

# CHAIN Cheshire Anti Incinerator Network



## Victory for CHAIN in Northwich

CHAIN is celebrating the news that the company behind the Northwich incinerator proposals is out of the running for the £850m contract to manage Cheshire's waste.

WRG (Waste Recycling Group) wanted to build an incinerator on the former Brunner Mond site off Griffiths Road and was one of five candidates vying for a contract to manage Cheshire's waste for the next 25 years. However, on 25 February, three authorities - Cheshire County Council, Cheshire East Council and Cheshire West Council - announced that Viridor Waste Management and a joint venture between United Utilities and Interserve had been chosen as the shortlisted candidates for the contract.

Viridor proposes the treatment of post recycling residual wastes at a centrally located mechanical biological treatment plant. The facility utilises proven technology to recover further recyclable materials and generate solid recovered fuel (SRF) from the waste. That SRF would be treated at the Energy from Waste (EfW) Combined Heat and Power (CHP) plant to be located at the Ineos Chlor site in Runcorn.

United Utilities / Interserve are proposing a "gasification" solution which would transform waste previously bound for landfill sites into energy and aggregates for the building industry. Waste, transported from transfer stations to a new treatment facility, would initially be sorted, and materials like glass, metal and plastics, removed for recycling through local re-processors. Residual waste would be heated under controlled conditions to produce gas, eventually mixed with oxygen to drive turbines and generate energy in the form of electricity and heat - used to both power the facility, and distributed locally.

Whilst WRG can theoretically still submit a planning application for a plant on the site on a commercial basis, CHAIN believes it is highly unlikely as since they haven't won the waste contract, they will have nothing to burn!

CHAIN's Chairman, Brian Cartwright, says: *"The news that the people of Northwich will not have to endure a waste incinerator in their town is truly excellent and Cheshire County Council is to be complimented for taking the correct and responsible decision.*

*"The authorities will not admit it but I am sure that the campaign waged over seven years by CHAIN against incinerators in Cheshire had a significant impact on what has happened. As Chairman, I wish to express my thanks to the thousands in our community who supported us by signing our petition and providing ongoing encouragement. Special thanks are also due to the team of CHAIN activists who have consistently given the commitment and hard work involved in a grass roots campaign. Their real reward will be knowing that future generations of Northwich children will not grow up in an area blighted by toxic emissions from an incinerator.*

*"For those who might be wondering, CHAIN is not intending to disband. There is still much work to be done. The most immediate threat is the intention by Covanta, an American multinational corporation, to build a giant waste incinerator in Middlewich."*

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