



Philadelphia, PA  
 Baltimore, MD  
 Washington, DC

## HB332 - Favorable

Delegates, the time is now to move Maryland away from being a support system to trash incineration. It is not a renewable energy source - once the trash is burned, the remaining pollutants either are emitted into the air, or concentrated into the leftover ash. Real renewable resources do not emit more pollutants per unit of energy created than coal. The following graph, sourced from data from the Energy Information Administration, presents this disparity on sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>), lead, mercury, and dioxin.

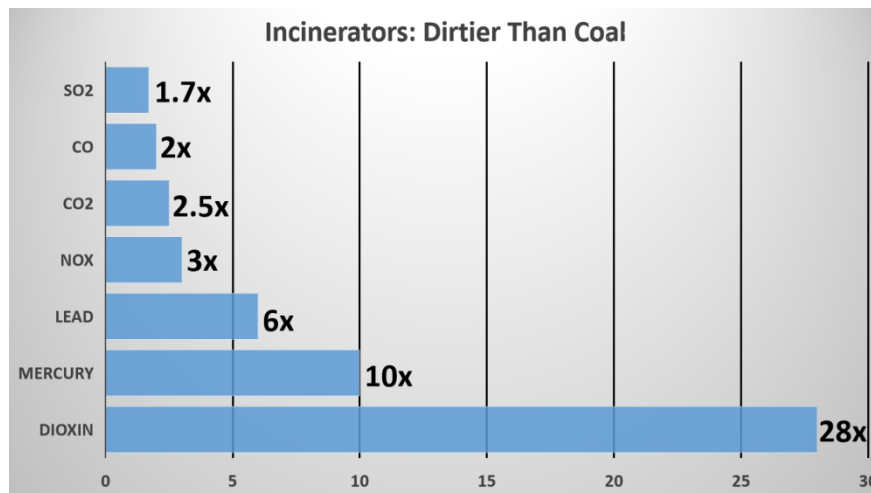


Image 1. Pollution comparisons of trash incinerators and coal plants per unit of energy produced.  
 Source Info: Energy Information Administration

There are 72 trash incinerators remaining the country. Wheelabrator Baltimore is the 6<sup>th</sup>-dirtiest, emitting 3.9 million pounds of toxic pollutants in 2017 alone, according to the most recent data from the EPA National Emissions Inventory. This may not sound like much as a standalone point, so below is a graph that compares Wheelabrator's emissions to those of average cars driving an average of 11,400 miles annually, including carbon dioxide and particulate matter 2.5 (PM<sub>2.5</sub>).

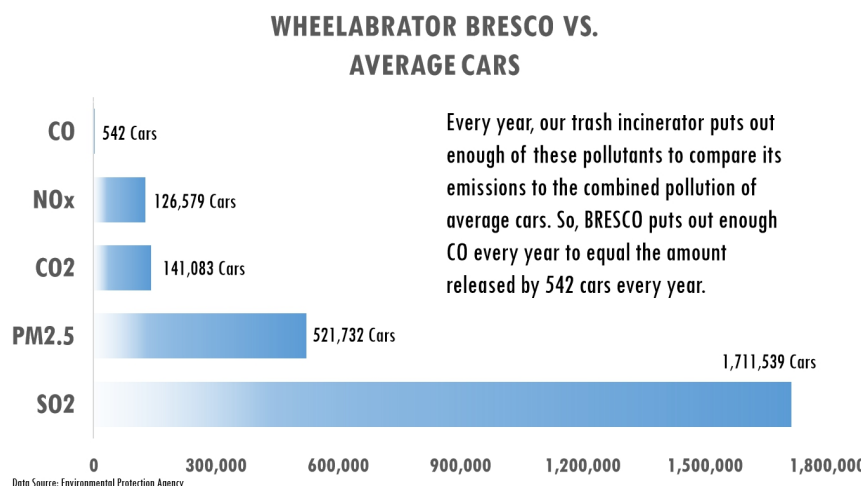


Image 2. The number of cars required to equal Wheelabrator Baltimore's annual emissions by pollutant.  
Source Info: Environmental Protection Agency

Incinerators last about 30 years on average before requiring significant, costly upgrades. Wheelabrator Baltimore is about 36 years old, which means the continuation of renewable energy credits to a nonrenewable source only will prop up a facility destined for an increased number of failures - in fact, higher concentrations of pollutants are released during shutdowns and startups.

Some may ask “well, where will the trash go?”, which is a reasonable question. The construction of alternative facilities must be prioritized by both Baltimore City and the Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority - the state's quasi-governmental waste management arm. The graph below compares the capital cost of building Zero Waste options, such as material recovery facility the size of San Francisco's, against the capital cost of Wheelabrator installing pollution controls to minimize NOx emissions aggressively, as well the costs of expanding Quarantine Road Landfill and building a new transfer station to export waste.

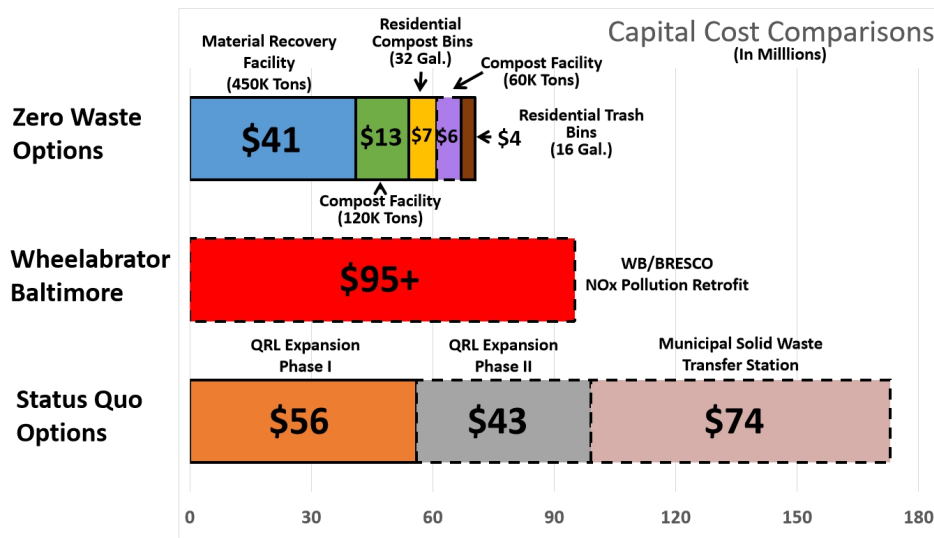


Image 3. Capital cost comparisons of Zero Waste options, pollution controls, and status quo waste management options.

Source Info: Recology, Atlas Composting, City of Baltimore, Wheelabrator Baltimore

According to the EPA, 75 to 80% of the materials we dispose is recyclable or compostable, but the city's residential recycling rate is a disappointing 15% at best. Dependence on a trash incinerator prohibits the maximization of material values. The US Chamber of Commerce states a 70% diversion rate from incinerators and landfills would unlock \$4.5 trillion for the national economy by 2030

([https://www.uschamberfoundation.org/sites/default/files/media-uploads/B34CaseStudy\\_Layout\\_June20.pdf](https://www.uschamberfoundation.org/sites/default/files/media-uploads/B34CaseStudy_Layout_June20.pdf)), and the National Resources Defense Council and Tellus Institute projects at least 2.3 million full-time jobs directly from this diversion rate ([https://www.nrdc.org/sites/default/files/glo\\_11111401a.pdf](https://www.nrdc.org/sites/default/files/glo_11111401a.pdf)).

I urge you to vote in favor of removing subsidies that simply hold Maryland back, while polluting its residents along the way.

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