



OPEN LETTER

17th February 2021

To Welsh Government Ministers

From Friends of the Earth Cymru

Please 'call in' and say no to the controversial Uskmouth incinerator plans

We are writing this open letter to Welsh Government Ministers requesting that you 'call in' proposals for a massive incinerator at the old Uskmouth power station in Newport.

The plans would see the mothballed Uskmouth B power station brought back online to burn 900,000 tonnes of fuel pellets annually to produce electricity. These new pellets are formed from about 50% plastic, and 50% biogenic material – largely wood, paper, and cardboard.

It would emit an eye-wateringly massive 1,550,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide annually for the next 20 years. This would be equivalent, in climate terms, of adding another 68% of Welsh car emissions onto the annual greenhouse gas emissions from Wales.

We would like to thank you for acting so swiftly earlier this month to issue a 'holding direction' to Newport Council's Planning Committee once we asked you to call in the proposals. We were shocked to see that Newport officials were recommending the proposals be given the go ahead.

We are aware that you are now in the period of determining whether to officially call in the proposal and we would like to formally request again that you do call in this proposal and then say no to the scheme.

We believe that this proposal would contradict and contravene different Welsh Government targets, policies and recommendations, specifically those set out in [Planning Policy Wales](#), the Environment (Wales) Act, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act, national carbon budgets and emission reduction targets, recent UK Committee on Climate Change 'The Path to a Net Zero Wales' report, the Clean Air Plan, the Collections, Infrastructure and Markets (CIM) Sector Plan, Towards One Wales : One Planet, and also those in the more recent Beyond Recycling consultation document as it would be counter intuitive to our desire to move to a truly circular economy in Wales.

Commented [HE1]: Planning Policy Wales

At a time when we are quite rightly moving quickly to reduce plastic use, the idea that we would gather up vast quantities of it from around the UK, call it unrecyclable and then bring it all the way to Newport to burn and then have the emissions counted as 'Welsh emissions' does not make sense.

Quite clearly a decision of this magnitude should be made by the Welsh Government and aligned with nationally binding climate emission reduction targets.

We urge you to call in these proposals and then say no to the climate-wrecking incinerator proposal.