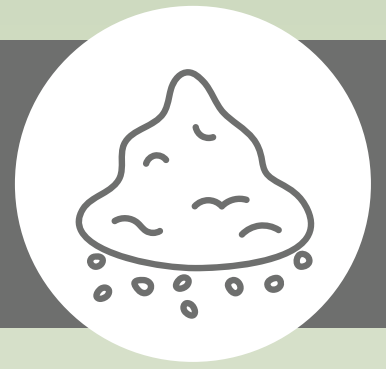


# Incinerators create mountains of toxic ash



**Incinerator ash contaminates communities with persistent organic pollutants (POPs) - dioxins, furans, PFAS and PCBs; heavy metals (lead, mercury, arsenic, cadmium, thallium)<sup>1,2</sup>**

**Incinerator ash contains high levels of the most dangerous pollutants known to science.**

- 1** Incinerators create two types of ash: bottom ash and fly ash. Bottom ash is the visible material that falls through the grate and gets collected, fly ash is the dust that goes up and gets captured in the filters.
- 2** Fly ash is classified as hazardous waste - it is laden with heavy metals and organic pollutants. It comprises 2.5% of the materials burnt.<sup>3,4</sup>
- 3** Incinerators still need landfills for the toxic ash they create. Fly ash is so toxic must go to a specialised hazardous waste landfill.<sup>3</sup>
- 4** The Te Awamutu incinerator would generate 21 tonnes a day of 'Bottom ash' and 2 tonnes a day of 'Fly ash'.
- 5** 'Bottom ash' also called 'slag' or 'clinker' has also been shown to contain high levels of heavy metals and dioxins.<sup>2</sup>
- 6** Incinerators harm the transition to a circular economy<sup>3</sup> further driving up emissions. Since both non-recyclable and recyclable waste can be burned in an incinerator, waste prevention and recycling are discouraged, locking-in an increasing generation of waste and emissions over time.<sup>4</sup>
- 7** The use of bottom ash as a building material is just a way for the incinerator to get rid of its waste. Used in this way, the toxic ash poses serious risks to communities and ecosystems by leaching into our soils and waterways. Evidence shows that heavy metal contamination does not lessen over time, and is spread by using the ash.<sup>2</sup>

1] [After Incineration: The Toxic Ash Problem, IPEN 2005](#)

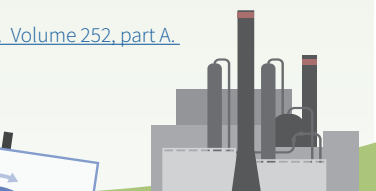
2] [Toxic Fallout - Waste Incinerator Bottom Ash in a Circular Economy, Zero Waste Europe 2022](#)

3] [Municipal solid waste incineration fly ash as an important source of heavy metal pollution in China, Environmental Pollution, Volume 252, part A, September 2019.](#)

4] [New South Wales Environmental Protection Agency, Waste Classification Guidelines, part one, November 2014.](#)

**Let's keep Aotearoa incinerator free**

[website/information.....]



**REGENERATION NOT INCINERATION**