

## Essex County Council becomes the latest local authority to reject incineration.

Dear Binn Farm campaigner,

Essex County Council has become the latest local authority to reject incineration in favour of anaerobic digestion (AD) for treating waste.

This really isn't any great surprise, given the relative costs. When Western Isles Council compared the cost of incineration with AD in 2001 (see [report](#)), they found that an incinerator would cost twice as much to build (£7-10m compared with £4-6m) and twice as much to process each tonne of waste (£50-80 per tonne compared with £30-40 with AD). You can guess which option they chose.

AD has many other benefits:

1. AD is now a proven technology - Western Isles Council say their AD system is working very well.
2. AD is the ideal method of treating biodegradable waste, which makes up 63% of the waste that local authorities deal with (the biodegradable portion is what that would incur fines from Europe if the amount sent to landfill is not reduced).
5. AD produces three useful products - biogas (which can be used to generate electricity), a liquid slurry (used as fertiliser) and solids that can be composted.
3. AD produces as little as a tenth of the Co2 produced by incineration (see page 5 of [report](#) by Peter Jones of Biffa Waste Management, which states that incineration produces up to 2 tonnes of Co2 per tonne of waste).
4. AD produces no noxious emissions or poisonous ash (unlike incineration).
6. AD could be introduced at multiple sites around Perth & Kinross, thereby reducing the distance that bin lorries have to cover, as well as creating jobs at each site (Western Isles Council processes exactly a third of the municipal waste of PKC. Therefore PKC could have three AD plants of the size used by WIC).
7. AD doesn't destroy valuable materials that can be recovered, such as plastic bottles/packaging.

Yours sincerely,

Michael