinerator Plans in Bilsthorpe/Eakring and the surrounding area

<http://www.petitionbuzz.com/petitions/bilsthorperage>

As Callum's opening message explains, UKWIN is grateful for your support in 2013, and we look forward to working with you in 2014.

Thanks again,

Shlomo Downen

National Coordinator

PS If you are in the mood for some festive leftovers, you'll enjoy visiting:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eMOnmJO-IEo&feature=youtu.be> and

http://www.stroudnewsandjournal.co.uk/news/10884663.Anti_incinerator_campaigners_release_Christmas_carol_on_YouTube/?ref=rss