

EfW and health

what is the impact on local air quality?

Thanks to state-of-the-art flue gas cleaning, our power facilities comply with the very strict UK regulations for clean air.

The most recent independent review of evidence shows no link between EfW emissions and adverse health impacts. This is upheld by Public Health England's position, that well run and regulated municipal waste incinerators do not pose a significant risk to public health, and this should reassure anyone living near or in any proximity to an EfW facility.*

*PHE statement on modern municipal waste incinerators (MwIs) study, 15 October 2019

UK EfW now accounts for
LESS THAN 0.05%
OF UK PARTICULATE EMISSIONS

*Environment Agency and National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory



is EfW a major source of dioxins?

No, this is not the case due to highly sophisticated flue gas cleaning systems.

In the past, EfW facilities were a significant source of dioxins, but following reductions in emission limits in 1995 and 2000 (*that came in to effect more than 20 years ago*), **EfW now accounts for less than 1% of the overall dioxin emissions to the air in the UK.** In fact, dioxin emissions from EfW in the UK have changed dramatically, **with a 99.8% reduction in dioxin emissions per tonne of waste since 1990***.

*Environment Agency and National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory

INDUSTRY AND TRAFFIC ACCOUNT FOR 40%*

OF EMISSIONS IN THE UK ANNUALLY



*Health Protection Agency (now Public Health England)

what safety measures are in place to ensure air quality protection, even when there's an equipment failure?

Safety is of the utmost importance and the system is designed to ensure that emissions to air are controlled even in the event of equipment failure.

Sophisticated monitoring techniques throughout the process, from combustion through to filtration of the flue gases, ensure that the facility operates within the strict limits of the Environmental Permit.



who monitors waste-to-energy facilities in the UK?

The Environment Agency (EA) regulate all waste sites and act as an independent body which monitors a facility's outputs.

If limits are breached, the EA has the power to shut down the plant and impose fines accordingly.

MVV monitors the majority of emissions from the facility continuously. Other trace emissions must be monitored by extractive sampling as they are present in such tiny amounts; this is carried out at regular intervals as required by the Environmental Permit.

The **emissions data is logged and stored and reported to the Environment Agency weekly.**



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